

Anti-Corruption Academic Symposium

Moscow, 21-22 November 2019

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), organized the 2nd Anti-Corruption Academic Symposium in Moscow, Russian Federation, from 21 to 22 November 2019. The two-day Symposium was held under the auspices of the Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) initiative and in advance of the eighth session of the Conference of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019.

The ACAD initiative is a collaborative academic project that supports academics in teaching and conducting research on corruption related issues, offering them a menu of academic resources, a Model Academic Course on the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other reference materials. It is also linked to the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative of UNODC, which develops teaching materials on UNODC mandate areas, including anti-corruption, integrity and ethics.

The Symposium brought together 144 academics and experts from 30 countries, with the aim of providing a forum for ACAD members and other academics and experts to discuss key issues in the area of anti-corruption research and education and to discuss how to promote the initiative further. During the Symposium, MGIMO announced that preparations are taking place for the establishment of the Russian University Anti-Corruption Network.

The Symposium participants:

1. *Highlight* the importance of anti-corruption, integrity and ethics education for all students, public officials and professionals, as recognized in article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
2. *Note* the crucial role of academia in fostering responsible societies and ethical leaders, and in combating corruption through value-based education premised on fundamental principles such as high professional standards, gender equality and cultural diversity;
3. *Recommend* that States parties support UNODC's efforts to develop and share, in cooperation with relevant academic partners, anti-corruption educational materials for universities and other educational institutions based on innovative and interactive teaching methods;
4. *Recommend* that States parties support UNODC and academics in updating and improving the educational resources available on the UNODC website, translating them into different languages, and adapting them to different regional, disciplinary and educational contexts;
5. *Recommend* that States parties support UNODC and academics in continuing to share experiences and develop capacity in the area of ethics and anti-corruption education through academic exchanges, workshops and networks at the sub-regional, regional and global level, including with a focus on different thematic areas;
6. *Encourage* State parties to support platforms for academic collaboration and inter-university programmes that aim to promote anti-corruption education and high professional standards, including through adapting and implementing the teaching materials developed by UNODC under the E4J and ACAD initiatives, and welcome the establishment of the Russian University Anti-Corruption Network as a good example in this regard;

7. *Encourage* competent governmental authorities, including ministries of education, to facilitate the teaching on anti-corruption in a wide range of disciplines and across all levels of education, including the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, through various measures such as curricula development, course accreditation, specialized degree programmes, and the integration of anti-corruption elements into existing courses, and to maximize the impact of anti-corruption education by implementing innovative and interactive teaching methods such as experiential learning and student competitions;
8. *Recommend* that States parties invite relevant national, regional, international organizations and education-related civil society organizations to work with academia on promoting inclusive and accessible anti-corruption and ethics education;
9. *Recommend* that States parties support anti-corruption and ethics education as a life-long process that is integrated in professional training, and in this regard encourage partnerships between academics and experts from the public and private sectors to ensure that corruption and ethics education impacts practitioners from the formation to the career stage, promoting high professional standards, gender equality and cultural diversity as essential elements of the fight against corruption;
10. *Recommend* that States parties provide an enabling environment for researchers and encourage relevant national, regional, international and civil society organizations as well as academic institutions to promote in-depth multidisciplinary research on the scope, causes and risks associated with corruption, and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures;
11. *Encourage* State parties to support and promote academic research on the impact of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its Implementation Review Mechanism, and its possible interrelations to and potentials of association to other UN conventions, treaty bodies and review mechanisms;
12. *Encourage* State parties to facilitate regular dialogue between government officials and academia on anti-corruption-related matters;
13. *Recommend* that State parties consider the inclusion of academics and researchers in their delegations to intergovernmental anti-corruption meetings as well as in national and regional anti-corruption platforms;
14. *Recommend* that State parties strive for gender parity, cultural diversity, and the inclusion of more young academics in anti-corruption education and research networks, platforms and activities;
15. *Encourage* UNODC and States parties to involve youth in global anti-corruption efforts.