Statement by
Mr. Thomas Stelzer
Dean and Executive Secretary of the
International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

Vienna, Austria
17 May 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to address this 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The *Kyoto Declaration* adopted by the Crime Congress at its 14th session, in March this year, contains strong references to the fight against corruption.

It highlights the relevance of education in the context of technical assistance and capacity building to facilitate implementation of UNCAC and UNTOC. It also confirms that success in fighting corruption is a precondition for sustainable development, safeguarding human rights, and strengthening the rule of law.

Hence, we need to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of anti-corruption education, benefitting the public as well as private sector. Education includes enabling our constituents to see when and where corruption happens, helping them understand why combatting corruption is in the common interest and assisting them to fight corruption through the provision of technical assistance and capacity building. Providing education against corruption to decision makers, academia, civil society as well as to specific practitioners in the field of anti-corruption, is at the core of IACA’s mandate.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The thematic debate of this session on *measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants as well as on migrants’ rights* is closely interconnected with the issue of fighting corruption. Available research confirms that corruption profoundly affects migration, often violating migrants’ human rights. At the same time, research on the impact of corruption on migration, whether in countries of origin, along migration routes, or in destination countries still faces major gaps. To enable evidence-based decision making,
research needs to prioritize issues relating to the nexus of migration and corruption.

IACA is ready to address these issues. In this context, we also need to facilitate dialogue among policymakers and all stakeholders to identify how corruption impacts on migration, highlight corruption cases faced by irregular, forced and smuggled migrants in the course of their journey, share good practices and initiatives, and formulate concrete recommendations. IACA will also closely cooperate with relevant international organizations, such as UNODC, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation Europe (OSCE).

Dear Colleagues,

In the context of facilitating implementation of UNCAC, IACA has developed valuable training and capacity-building initiatives to make anti-corruption systems, including criminal law networks as well as societal approaches, more resilient. Addressing all UNCAC member states, our anti-corruption tools provide crucial support to anti-corruption practitioners, particularly benefitting the most vulnerably societies and LDCs.

Inclusive, sustainable development cannot be achieved without success in fighting corruption. IACA is determined to contribute to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 by providing anti-corruption education based on research.

Thank you for your attention.