



Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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Prevention

Activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption and the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the area of prevention of corruption

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note contains an overview of the activities undertaken by the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, a subsidiary body of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the area of prevention of corruption in 2022 and 2023. It is aimed at assisting the Conference in its deliberations and in providing guidance on the future work of the Working Group.

* CAC/COSP//2023/1.



I. Introduction

1. At its third session, held in Doha from 9 to 13 November 2009, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted resolution 3/2, entitled “Preventive measures”. In that resolution, the Conference decided to establish an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group, in accordance with article 63, paragraph 7, of the Convention, and rule 2, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Conference, to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption.
2. In the same resolution, the Conference also decided that the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption should perform the following functions:
 - (a) Assist the Conference in developing and accumulating knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption;
 - (b) Facilitate the exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices;
 - (c) Facilitate the collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices in corruption prevention; and
 - (d) Assist the Conference in encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption.
3. The Conference further decided that the Working Group should meet during the sessions of the Conference and, as appropriate, hold at least two intersessional meetings within existing resources. That decision was based on article 63, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and rule 2, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the States Parties.
4. The Conference affirmed that decision in its resolution 4/3, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, and resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, in which it requested the Working Group to continue its work to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption and to hold at least two meetings prior to the tenth session of the Conference.
5. At its sixth session, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 2 to 6 November 2015, the Conference adopted resolution 6/1 entitled “Continuation of the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”. In that resolution, the Conference launched the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, which included the review of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the Convention. Against this backdrop, the Conference requested the secretariat to structure the provisional agendas of the Implementation Review Group and of other subsidiary bodies established by the Conference – including the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption – in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions, while respecting their mandates.
6. At its ninth session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021, the Conference adopted resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”. In that resolution, the Conference welcomed the efforts of the Working Group to facilitate the sharing of information among States parties on their initiatives and good practices (in relation to the topics considered by the Working Group at its meetings held in Vienna from 31 August to 2 September 2020 and from 14 to 18 June 2021). It also underlined the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group, encouraged States parties to implement them as appropriate, requested States parties to continue sharing information, and requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue its work as an international observatory, including by updating the thematic website of the Working Group with relevant information. The Conference highlighted the importance of the secretariat’s work, in accordance with article 64 of the Convention, on the preparation of thematic reports on the implementation of

chapter II of the Convention, as well as supplementary regional addenda, and requested the secretariat to share those reports with the Working Group.

7. The present note has been prepared to inform the Conference at its tenth session of progress made in the implementation of the mandate of the Working Group. It is aimed at assisting the Conference in its deliberations and in providing guidance on the future work of the Working Group.

II. Overview of the discussions and recommendations of the Working Group at its eleventh and twelfth meetings

8. In its resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, the Conference decided to include the issues of “development and implementation of national and international innovative measures to prevent corruption, including good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies and national responses in this regard” and “interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches” in the agenda of the Working Group. In its resolution 9/3, entitled “Follow-up to the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption, and the use of information and communications technologies”, the Conference requested the Working Group to include, as topics for discussion at its future meetings, “strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption” and “how to promote the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention”. In its resolution 9/8, entitled “Promoting anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training”, the Conference requested the Working Group to hold a panel discussion on challenges to and good practices in anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research at its thirteenth meeting, and requested the secretariat to prepare a background paper to inform the discussion.

9. The topics “use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption” and “anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research” were included in the agenda of the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group. The topics “good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies”, “interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches” and “strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption” were included in the agenda of the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group.

10. With regard to the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, States parties and international organizations shared their relevant activities and experiences in the course of a thematic discussion held at the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group. The secretariat presented a background paper summarizing and analysing the input received from States parties on the topic.

11. Speakers raised a number of issues related to the use of information and communications technologies, such as the types of software used to develop information and communications technology-based solutions to prevent corruption, the degree of involvement of the private sector and civil society in the development of such software, the degree of penetration of those technologies in rural areas and their use by individuals with limited technical skills, the protection of personal data and of information and communications technology-based solutions from misuse, manipulation and cyberattacks, and the costs of those solutions and their effectiveness in preventing corruption over time.

12. Speakers emphasized the importance and effectiveness of information and communications technologies in preventing corruption, increasing the efficiency and

effectiveness of public service delivery, promoting access to information, strengthening transparency in the judiciary and facilitating the submission and verification of asset declarations, which were mandatory in some jurisdictions, by public officials. Speakers also noted that the use of information and communications technologies had increased during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and had proved particularly effective in the prevention and detection of misuse of emergency response and recovery resources.

13. Speakers reported on the benefits of information and communications technologies with regard to reporting suspected cases of corruption in an anonymous, safe and accurate manner, thus facilitating subsequent investigations, prosecutions and the recovery of stolen assets.

14. One speaker noted the effectiveness of the use of artificial intelligence in the verification of declarations of assets and conflicts of interest and in the investigation of issues related to beneficial ownership. He suggested that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), through its Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network), might be able to facilitate the sharing of information gathered through the use of information and communications technologies. He asked the Working Group to explore the establishment of a platform, with the support of UNODC, enabling States parties to regularly share good practices in the use of information and communications technologies to prevent and detect corruption.

15. Speakers reiterated the need for enhanced international cooperation in implementing the Convention, in particular its provisions on asset recovery, noting that such cooperation could be facilitated through the use of information and communications technologies. The Working Group was informed of efforts at the regional level to ratify a treaty between neighbouring jurisdictions that would facilitate the exchange of information on and the verification of asset declarations and the use of information and communications technologies for the recovery of stolen assets. The Working Group was also informed of the development of regional platforms that used information and communications technologies to enable the exchange of audit reports between supreme audit institutions.

16. Several speakers thanked UNODC for providing technical assistance and support in sharing good practices in the development and implementation of information and communications technology-based solutions in order to prevent and detect corruption.

17. Under the agenda item on challenges to and good practices in anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research, the Working Group discussed the experiences of States parties and international organizations in those areas. The secretariat presented a background paper summarizing and analysing the input received from States parties on the topic. Speakers reported on the various measures their countries had taken to implement the relevant provisions of chapter II of the Convention.

18. The submissions received by the secretariat demonstrated a trend towards the integration of the notions of integrity, honesty and ethics into the educational curricula of primary and secondary schools, most often as part of subjects that dealt with civic education and global citizenship. Some States parties reported on innovative methods of teaching such values in primary and secondary schools, including through the development of short stories and books for students. There was growing interest in promoting anti-corruption education at the tertiary level. States had indicated that courses on corruption, integrity and ethics had been offered as part of the academic programmes of universities. In some States, mandatory courses on corruption had been included in the curricula of all public universities, while in other States, corruption-related topics had been included in broader courses on integrity and ethics.

19. Speakers noted that values such as integrity, transparency and ethics were being integrated into the curricula of primary and secondary schools and that integrity clubs

were being introduced in schools. Several speakers noted the importance of teaching children the values of ethics, integrity and transparency at a young age in order to prevent corruption and promote the rule of law.

20. Speakers drew attention to such issues as the development of online educational platforms and the use of information and communications technologies; means of assessing the effectiveness and impact of anti-corruption educational programmes and materials at all levels of education; cooperation with the private sector and civil society in relation to education; and the inclusion of anti-corruption education and awareness-raising in national anti-corruption plans and strategies.

21. Some speakers noted the significant challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic had posed to the delivery of anti-corruption education. Speakers also noted that many anti-corruption educational activities were extracurricular in nature and included the use of competitions, hackathons, educational videos and art.

22. Several speakers reported on partnerships between the public sector and academia for the purpose of conducting research and developing and delivering e-learning modules, specialized materials and training programmes for public officials, in particular on money-laundering and the management of public finances. The need for further specialized training for public officials and anti-corruption practitioners was highlighted.

23. Speakers recognized the importance of programmes and activities to raise public officials' awareness of the risks of corruption inherent in the performance of their functions. They also discussed initiatives to raise awareness of the existence and gravity of corruption in other parts of society, such as the private sector, civil society, academia and the media. In that regard, innovative initiatives were discussed, including "integrity pledges", by means of which civil society organizations and private sector entities committed on a voluntary basis to the correct, honourable and proper performance of their activities. Other innovative initiatives included the use of short films, billboards, essay-writing competitions, mobile telephone applications, programmes for the media and campaigns to address the gender dimension of corruption.

24. Speakers welcomed the assistance provided by UNODC under the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative and urged States parties to provide sufficient resources to deliver technical assistance and to enable the development of anti-corruption education programmes, including by UNODC. Speakers requested UNODC to conduct a study and prepare a paper on measuring the impact of anti-corruption education programmes.

25. With regard to the topic of "interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches", States parties and international organizations shared information about their activities and experiences in the course of a thematic discussion held at the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group. The secretariat presented a background paper summarizing and analysing the input received from States parties on the topic.

26. That input indicated a diverse range of approaches to, and challenges and opportunities presented by, the interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches to corruption. States parties provided information on the establishment of coordination mechanisms and procedures to enhance the impact of such approaches. Some coordination mechanisms had been established in accordance with national anti-corruption strategies, while others had been developed independently. States parties also noted challenges in ensuring coordination and the sharing of information among corruption prevention bodies and law enforcement authorities, in particular in addressing the interlinkages between corruption and other forms of serious and organized crime. They also acknowledged the role of enhanced awareness, education and effective reporting mechanisms, which resulted in more effective law enforcement responses.

27. Speakers reported on the interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches to corruption, noting the important role played by education and

awareness-raising in encouraging the reporting of corruption to appropriate preventive and law enforcement bodies. Speakers also referred to measures taken to promote anti-corruption education at the primary and secondary levels and to engage communities with a view to fostering a culture of integrity, and emphasized the importance of effective mechanisms in encouraging the reporting of corruption and the protection of reporting persons.

28. Speakers described the measures, policies and procedures they had adopted to strengthen cooperation and the sharing of information and intelligence among preventive anti-corruption bodies and law enforcement authorities, in particular in the context of the investigation of economic crime and money-laundering. It was noted that in some cases, the requirement to share information and intelligence was mandated by law, while in others it was a matter of practice. Speakers also described how the use of technology and online platforms had helped to facilitate the provision of relevant information, including the asset and conflict-of-interest declarations of public officials and reports of suspected corruption.

29. Speakers reported on measures taken to enhance synergies between preventive and law enforcement approaches through the establishment of specialized anti-corruption bodies entrusted with dual mandates. It was noted that units within such bodies, such as knowledge hubs and centres of deterrence, had helped to enhance such synergies. It was also noted that specialized bodies responsible for the regular review and identification of corruption risks and vulnerabilities, including through anti-corruption audits, contributed to both the prevention and the suppression of corruption. One speaker noted that anti-corruption audits conducted by law enforcement authorities had proven effective in identifying irregular and corrupt activities in public institutions. Following the evaluation of such integrated approaches, it had been found that the integrity, transparency and overall effectiveness of public sector institutions had been enhanced.

30. Some speakers noted the usefulness of national anti-corruption strategies or policies in ensuring that preventive and law enforcement approaches to deterring and preventing corruption were addressed comprehensively. They emphasized the need to ensure objective database monitoring and the evaluation of such strategies in order to enhance their effectiveness and flexibility in implementation. Some speakers referred to the links between corruption and other types of serious criminal activity, including organized crime and terrorism. Those links reinforced the need for comprehensive approaches to preventing and investigating corruption.

31. With regard to the topic of “Strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption”, States and international organizations shared their relevant activities and experiences in the course of a thematic discussion held at the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group. The secretariat presented a background paper summarizing and analysing the input received from States parties on the topic.

32. States parties had stressed the importance of strengthening national, regional and global cooperation among authorities involved in preventing and combating corruption and the need to enable supreme audit institutions to perform their functions during crises and emergencies. The submissions underscored the important role played by intergovernmental and regional bodies, such as the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions and its regional organizations and the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, in promoting cross-border cooperation among supreme audit institutions and between such institutions and anti-corruption bodies.

33. Speakers pointed out that legal, financial and operational independence were prerequisites for the effectiveness of supreme audit institutions. Measures to strengthen independence included long terms of office for heads of institutions and appointment by Heads of State upon recommendation by parliaments or legislative bodies. Several speakers highlighted that supreme audit institutions had also made important contributions to transparency by publishing annual reports and audit findings, which

allowed for open public debates among the media, civil society organizations, citizens and the academic and scientific communities.

34. Speakers provided information on their audit frameworks and highlighted recent reforms to strengthen the role, independence and effectiveness of supreme audit institutions and to enhance cooperation between those institutions and anti-corruption bodies. Speakers indicated that, in addition to financial audits, supreme audit institutions had extended their work to cover performance and forensic audits, vulnerable processes, sectors and agencies, State-owned enterprises, authorities managing large amounts of public funds and programmes relating to the environment, education and poverty alleviation, thus contributing to greater accountability and transparency in the management of public resources. Speakers highlighted that supreme audit institutions had received, monitored and published information on procurement and on the financing of political parties and election campaigns.

35. Speakers underscored that supreme audit institutions had contributed to the strengthening of accountability by issuing recommendations and monitoring their implementation and by imposing or recommending sanctions such as debarment from public procurement for companies responsible for acts of corruption and their subcontractors. In response to questions, panellists called upon Governments to make increased use of the technical knowledge and reports produced by supreme audit institutions to inform risk-based decision- and policymaking.

36. Speakers made reference to the importance of effective cooperation between supreme audit institutions and other authorities, including preventive, law enforcement and judicial authorities. Some speakers noted the importance of awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives and highlighted the advantages of having in place comprehensive and continuous learning and training courses and programmes.

37. Speakers emphasized the important role played by international organizations and noted that the involvement of anti-corruption and auditing authorities in international forums, including the Conference, was key to promoting cooperation, identifying and addressing common challenges and exchanging good practices to prevent and combat corruption more effectively. Reference was also made to the High-Level Principles on Enhancing the Role of Auditing in Tackling Corruption, adopted by the Group of 20 in 2022.

38. With regard to the topic of “Good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies”, States and international organizations shared their relevant activities and experiences in the course of a thematic discussion held at the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group. The secretariat presented a background paper summarizing and analysing the input received from States parties on the topic.

39. That input demonstrated that States parties were increasingly conducting periodic evaluations of anti-corruption measures, although the aim of those evaluations varied and limited information had been provided on the methodologies and processes adopted. All reporting States parties had adopted either legislation or policies that provided for the periodic evaluation of anti-corruption legal instruments and administrative measures, most of those evaluations being aimed at assessing the extent of implementation of such instruments and measures rather than their effectiveness and impact.

40. Speakers described various methods used to assess the implementation of anti-corruption strategies, including surveys among a broad range of stakeholders and reviews facilitated by international organizations. One speaker recognized the challenges inherent in designing anti-corruption strategies whose impact could be accurately measured.

41. Speakers recognized the potential use of information and communications technologies to facilitate data-based evaluations of the effectiveness of anti-corruption policies and legislation. One speaker referred to the use of artificial intelligence to

conduct periodic assessments aimed at detecting potential corruption risks in legislation, such as the provision of excessive discretion to certain public officials, the absence of clearly established time frames and burdensome criteria.

42. Speakers highlighted the experience gained by their countries in conducting evaluations of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures; those evaluations were carried out through a systematized process that involved supervision, inspection, broad consultations with relevant parties and research. The evaluations were subsequently used to draw up recommendations that resulted in revisions of and improvements to relevant legislation and policies.

43. The Working Group acknowledged that progress had been made by States parties in the implementation of Conference resolutions 9/3 and 9/6 and underlined the need to maintain that progress and to support the effective delivery of technical assistance in furtherance of the full implementation of the Convention.

44. The Working Group recommended that States parties continue to promote the exchange of good practices and information in order to facilitate the use of information and communications technologies, as well as awareness-raising, education, training and research with regard to implementation of the Convention.

45. The Working Group recommended that the issue of public oversight in relation to the use of subsidies by private entities and the issuance of licences granted by public authorities for commercial activities (art. 12, para. 2 (d), of the Convention) be considered as a topic for discussion by the Group.

46. The Working Group suggested considering the views of the secretariat on how to enhance the efficiency of the meetings of the Group and the effectiveness of the delivery of technical assistance.

47. The Working Group recommended exploring the establishment of a platform, with the support of UNODC, enabling States parties to share good practices in the use of information and communications technologies to prevent and detect corruption.

48. The Working Group requested the secretariat to continue to provide technical assistance to States parties, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and to gather and maintain information on good practices related to articles 9, 10 and 13 of the Convention.

49. The Working Group recommended organizing a dedicated panel discussion on how to ensure the security and integrity of information and communications technology-based tools and to protect them from cyberthreats, misuse or abuse.

50. The Working Group welcomed the proposal of the secretariat to take stock of the status of implementation of Conference resolutions on the prevention of corruption and the recommendations adopted by the Group, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

51. The Working Group emphasized the need for both States parties and the donor community to reaffirm their commitment to the prevention of corruption, including by providing multi-year, soft-earmarked extrabudgetary contributions, so that UNODC could continue to provide technical assistance in the prevention of corruption at the national, regional, interregional and global levels.

52. The Working Group recommended further consideration of and follow-up to the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, in line with the multi-year workplan for the period 2024–2026 for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference.

53. The Working Group also recommended the following topics for future consideration: article 8, paragraph 5 (Codes of conduct for public officials); article 12 (Private sector); article 13, paragraph 1 (c) and (d) (Participation of society); and article 14 (Measures to prevent money-laundering).

54. The Working Group encouraged States parties to continue to provide information to the secretariat on good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies, on interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches, and on how to strengthen the role of supreme audit institutions, and to that end requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to gather and systematize such information.

III. Update on the status of implementation of the mandates of the Working Group and the recommendations made at its eleventh and twelfth meetings

A. Development and accumulation of knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption

Recommendation

55. At its eleventh meeting, held from 31 August to 2 September 2020, the Working Group welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to support States parties in implementing the Convention during the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular in relation to prevention activities, and requested UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, while focusing on the safety of beneficiaries, in coordination with bilateral and multilateral technical assistance providers.

Action taken

56. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to States parties. The Implementation Review Mechanism continued to be one of the key means of identifying areas where technical assistance was needed.

57. Further information is provided in the report on progress made in the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” ([CAC/COSP/2023/13](#)).

Recommendation

58. At its twelfth meeting, held from 14 to 18 June 2021, the Working Group requested the secretariat to continue to provide technical assistance to States parties, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support implementation of article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention and to continue efforts to gather information on good practices related to the management of public finances, in particular those arising from the Implementation Review Mechanism.

Action taken

59. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to States parties to support implementation of article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and continued efforts to gather information on good practices related to the management of public finances. The Implementation Review Mechanism continued to be one of the key means of identifying such practices.

60. Further information is provided in the report on progress made in the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” ([CAC/COSP/2023/13](#)).

Recommendation

61. The Working Group requested UNODC to continue its efforts to gather information on good practices by States with regard to the implementation of article 6 of the Convention and, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue to provide technical assistance to States parties for strengthening the effectiveness of their anti-corruption bodies.

Action taken

62. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to States parties to support implementation of article 6 of the Convention and continued efforts to gather information on relevant good practices. The Implementation Review Mechanism continued to be one of the key means of identifying such practices.

63. Further information is provided in the report on progress made in the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” ([CAC/COSP/2023/13](#)).

B. Exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices

Recommendation

64. The Working Group recommended that States parties share additional information with the secretariat about their activities, initiatives and partnerships to implement resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption.”

Action taken

65. UNODC continued to gather information and make that information available on the thematic website of the Working Group, organized by article of the Convention and topic. For the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group, held in 2022, 37 States submitted information on the relevant topics, and for the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group, held in 2023, 38 States parties made submissions. The submissions were analysed and compiled in documents [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/2](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/3](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/4](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/CRP.1](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/CRP.2](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/2](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/3](#) and [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/4](#). Those documents, all submissions, presentations made during the meetings, relevant reports and links to further resource material were made available on the above-mentioned website with the permission of the States concerned.

66. Further information is provided in the report on progress made in the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” ([CAC/COSP/2023/13](#)).

C. Collection, dissemination and promotion of good practices in the prevention of corruption

67. In implementing resolution 9/3 of the Conference and the recommendations of the Working Group, UNODC prepared a background paper entitled “Use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption” ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/2](#)) and a conference room paper ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/CRP.2](#)). The papers were prepared on the basis of the information received from States parties in response to a note verbale by the secretariat dated 23 February 2022. By 30 March 2022, submissions had been received from 20 States parties. The following 16 States parties provided information relevant to the topic of promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention: Albania, Austria, Bahrain, Egypt, France, Holy See, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kiribati, Myanmar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. By 15 June 2022, information had been provided by 17 States parties (Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, Guyana, Iraq, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and United States of America).

68. In implementing resolution 9/8 of the Conference and the recommendations of the Working Group, UNODC prepared a background paper entitled “Anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research” ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/3](#)). The paper was prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a note verbale by the secretariat dated 23 February 2022. By 30 March 2022, submissions had been received from 20 States parties. The submissions from the following 14 States contained information relating to the topic of challenges to and good practices in anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research: Albania, Austria, Bahrain, Egypt, France, Kiribati, Myanmar, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. By 15 June 2022, information had been provided by 14 more States parties (Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, Iraq, Kuwait, Madagascar, Namibia, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Russian Federation, Serbia and United States of America).

69. In implementing resolution 9/6 of the Conference and the recommendations of the Working Group, UNODC prepared a background paper entitled “Good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies” ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/2](#)). The paper had been prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to notes verbales by the secretariat dated 19 January and 20 February 2023. As at 9 March 2023, submissions had been received from the following 38 parties to the Convention: Albania, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, State of Palestine, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania.

70. In implementing resolution 9/6 of the Conference and the recommendations of the Working Group, UNODC prepared a background paper entitled “Interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches” ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/3](#)). The paper had been prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to notes verbales by the secretariat dated 19 January and 20 February 2023. By 9 March 2023, submissions had been received from the following 38 parties to the Convention: Albania, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, State of Palestine, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania.

71. In implementing resolution 9/3 of the Conference and the recommendations of the Working Group, UNODC prepared a background paper entitled “Strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption” ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/4](#)). The paper had been prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to notes verbales by the secretariat dated 19 January and 20 February 2023. By 9 March 2023, submissions had been received from the following 37 parties to the Convention: Albania, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, State of Palestine, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania.

72. With the agreement of the countries concerned, the full text of the submissions was made available on the UNODC website.¹

¹ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/session13.html and www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/session14.html.

D. Encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in the collective fight against corruption

Recommendation

73. The Working Group recommended that the secretariat continue encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in the collective fight against corruption.

Action taken

Preventing and combating corruption in the private sector

74. UNODC continued to support efforts to prevent corruption involving the private sector by promoting collective action in Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. In Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan, UNODC supported anti-corruption education of upcoming generations of private sector employees through the development of modules and training materials for universities, the facilitation of guest lectures by business representatives, the development of an ethics ambassador programme for students and the facilitation of internships for ethics ambassadors in businesses.

75. UNODC continued to contribute to the work of the B20 Integrity and Compliance Taskforce under the Group of 20 presidency of Italy (in 2021), Indonesia (in 2022) and India (in 2023). UNODC provided expertise and resources to support the development of a policy paper on integrity and compliance.

76. The Office continued to cooperate with the United Nations Global Compact. UNODC delivered a training course on international anti-corruption standards and good practices at an event organized by the Global Compact Local Network in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in October 2021. It also participated in various meetings and workshops organized by the Global Compact and aimed at updating the mechanism known as “Communication on progress” for companies to report on their efforts to implement the 10 principles of the Global Compact.

77. Further information is provided in the report on progress made in the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” ([CAC/COSP/2023/13](#)).

Promoting education on the prevention of corruption

78. In December 2021, UNODC launched the GRACE initiative to further promote the role of education and youth in preventing and countering corruption in line with the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, held in June 2021 (General Assembly resolution S-32/1, annex).

79. Since the launch of its GRACE initiative at the ninth session of the Conference, UNODC has reached over 1,400 beneficiaries, including anti-corruption professionals, young people, educators and civil society organizations.

80. Further information is provided in the report on progress made in the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” ([CAC/COSP/2023/13](#)).

Awareness-raising in schools

81. In February 2023, UNODC, together with the United Nations Development Programme, organized consultations with community members and educators from Malawi with the aim of developing a new integrity and ethics sourcebook for primary school teachers. The sourcebook, entitled *Teaching Values for a Corruption-free Malawi: A Sourcebook for Primary School Teachers*, was completed and published in

August 2023. In May, three round tables on anti-corruption education were held for stakeholders from Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo.²

82. On the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day in December 2021, UNODC supported the Réseau Ivoirien des Jeunes Leaders pour l'Intégrité in organizing a citizens' action week in Côte d'Ivoire. UNODC facilitated a discussion between young people from different sectors of society and the Minister of Good Governance, Strengthening of Capacities and the Fight against Corruption on young people's contributions to efforts to combat corruption. A short movie on fraud in the education system was screened at a school in Adzopé, and the screening was followed by a debate.

83. In December 2021, in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Tuvalu, UNODC organized a webinar to promote youth integrity through sport.

84. Further information is provided in the report on progress made in the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption" ([CAC/COSP/2023/13](#)).

Other work with youth

85. In December 2021, UNODC, under the GRACE initiative, launched a call for applications for membership in a youth integrity advisory board, known as YouthLED. The board, consisting of up to 25 individuals aged between 18 and 30 and representing all regions, will advise UNODC on strategies for engaging young people in effective anti-corruption efforts.

86. In October 2021, UNODC organized a virtual anti-corruption hackathon for young software developers from Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. The objectives of the hackathon were to promote the use of information and communications technologies to prevent and combat corruption in Africa by leveraging innovation and engaging youth. In Senegal, UNODC organized a closing ceremony for the Senegalese section of the hackathon, in partnership with the National Office for the Fight against Fraud and Corruption.

87. Under the GRACE initiative, UNODC organized a workshop for youth, delivered together with Save the Children Egypt, in the margins of the fourth edition of the World Youth Forum, held in Egypt in January 2022. The workshop brought together approximately 60 young people from all over the world with the aim of teaching them how to recognize corruption and empowering them to act as agents of positive change in their communities.

88. Further information is provided in the report on progress made in the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption" ([CAC/COSP/2023/13](#)).

² All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).