



UNITED NATIONS  
*Office on Drugs and Crime*

**Report on the Fourth United Nations  
Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meeting**

**Vienna, 24-25 July 2003**

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## **A. BACKGROUND**

1. The 4th UN Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meeting was held in Vienna on 24 and 25 of July 2003, as a follow-up to meetings held on 23 and 24 January, which had mainly focused on the development of a comprehensive database of anti-corruption projects and initiatives by the participating agencies and to agree upon the establishment and the mandate of an International Group on Anti-Corruption Coordination.

2. Originally the interagency coordination initiative was launched by Ms. Louise Fréchette, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, who convened two meetings in New York on coordination of anti-corruption activities on 2 and 26 November 2001 – respectively.

## **B. OBJECTIVES**

3. The objectives of the 4th UN Meeting on Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination, were to:

- Follow-up on the recommendations of the 3rd Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meeting;
- Review the outcome of the Global Forum 3 and the 11th International Anti-Corruption Conference;
- Review the development of a database on anti-corruption projects and define parameters for its maintenance, data-entry, quality control, regular updating and access;
- Provide and update on the Organizational Integrity Initiative by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS);
- Endorse the TOR of the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination and elect the members of the Steering Committee (IGAC);
- Take stock of current and planned anti-corruption efforts of participating organizations.

The agenda of the meeting is contained in Annex 1.

## **C. PARTICIPATION**

4. Many Organizations participated in the meeting. The list of participants is contained in Annex 2..

## **D. DISCUSSION**

5. After the adoption of the Agenda. the participants were welcomed by Mr. Eduardo Vetere ,(UNODC) who summarized the main events of relevance to the group, which had occurred since its last meeting in January 2003. In particular, he mentioned the

importance which had been dispensed by the Global Forum III to the issue of information sharing and coordination in the fight against corruption. Further, he reported on the progress made in the development of a comprehensive database on anti-corruption projects. Concluding, he drew the participants attention to the ongoing negotiations of the UN Convention against Corruption and the planned signing ceremony in Mérida, Mexico on 9-11 December 2003, which would also include a number of side-events on issues related to the fight against corruption.

#### I. Follow-up on 3rd Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meeting

6. Mr. Petter Langseth (UNODC, Global Programme against Corruption) reported on the coordinated interventions made by various UN agencies at the Global Forum III and the 11th International Anti-Corruption Conference. The Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Mechanism had been discussed in various workshops and the importance of information sharing and coordination had been emphasized in the final declaration of the Global Forum III. Participants agreed that, while the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination had not succeeded in finding specific mentioning in the final declaration, the Anti-Corruption Network which had been established did not create any risk of future duplication of efforts, since the Network only consists of a list of contact points with the limited mandate of assisting the preparations of the Global Forum IV, in Brazil in 2005.

7. Mr. Langseth further reported on meetings held with Dr. Amudsen from the Utstein Resource Centre in Norway whereupon Dr. Amudsen envisaged that IGAC could draw particulars from their database. The group agreed that the question should be raised to what extent this may give way to a duplication of efforts. The representative of The Netherlands assured that he would address the issue within his own Ministry as well as with other Members of the Utstein Group.

8. Mr. Oliver Stolpe (UNODC, Global Programme against Corruption) briefed participants on the fund raising activities, which UNODC had undertaken in its function as the Secretariat to the Group. The Government of Norway has already provided an amount of US \$ 37,000 for the hiring of a consultant as well as the hard and software needed for the development and design of the database. Consultations had been undertaken with the Government of the Netherlands for the provision of US \$ 50,000 for each calendar year from 2003-2006, for the maintenance of the database and the organization of future interagency meetings.

9. Participants reached a final agreement on the Terms of Reference for the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination, as follows:

#### **International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination**

- The International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination is dedicated to strengthening international anti-corruption coordination and collaboration in order

- to avoid undue duplication and to ensure effective and efficient use of existing resources, using systems already in place at the regional and national level.
- The Group will seek to reach out and collaborate with other existing coordination bodies and networks.
  - It provides a platform for exchange of views, information, experiences and “best practice” on anti-corruption activities for the purpose of enhancing the impact of these activities, including support for the UN Convention against Corruption.
  - It is uniquely composed of organizations, including NGO’s, active internationally in anti-corruption policy, advocacy and enforcement. Members shall actively participate in, and support, the work of the Group.
  - IGAC is managed by a Steering Committee elected from, and by, the Members of the Group. The Steering Committee comprises eight members representing the three areas of expertise, namely policy, advocacy and enforcement. The Steering Committee is responsible for the strategic direction and resources necessary to support the work of IGAC.
  - IGAC’s secretariat in UNODC supports the work of the Group, which includes the development and maintenance of an electronic database and website on international anti-corruption activities and the production of an annual report and regular meetings.
  - The activities of IGAC will be reviewed by the Steering Committee in an annual report. After five years an independent overall evaluation on the work of the Group will be conducted for a decision on the extension of its Terms of Reference.

## II. Database and Website on Anti-Corruption Coordination

10. Mr. Enrique Castillo, (UNODC, Global Programme against Corruption), briefed participants on the status of the development of a database of anti-corruption projects and initiatives worldwide and the launching of a web-page in order to inform the public about the activities of IGAC and provide online access to the database. The second phase of the database development has almost been completed. The next step entails entering the project related data into the database and encompasses members validating the data. He further, introduced the fractional counting approach, which would assist in outlining a realistic representation of project-related data. It will also help to avoid the double-counting of projects, which intervene in more than one sector.

11. Following the presentation, participants agreed that in future each member organization would be made responsible to enter data relating to its activities and therefore ensure the integrity of the data. It was suggested to equip the webpage with a "What's new" section in order to facilitate navigation for frequent users. Further, where

available, the database would include links to other websites providing information on specific projects. Participants concurred on the importance of keeping the database and web page up-to-date and ensuring proper quality control of the data. At the same time, for the purpose of learning from past experiences, previous projects should be reflected in the database. Moreover, there was an agreement, that it would be helpful to post project evaluations on the database. As far as other co-existing databases were concerned, in particular that of the Utstein's Group, participants emphasized the importance to further strengthen coordination in order to avoid duplication of efforts. There is however, also a fervent need to define the levels of access to information provided in the database and define to whom this access should be granted. The last decision on the accessibility of information would remain within each respective organization providing the data. Further, there was a need to reflect the approximate budget of each project and initiative in the database in order to allow for differentiating projects and initiatives in accordance with their size and significance.

### III. Strengthening Integrity within the United Nations

12. Mr. Mark Gough, *Office for Internal Oversight Service*, gave an update of the Organizational Integrity Initiative (OII) of the UN, consisting of four main components including a staff perception survey on corruption and other forms of unethical conduct within the UN, the development and implementation of Ethics Training, the strengthening of the internal oversight capacities and an outreach programme informing staff and the public at large of continuing efforts as part of the ongoing overall reform of the Secretary General. The recently selected survey company had begun to develop a methodology for the assessment and it was envisaged that the pilot testing of the instrument would commence soon. The sample for the survey will cover the entire Secretariat, the regional offices as well as several specialized bodies and peacekeeping operations. Mr. Langseth suggested that, in order to produce an even more accurate outline of the problems and ethical challenges confronting the UN, clients of the UN should be interviewed. The first Executive Programme on Ethics was conducted in June 2003 and was well received by participants. However, because of the relatively high costs involved it remains questionable if this can be sustained. Participants agreed that financing the Organizational Integrity Initiative with extra-budgetary contributions was not sustainable and the programme should immediately be covered under the UN's regular budget.

### IV. Anti-Corruption Initiatives of Participating Agencies

13. Ms. Enery Quinones, *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development*, gave an update of the ongoing efforts relating to the monitoring of the ratification and implementation of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions as well as the 1996 Recommendations against Tax Deductibility of Bribes and the 1997 Recommendations on Preventing Bribery in International Business Transaction. The approach applied by OECD consists

of two phases. Phase 1, which has almost being completed, encompasses an analysis of the legislative framework of State Parties and its compliance with the requirements of the OECD Convention. Except for Slovenia, Chile and Turkey, who recently joined the Convention, thirty-two out of thirty-five States have undergone Phase 1 monitoring. In Phase 1bis the OECD follows up on recommendations specified as a result of the Phase 1, evaluating whether these have been taken into account by State Parties. In Phase 2 the OECD then focuses on the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, in particular, prosecution of cases and eventual problems arising in this context. So far, cases have been prosecuted in the US, Canada, Germany and South Korea. The following lessons were identified as main obstacles in the implementation of the Convention: Overall there is a lack of awareness concerning the Convention and its content, both in the public and private sector. In some countries the laws have proven rather ineffective due to the level of proof required. In other countries judicial independence remains a challenge. Moreover, although larger companies have become less likely to engage directly in corrupt practices, there is an increasing number of small companies which appear, often as subcontractors or agents of the larger companies, to be involved in cases of transnational bribery.

14. Ms. Vera Gündel, of the *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development*, briefed participants on anti-corruption activities carried out with the support of various departments inside the OECD, such as the Good Governance and the Role of State Division, SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management in Central and Eastern European Countries) and the Development Assistance Committee. OECD collaborates actively with other international organizations within the framework of the Asia Pacific Initiative, the Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiatives and the Anti-Corruption Network for Transition Economies. Core principles applied in all these initiatives include country ownership, regional cooperation, peer review, monitoring of progress, the involvement of civil society, the transfer of best practices and lessons learned as well as interagency coordination. In the Asia Pacific Region, the OECD in collaboration with Asian Development Bank, facilitated the development of a regional action plan in 2001 aimed at enhancing transparency in the public service, promoting integrity in business operations and supporting active involvement of civil society (<http://www1.oecd.org/daf/asia>). As far as the SPAI (Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative) is concerned, an action plan to combat corruption was adopted in 2000 and is now being implemented in eight countries in the west Balkans region. Key objectives of this action plan include the adoption of various international legal instruments against corruption, the encouragement of a reliable public administration, the strengthening of national legislation and rule of law including actively involving civil society in the process. All eight countries have joined the GRECO and, with the exception of BiH, have established specialized anti-corruption bodies (<http://www1.oecd.org/daf/SPAIcom/>). Moreover, in 1998 the OECD launched the Anti-Corruption Network for Transition Countries (ACN), which assists participating countries in the development of various tools in the fight against corruption. Annual meetings are conducted with the purpose of taking stock of ongoing activities, and exchanging lessons learned and best practices (<http://www.anticorruptionnet.org>).

15. Ms. Elia Armstrong presented the *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs* activities in the area of public sector ethics, transparency and accountability. DESA's mandate encompasses the promotion of a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach to development, including legislative assistance, policy analysis and technical assistance (<http://www.unpan.org/dpepa-gpab.asp>). DESA currently carries out a joint project with UNDP in six Arab States (Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan and Yemen) focusing on information, financial and human resource management. In this context, a desk review of policies and a limited perception survey of practices are being carried out, aiming at assessing the current management procedures in these three areas. Furthermore, DESA will be developing a Public Sector Ethics Training Kit and a Public Information Kit, in partnership with UNDP, as a follow-up to its Public Service Ethics Study in Africa and the Charter for the Public Service in Africa. In Latin America, DESA is supporting Member States in the development of a regional Public Service Charter. As far as Global activities are concerned, DESA represented the UN on the Organizational Committee of the Global Forum III on Fighting Corruption and is now preparing for the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Reinventing Government, to be held in Mexico City, in November 2003.

16. Ms. Pauline Tamesis, *United Nations Development Programme*, reported on UNDP's activities in fighting corruption. UNDP is currently undergoing an internal mapping exercise taking stock of all activities carried out in the area of good governance. The Programme carries out a total of one hundred and thirty seven projects in eighty countries aimed at assisting Member States in strengthening good governance. (Asia/Pacific twenty-eight projects in eighteen countries, Africa twenty-nine projects in twenty-three countries, Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS twenty-seven projects in thirteen countries, Latin America and the Caribbean thirty-four projects in sixteen countries and in the Arab World, eighteen projects in ten countries). The Programme implements four regional and one global initiative. Furthermore, UNDP, in collaboration with Transparency International, published a Source Book on Accountability and conducted eight Case Studies, on issues such as municipal accountability, the development of National Anti-Corruption Strategies and the establishment of Partnerships for Governance. There are several lessons emerging from UNDP's anti-corruption projects. Fighting corruption is a long-term enterprise and requires strong political leadership with the backing of a coalition of stakeholders, including civil society, and clear institutional mandates. The solid data collection, analysis and continuous monitoring of progress have proved to be of utmost importance. Any anti-corruption measure should be accompanied by public awareness measures, in particular informing the public about success stories. By adopting an integrated approach, UNDP combines target institutional reform with measures aiming at changing culture and mindsets. While donors provide drive for reform, local ownership remains key.

17. Ms. Muriel Poisson, *International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) - UNESCO* provided an overview of the activities of her organization in the field of educational planning and management specifically relating to preventing and controlling corruption. The IIEP has launched a new research programme on "Ethics and Corruption in Education", based on the assumption that it is of vital importance to ensure integrity

and limit unethical behaviours within the educational sector; otherwise, in a "corrupt environment", education cannot successfully promote ethical values and behaviours. The main aims of this programme are to gain a better understanding of corruption in education, to include the issue of corruption in its various diagnostic assessment tools and to prepare training modules, case studies and a collection of best practices to help educational managers and planners to formulate strategies to curb corrupt practices. An initial assessment of corruption in the education-sector has revealed that most affected are the building of schools, the recruitment and promotion of personnel, the provision of supplies, food and textbooks and the allocation of special allowances, such as fellowships and grants.

(<http://www.unesco.org/iiep/eng/focus/etico/etico1.html>)

18. Mr. Janos Tisovszky, **Department of Public Information** highlighted the impact of the Department's new operating model on the promotion of the UN's anti-corruption agenda. He gave an overview of various public information tools available through DPI to promote anti-corruption efforts. Various concrete efforts have been undertaken to promote the work of UNODC, in particular the anti-corruption Convention. It was also stressed that, while DPI was traditionally used for promoting the UN's activities to an outside audience, in the case of corruption, the Department is currently working in partnership with OIOS to advocate anti-corruption and integrity initiatives within the UN to the in-house audience.

19. Mr. Maarten de Jong, **World Bank, Department of Institutional Integrity (INT)**, briefly stated the activities of his Department, comprised of fifty forensic and investigative experts. The INT investigates fraud and corruption in World Bank financed projects and contracts and prepares reports for disciplinary action by the Human Resource Department. It also prepares notices for the debarment of companies and individuals involved in corruption and fraud. More recently, the Department's strategy has been shifting from a reactive to a more pro-active approach, involving regional staff in the conduct of Country Implementation Reviews in order to identify those sectors and activities susceptible to corruption and fraud. It also collects lessons learned from investigations for their inclusion into the World Bank operational guidelines. Furthermore, the INT has started to develop, in close cooperation with the Legal Department, a "voluntary disclosure" programme to ensure early detection of corrupt practices in World Bank projects. In order to enhance the deterrence effect of the department's investigations, the INT seeks wider publication of the results achieved, in particular with regard to the disciplinary consequences. After the participation of five World Bank managers in the recent ethics training conducted by the Kennedy Business School for UN and World Bank staff, it is the intention of INT to ensure that corruption control and organizational integrity will become a mandatory part of the induction training for new managers.

20. Mr. Paul L. Roberts, **European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)**, gave a brief introduction about the Office's current activities. OLAF was established with the mandate to protect the financial interests of the EU against fraud and corrupt practices by EU staff members. OLAF also engages in training activities and staff exchange programmes with its national

counterpart agencies in the accession countries. More recently, the Office has been developing an investigators manual, drawing extensively from existing training materials within member countries as well as sources of international investigative bodies. The office continuously seeks collaboration with other international investigative bodies through the establishment of joint task forces in the investigation of concrete cases (e.g. Kosovo). The office also participates actively in the International Investigators Conference. More information on the activities of OLAF is available on the website <http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/olaf/>.

21. Mr. Christopher Speckbacher, **Council of Europe (CoE)**, underlined the most recent developments concerning the organization, including the entering into force of the Council of Europe Civil Law Convention against Corruption on 1 November of 2003. As regards anti-corruption standards and instruments, the Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and the Recommendation on common rules against corruption in the funding of political parties and election campaigns were adopted early this year. Both instruments would be subject to future monitoring by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). As regards monitoring activities, GRECO has started the compliance procedure as regards the recommendations stemming from the first evaluation round reports. The first reports have been adopted and the results are already positive (the countries have in general implemented the majority of recommendations for improvements addressed by GRECO to its individual members. The first compliance reports have thus been published on GRECO's website (<http://www.greco.coe.int>). This procedure is taking place in parallel to the beginning of the second round (devoted to proceeds of corruption, civil servants and administrations, corruption and legal persons). Finally, concerning technical cooperation activities, there is little to be added since the last meeting (and the update which was provided). The Council of Europe will organize under the Octopus programme a multilateral seminar devoted to specialized services against corruption (independent agencies, specialized police/prosecutorial bodies etc.). The event, which would take place in Strasbourg on 5-7 November, would allow to take stock of the various efforts accomplished so far by Council of Europe/GRECO member States and international organizations (which have elaborated a number of research papers, assessment reports containing recommendations or suggestions etc.). Thus, the participants were given an outline of the project and invited to contribute to the event.

22. Mr. Mark Gough, **Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)**, presented an update of OIOS activities emphasizing the altered approach of the Office. In particular the Office focuses increasingly on pro-active risk management with the aim of solving problems rather than resolving cases. This strategic change became necessary due to the increasing caseload, which the Office found difficult to handle. The Office currently investigates less than ten percent of cases received per year, hence it concentrates on identifying possible risk areas for corrupt practices and works together with various management offices to reduce the opportunities for corruption, enhance safeguards and strengthen integrity systems. The exchange of information with other international investigating bodies has proved to be particularly useful. Participants were also briefed on the joint proposal by OIOS, the Office of Legal Affairs and UNODC to further extend the scope of application of the draft UN Convention against Corruption to international public

officials, in particular with regard to passive bribery, embezzlement and the recovery of assets.

23. Mr. Shahid Sheikh of the *World Customs Organisation* (WCO) presented a concise overview of the Organization's mandate and of its work in the field of promoting integrity in Customs. The WCO with a membership of one hundred and sixty two countries, who account for ninety-seven percent of international trade, has a major role in trade facilitation and considers integrity to be a crucial factor in the promotion and facilitation of international trade. Corruption in Customs can be a major non-tariff barrier. The issue of integrity in Customs became part of the WCO agenda in late eighties when corruption was recognized by the WCO Council as being a serious challenge to the efficiency and effectiveness of Customs, which led to hampering the smooth flow of international trade. The WCO response to this challenge was the Arusha Declaration of 1993 and other instruments like Integrity Development Guide and Model Code of Conduct specifically designed to help customs administrations address the issue of integrity. Since then the WCO has implemented several programs to assist its members in strengthening integrity in Customs. The WCO has worked hard at the international fora (Global Forum I,II,III and TI organized conferences) to promote integrity in civil service institutions including Customs. The events of 11 September have further increased the challenges faced by customs around the globe with regard to the security of the international supply chain. The WCO is thus addressing the issue with all the more zest in partnership with other international agencies and the private sector.

24. Mr. Jean Méan, *European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*, focused his presentation on the promotion of corporate governance. For this purpose the Bank, in collaboration with Transparency International in 2000 launched an initiative for the development of Business Principles for Countering Bribery. A broad-based international Steering Committee was established, which held extensive consultations with the business community and anti-corruption practitioners. This group created a document providing an anti-bribery framework consisting of good business practices and methods of risk management applicable to companies of all sizes. The scope of this initiative is broad and includes private sector corruption as well as international and domestic bribery in all forms, ranging from political to philanthropic contributions to facilitation payments, gifts, hospitality and the reimbursement of expenses. In order to address the more recent phenomenon of the "outsourcing" of corruption, the principles extend to subsidiaries, joint ventures, agents, contractors and suppliers.

25. Mr. Guy Laberge, INTERPOL, delineated the main activities of his organization in the fight against corruption. In particular, he elaborated on a study recently launched by Interpol, which focuses on exploring the specific links between organized crime and corruption. The aim of this initiative is to: (1) set-up a comprehensive database on the organized crime - corruption nexus, (2) enhance information exchange with other international organisations active in the fight against corruption, (3) collect nominal information on criminal organisations involved in corruption as well as specific cases of corruption, (4) identify the flows of money and companies involved, (5) study the modus operandi and nature of corruption cases, and (6) disseminate the findings of the analysis

to Member States. The main target of this study are those organized crime groups which regularly use corruption and related practices as an essential element of their illicit activities. Moreover, INTERPOL, with the help of its Expert Group on Corruption, has developed "Global Standards to Combat Corruption in Police Forces" (<http://www.interpol.int>).

26. Mr. Petter Langseth, *UN Office on Drugs and Crime*, informed participants about the various activities of the organization's Global Programme against Corruption. Since 1999, UNODC has been implementing its Global Programme against Corruption (GPAC) including amongst its main components (1) technical cooperation projects, (2) research and policy development, (3) interagency coordination and (4) the strengthening of judicial integrity. So far thirty-four countries have requested support from GPAC and in addition to completing programmes in Romania (01) and Hungary (03), GPAC has continued its support to Lebanon, South Africa, Colombia, Nigeria and is in the process of launching country projects in Indonesia, Iran, Kenya and Uganda. Second phase projects are further planned in Hungary, Romania, Nigeria and South Africa. Due to its limited resources, GPAC has been forced to select a strategic niche, *Judicial Integrity*, as an essential ingredient of the Rule of Law. At the international level, since 2000, the Global Programme against Corruption has been focusing on strengthening judicial integrity by providing policy advice and organizational support to the action learning process on judicial reform launched by the International Judicial Group on Strengthening Judicial Integrity in Common Law Countries. In order to assist Member States in implementing the future UN Convention against Corruption, GPAC has developed various operational and policy guides and publications, such as the UN Anti-Corruption Toolkit, the UN Anti-Corruption Manual for Policy Makers, and a Handbook for Prosecutors and Investigators (forthcoming). Since 2001 the Programme had become involved in enhancing inter-agency coordination and co-operation by holding regular Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meetings and launching a systematic process of data collection on anti-corruption initiatives worldwide.

#### V. Update on the Negotiation of the UN-Convention against Corruption

27. Mr. Dimitri Vlassis, *Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption (UNODC)*, briefed participants on the status of the negotiations. Even though the negotiations continued to proceed relatively well, a number of complex issues were still open. While delegations had agreed on a number of definitions the question of whether there would be a definition of corruption remained under consideration. There were other provisions still under discussion in the chapters on preventive measures, criminalization as well as the closely related question concerning the scope of international cooperation. Some preventive measures remained under consideration, because some delegations, in particular from developing countries, were concerned that the Convention might overburden the implementation capacities of their governments. Other aspects, such as the financing of political parties, required further informal consultations because of the substantial differences among the various national systems. As far as criminalization of various corrupt practices was concerned, the key

question was how binding the relevant articles would be. This would further depend on the extent to which mutual legal assistance under the Convention would be governed by the principle of dual criminality. Some offences, as proposed in the current draft, might also create constitutional problems for various States. In particular, the concept of illicit enrichment was not easily acceptable to all because such an offence, potentially could infringe basic legal principles, especially the presumption of innocence. With regard to the chapter on asset recovery, the main challenge was Art. 61 regulating the conditions under which, assets of illicit origin should be returned to the requesting country. While some countries defended the status quo, others were seeking to establish an unconditional right of the country of origin with regard to the assets. Nevertheless, a middle ground as a basis for consensus seemed to emerge.

28. Mr. Vlassis briefed participants further on the High-Level Signing Conference for the Convention, scheduled to take place in Mérida, Mexico, 9-11 December 2003. Four half-day side-events were planned during the Conference. Consultations were under way with the host Government on the themes of these side events. The following had been identified as possible themes: (1) interagency collaboration in the fight against corruption, (2) the involvement of the private sector and (3) the role of civil society. Subject to agreement with the host Government, the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination should take the lead in organizing the side event on the role of international organizations, which should build on the work already done on interagency coordination.

29. Regarding the involvement of the IGAC and its members in the promotion of the entry into force of the future Convention against Corruption, Mr. Vlassis emphasized the importance of encouraging States to prepare for the signing of the Convention. In this connection, Mr. Vlassis encouraged the members of IGAC to explore the possibility of assisting their members (especially developing and least developed countries) to attend the Signing Conference in Mérida. Ms. Armstrong inquired if the wording of Art. 74 concerning the contributions for supporting the ratification and implementation of the Convention had already been agreed upon. Her concern was in particular, that the article only made reference to UNODC. Mr. Vlassis explained that there was no intention of excluding other UN, international and regional organizations from contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Convention, but since the text of the article had been taken from the TOC Convention, there was practically no chance of the text being re-opened.

## **E. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

30. The meeting agreed on the following:

- (a) The Group and each of its members emphasized their readiness to promote and support the ratification and implementation by Member States of the future UN Convention against Corruption. The Group welcomed the call of the Secretariat for the Negotiation of the Convention against Corruption for the participating

Organizations to encourage Member States to prepare for the signature of the Convention, once the final text has been agreed upon.

- (b) The Group elected its Steering Committee consisting of UNDP/UN-DESA (alternating), UNODC, WCO, EBRD, OECD, EU-OLAF and the World Bank. UNODC will act as the Secretariat for the Group. All mandates were given for one year as of the 25 July 2003. In a follow-up discussion, it was further agreed that OIOS should be part of the Steering Committee and that UNODC would hold the chair.
- (c) The Group will seek to organize one of the side-events for the signing conference of the Convention against Corruption on 9-11 December 2003 in Mérida, Mexico. Suggested topics for the event would be the work of the IGAC, in particular (1) the effectiveness of the Group in providing a platform for inter-agency coordination and facilitating cooperation through its database and its practical applications, including the analysis of anti-corruption initiatives worldwide, (2) the review of existing monitoring mechanisms for international legal instruments, (3) internal integrity and enforcement systems in international and regional organizations and (4) the possible support of the group and its individual members to the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the Convention. The Group will prepare for the event via e-mail and meet on the 8 December 2003 in, Mérida, Mexico for the purpose of coordinating of the various interventions.
- (d) From the 5th meeting onwards each meeting of the IGAC would be held on a specific substantive theme. Participants concurred that at its next meeting the Group would specifically focus on reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of the various monitoring mechanisms of existing international legal instruments, including a cost and benefit analysis. Other suggestions for possible thematic discussions included: public information strategies and guidelines for internal and external communications related to corruption. Further, proposals for thematic discussions should be referred to the IGAC Secretariat, for adoption by the Steering Committee. An effort should be made in identifying other agencies and entities not yet participating in IGAC, both for permanent membership.
- (e) The Group agreed to monitor its own performance in terms achieving its goals of improved coordination and cooperation across international and regional organizations, particularly for strengthening country level interventions. For this purpose its members should come forward with suggestions for output and outcome indicators.
- (f) As far as further development of the database is concerned, the Group recommended that the website should be equipped with a feedback mechanism, allowing the Steering Committee to assess the extent to which the database was used as a tool by practitioners in the field and to capture their observations, comments and suggestions.
- (g) IGAC members would provide definitions of the access levels to the database and clarify who will have access to which type of information as soon as possible. Those agencies that participate in the upcoming preparatory meeting for the conference of international investigators in Lyon in September 2004 (Interpol,

OIOS, WB, OLAF) should report back to the group on issues concerning data protection. In addition, each member should indicate staff that would become the focal point for the data validation and future data entry.

- (h) It was further suggested, that the Group should establish a virtual chat room, in order to facilitate the discussions among the members on the various above-mentioned issues.

31. The next meeting for the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination will be held concurrently with the Signing Ceremony for the UN Convention against Corruption, 9-11 December in Mérida, Mexico.

## F. ANNEXES

### I. Agenda of the 4th Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meeting

#### **Fourth Interagency Anti-Corruption Co-ordination Meeting Vienna, 24-25 July 2003**

**Thursday, 24 July 2003**

Chairman	Jan van Dijk UNODC
09:00	Registration
09:30	Opening of the Meeting by Director of UNODC, Mr. Eduardo Vetere
	Adoption of the agenda
10:00	Follow up to the conclusions agreed in the Third Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentations at the Global Forum 3 and 11<sup>th</sup> IACC;</li><li>- Collaboration with the Utstein Group</li><li>- Mainstreaming Internal Integrity (OIOS, World Bank, EBRD and others)</li><li>- Efforts of UNODC in support of the Interagency Anti Corruption Coordination Mechanism (Fundraising, Website and Database Development).</li><li>- Web Page and Database<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Data collection strategy</li><li>(b) Demonstration of data retrieval and data entry</li><li>(c) Preliminary findings from the interagency</li></ul></li></ul>
	Discussion
13:00	Lunch break
14:30	Presentations of current and future anti corruption initiatives (5 minutes presentation by each participating organization)
16.30	Three break out groups; one for each of the networks: (i) enforcement, (ii) policy and (iii) advocacy, to discuss organization and next steps
17:30	Closing of first day

**Fourth Interagency Anti-Corruption Co-ordination Meeting**  
Vienna, 24-25 July 2003

**Friday, 25 July 2003**

Chairman	Jan van Dijk, UNODC
09:30	Implementation of the Terms of Reference for the international group for Anti Corruption Co-ordination (IGAC), including funding needs for its support structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Short Presentation</li><li>- Commitment to the data collection including support for the secretariat</li><li>- Election of the members of the IGAC Steering Committee and agreement regarding their mandate and work schedule</li><li>- Next Steps</li></ul>
13.00	Lunch break
14.30	Progress on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption and challenges ahead in terms of technical cooperation efforts to support its future implementation  Discussion
16.00	Conclusions and recommendation
18.00	Closing of the meeting

**Handouts:**

- UN Anti Corruption Tool Kit, as of July 2003
- Report from the Third interagency Meeting, January 2003
- Forum on Crime and Society, Volume 1 (01) and 2 (02)
- UNODC Global Programmes as of May 2003
- Fact Sheet
- Power point presentations

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### III. List of Documents

The documents submitted can be made available upon request.

- Report of the First Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meeting, February 2002;
- Report of the Second Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meeting, July 2002;
- Report of the Third Interagency Anti-Corruption Coordination Meeting, January 2003;
- Presentations by the OECD, the EBRD, the World Bank, UNDP, IIEP-UNESCO, and the Council of Europe.
- UN Anti Corruption Tool Kit, as of July 2003
- Forum on Crime and Society, Volume 1 (01) and 2 (02)
- UNODC Global Programmes as of May 2003

## IV. Next Steps

Next Steps	Responsible	Completed by
<b>A. Promote and support the ratification and implementation by Member States of a future UN Convention against Corruption</b> including encouraging Member States to prepare for the signature of the Convention, once the final text has been agreed upon.	All Members	Ongoing
<b>B. The Group elected:</b> 1. It's Steering Committee consisting of UNDP/UN-DESA (alternating), UNODC, WCO, EBRD, OECD, EU-OLAF, OIOS and the World Bank. 2. UNODC to continue to hold the chair	All Members	July 25 <sup>th</sup> 03
<b>C. Database and Webpage development</b> (1) Database design (2) Web page design (3) Database Development (4) Data entry of Received Fact Sheets (5) World Bank to send team to Vienna to review database and bring additional project information (6) Participating organizations (PO) to verify data (7) PO to do additional data entry	1. GPAC 2. GPAC 3. GPAC Consultant 4. GPAC 5. World Bank  6. POs 7. POs	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup> 03 Aug 15 <sup>th</sup> 03 Sep 15 <sup>st</sup> 03 Sep 31 <sup>st</sup> 03 Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> 03  Oct 30 <sup>th</sup> 03 Ongoing
<b>D. Organize one of the side-events for the signing conference of the Convention against Corruption</b> on 9-11 December 2003 in Mérida, Tasks to be presented in papers with power point presentations: (1) Providing a platform for inter-agency coordination (2) Present Database and Web page (3) Existing monitoring mechanisms for international legal instruments, (4) Internal integrity and enforcement systems in international and regional organizations a (5) Design Web Page Feedback Mechanism to allow allowing the Steering Committee to assess the extent to which practitioners in the field used the database as a tool and to capture their observations, comments and suggestions. (6) Analyze existing data and present findings	Chair/Steering committee (JVD) UNODC (PL) CoE, OECD, OAS, and others (OIOS/OLAF/WB)  UNODC Consultant  UNODC (PL/OS,WR)	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> 03 Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> 03 Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> 03 Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> 03 Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> 03 Nov 15 <sup>th</sup> 03
<b>E. Meeting Preparation for future meetings</b> (1) Suggest substantive themes, propose agenda and invite for 5th meeting (2) Topic for 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting: the <i>strengths and weaknesses of the various monitoring mechanisms of existing international legal instruments, including a cost and benefit analysis.</i> (3) Identifying other agencies and entities not yet participating in IGAC for permanent membership	PO's PO's to suggest speakers (OECD, CoE, OAS and others). POs	15 Oct. 03 15. Oct. 03 Ongoing
<b>F. To monitor its own performance;</b> members should come forward with suggestions for output and outcome indicators.	All members	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> 03
<b>G. Assess the extent to which the database was used as a tool</b> by practitioners in the field by capturing and analyzing practitioners observations, comments and suggestions	Secretariat /SC	As of 1st Oct 03 ongoing
<b>H. Provide definitions of the access levels</b> to the database and clarify who will have access to which type of information (1) Define Access levels (2) Identify Focal points for data validation (3) Identify Focal points for future data entry (4) Implementation of access levels into the database	PO PO PO GPAC Consultant	Sep 15th 03 Sep 15th 03 Sep 15th 03 Oct 15th 03