

## **The Doha Declaration on Judicial Integrity**

*The High-Level Meeting of the Global Judicial Integrity Network of February 2020 in Doha, Qatar aimed to take stock of the achievements of the Network since its launch in 2018; discuss the work conducted under the 2018-2019 workplan of the Network; discuss existing and emerging challenges related to judicial integrity and explore the efforts made by judiciaries to address them; and to identify priority areas for the Network going forward. The present Declaration is the main outcome document of the high-level meeting and reflects the debates held during the plenary and breakout sessions thereof. It is developed in line with the Terms of Reference of the Network, the 2018-2019 workplan, the objectives of the meeting as well as all preparatory meeting documents, such as the discussion guides for the panels.*

We, the members of judiciaries and other justice sector stakeholders gathered in Doha, Qatar on 25 and 26 February 2020,

*Recalling* article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct as creating a framework for promoting and protecting the independence, impartiality, integrity, transparency, accountability and professionalism of the judicial system;

*Recalling* the Doha Declaration of 2015, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Congress, in which Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Representatives of Member States reaffirmed their commitment and strong political will in support of effective, fair, human and accountable criminal justice systems and the institutions comprising them;

*Noting* the importance of the upcoming Fourteenth United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Congress in Kyoto in advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*Recalling* the continuing work carried out by the Judicial Integrity Group since 2000, including in the development of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, the Commentary thereto and the Implementation Measures, and reaffirming our commitment to the effective implementation of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, as endorsed by ECOSOC Resolution 2006/23, which endorsed the Principles and invited Member States, consistent with their domestic legal systems, to encourage their judiciaries to take the Bangalore Principles into consideration when reviewing or developing rules with respect to the professional and ethical conduct of members of the judiciary;

*Recalling* the important work being carried out by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers in promoting the implementation of the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, endorsed by General Assembly resolutions 40/32 and 40/146;



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GLOBAL  
JUDICIAL  
INTEGRITY  
NETWORK

*Recalling* the launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network in Vienna in April 2018 as a historical milestone in the global efforts to strengthen judicial integrity and to undertake joint action to address existing challenges and opportunities;

*Recalling* the Declaration on Judicial Integrity, adopted at the launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network, in which representatives agreed on the key priorities for the work of the Network after its creation;

Decide the following:

1. *Acknowledge with appreciation* the achievements of the Global Judicial Integrity Network since its launch in 2018 in creating a platform for judges and judiciaries to jointly address existing and emerging judicial integrity-related challenges, share information and provide peer support.
2. *Encourage* all judiciaries and judges to benefit from the products of the Global Judicial Integrity Network, including by disseminating and implementing them at the national and regional levels and sharing good practices with other Network participants.
3. *Acknowledge* the website of the Global Judicial Integrity Network as a key resource hub to promote judicial integrity.
4. *Work together* to promote and implement the knowledge products and tools developed under and the achievements of the Global Judicial Integrity Network and *disseminate* them widely, such as the Guidelines on the Use of Social Media by Judges, the Judicial Ethics Training Package, the Paper on Gender-Related Judicial Integrity Issues and the Guide on How to Develop and Implement Codes of Judicial Conduct, and *continue* to contribute to the work being carried out including on a new knowledge product related to judicial immunities and their role in safeguarding judicial integrity.
5. *Work together* with all partners and stakeholders to promote the achievements and the knowledge products and tools developed under the Global Judicial Integrity Network, disseminate them widely and raise public awareness on judicial integrity concepts and practices.
6. *Renew* our commitment to firmly uphold judicial independence, an essential element to the Rule of Law, and to strengthen integrity, accountability and transparency in the justice system and reinforce the bonds between these fundamental concepts. To this end, *continue to promote* the existing relevant international standards, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct and the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, as well as the corresponding efforts to strengthen their effective implementation.
7. *Support* the Judicial Integrity Group in the revision and updating of the Commentary on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct.

8. *Continue* our efforts to identify pertinent challenges related to judicial integrity and develop strategies, guidance or tools to effectively address them, such as in the areas of innovation and the use of new technologies and artificial intelligence, administrative functions of judges, judicial discipline and accountability mechanisms, judicial appointment, selection, recruitment, retention, tenure, promotion and retirement, immunity from political and other interference, security of judges and relations with the media.

9. Acknowledging the effective role of technical assistance and capacity building in promoting judicial integrity, *encourage* international institutions to intensify the provision of technical assistance and capacity building in Member States, upon their request and based on their specific needs, in particular through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the Secretariat of the Global Judicial Integrity Network.

10. *Recognize* the need to continue to raise awareness about and support judiciaries in addressing existing and new challenges to judicial integrity, such as threats to judicial independence, in their multiple aspects, corruption, conflicts of interest, gender issues, the use of social media and the use of new technologies, including through updating and revising codes of judicial conduct, strengthening accountability mechanisms and increasing opportunities for judicial training.

11. *Explore* opportunities for enhancing public education, outreach and social awareness regarding judicial integrity with a view to strengthening public confidence in the judiciary and promoting access to justice, equal and fair proceedings to deliver justice for all.

12. *Continue* to support initiatives that promote continuous judicial training covering the wide range of judicial integrity issues, including initiatives aimed at creating dedicated training centres on judicial integrity and increasing the exchanges about good practices and challenges faced.

13. *Continue* to build strategic partnerships with relevant institutions, without prejudice to judicial independence, including academia, research centres, specialized courts such as anti-corruption courts, the United Nations bodies and other national, regional and international organizations, initiatives and networks, with a view to amplifying the impact and results of the Network while serving as a hub for all the ongoing efforts.

14. *Resolve* to support and expand the role of the Global Judicial Integrity Network as a platform of mutual learning and cooperation worldwide.

15. *Highlight with appreciation* the work of the members of the Advisory Board of the Global Judicial Integrity Network to provide guidance in identifying priority challenges and emerging issues in judicial integrity and related activities to assist judiciaries in developing and implementing effective measures to address such challenges and issues as well as *commend* the members for their efforts in promoting the initiative through various activities;



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16. *Highlight with appreciation* the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the Secretariat of the Global Judicial Integrity Network and *praise* the members of Secretariat for the excellent support provided.

17. *Encourage* Member States to continue to support the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to allow it to provide technical assistance and organize capacity building activities aimed at promoting judicial integrity.

18. *Commend* the State of Qatar's willingness to start consultations for the establishment in Doha of an international training and research hub on judicial integrity to further support the activities of the Global Judicial Integrity Network and strengthen the implementation of its Judicial Ethics Training Tools.

19. *Commend* the proposal of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and the State of Qatar to initiate steps for the submission of the proposal at the UN General Assembly for the adoption of the International Day of Women Judges and further commend the proposal of the IAWJ to develop a global index of women judges as important efforts to raise awareness about gender-related judicial integrity issues. *Invite* all countries to support both initiatives.

We wish to express our appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the second High-Level Meeting of the Global Judicial Integrity Network in February 2020 in Doha, for the excellent logistical arrangements that contributed to the success of the Meeting and for the State of Qatar's continued interest to support the activities of the Global Judicial Integrity Network. We equally commend all who made the Meeting a success.