



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

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Prevention

Progress made in the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

The present report 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 between October 2021 and August 2023. It is aimed at assisting the Conference in its deliberations and in providing guidance on future work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, pursuant to the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”.

* [CAC/COSP/2023/1](#).



I. Introduction

1. At its ninth session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in its resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, welcomed the progress made by States parties and the secretariat in the implementation of the follow-up resolutions to Conference resolution 4/3, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, and underlined the need to maintain efforts in that regard. In that resolution, it requested the secretariat to submit a report to the Conference at its tenth session on the implementation of that resolution.

2. The present report is intended to provide a basis for a discussion by the Conference on mapping the way towards effective action to prevent corruption. It includes information on initiatives taken at the global, regional or national level by States parties with the support of the secretariat between October 2021 and August 2023. The States parties are invited to share any further information about their activities contributing to the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6 with the secretariat, in particular during the discussion on the prevention of corruption at the tenth session of the Conference.

II. Update on the status of implementation of Conference resolution 9/6

A. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

Reporting on the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6 by States parties

3. The Conference, in its resolution 9/6, called upon States parties to continue and to reinforce the effective implementation of the preventive measures outlined in chapter II of the Convention and the resolutions of the Conference. The Conference welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption to facilitate the sharing of information between States parties on their initiatives and good practices, underlined the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group, and encouraged States parties to implement them as appropriate. It acknowledged that the Working Group should continue its work to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption and should hold at least two meetings prior to the tenth session of the Conference. The Conference also welcomed the commitment made and efforts undertaken by States parties to provide information on good practices in preventing corruption that is gathered, systematized and disseminated by the secretariat in the performance of its functions as an international observatory, 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 Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption with relevant information.

4. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to gather information and to make it available through the thematic website of the Working Group,¹ organized by article of the Convention and topic. For the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group in 2022, 37 States submitted information on the topics under discussion, and for the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group in 2023, 38 States parties provided submissions.

¹ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/working-group-on-prevention.html.

5. 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](#). These 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.

B. Promoting universal adherence to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

6. UNODC continued to promote adherence to the Convention. During the reporting period, Suriname acceded to the Convention, bringing the number of States parties to 189.

7. Under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, UNODC supported focal points and government experts from Belize, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Malawi, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia and Tajikistan in the preparation of the self-assessment checklist.

C. Public sector

1. Assisting States in drafting anti-corruption laws

8. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to support States parties in the development of anti-corruption legislation. In 2021, UNODC supported Viet Nam in the revision of the “Law on inspection” and in introducing a law on lobbying.

2. Assisting States in developing anti-corruption policies and strategies

9. Assistance for the development of national anti-corruption strategies or action plans was provided to Chile, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Honduras, Jamaica, Kiribati, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

10. In 2021, UNODC supported the development of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Federated States of Micronesia. In February 2022, UNODC supported the development of a national anti-corruption strategy in the Cook Islands and, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a national strategy on the prevention of and fight against corruption in Mali.

3. Integrity, transparency, accountability and the rule of law in public administration

(a) Prevention of conflicts of interest and asset declaration systems

11. UNODC provided support to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Honduras, Iraq, Malawi, Senegal, Solomon Islands, South Africa and South Sudan in their efforts to develop systems for the prevention of conflicts of interest and declaration of assets.

12. In August 2022, UNODC supported Ecuador in developing a draft law on conflicts of interest and a digital conflict-of-interest simulator for public officials and citizens. UNODC facilitated the exchange of this experience with Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Peru.

13. In February 2022, UNODC, under the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, held two training sessions for ethics officers from South Africa on a risk-based analysis of financial disclosures. In July 2023, UNODC supported a review of conflict-of-interest regulatory reforms in Paraguay.

14. In October 2022, UNODC facilitated the exchange of experiences in the Western Balkans on the prevention of conflicts of interest and asset declaration systems, in the context of the Regional Anti-corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap for the Western Balkans.

(b) Reporting of corruption and protection of reporting persons

15. UNODC supported Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Paraguay, South Africa, South Sudan, Thailand, Zambia and Zimbabwe in the development of legislative and policy frameworks on the protection of reporting persons and internal reporting and protection mechanisms.

16. In 2022, UNODC provided technical support for developing the draft whistle-blower protection law in Kenya.

17. In October and November 2021, UNODC organized national workshops on good practices in protecting reporting persons in Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana and Paraguay. In 2022 and 2023, similar support was provided to Argentina, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Morocco and South Sudan.

18. Since 2021, UNODC has supported the Health Professions Council of South Africa in developing a new whistle-blower policy and establishing safer and more inclusive corruption reporting channels. The Health Professions Council adopted a new whistle-blower protection policy in March 2023.

19. In January 2022, UNODC organized a workshop on whistle-blower protection in South Sudan, supported the revision of the corruption reporting policy of the Anti-Corruption Commission and drafted a reporting policy for the National Revenue Authority.

20. In July 2022, UNODC undertook an initial assessment, in Argentina, of the Administrative Investigations Office's reporting channel and policy for whistle-blower protection.

(c) Procurement and public finances

21. UNODC continued to support States parties in the introduction of procurement systems based on the principles of transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making. Support has been provided to Albania, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Paraguay, the Philippines, Serbia, South Africa and Timor-Leste.

22. In November 2021, UNODC organized a meeting of experts to develop a rapid response guide on expedited procurement, based on the experiences and lessons learned during the pandemic.

23. From June to April 2022, UNODC assisted the national public procurement service in Ecuador in identifying and mitigating corruption risks and developing a national public procurement strategy. In May 2023, UNODC further supported the drafting of secondary regulations for the public procurement agency in Ecuador to promote transparency and ethics in public procurement.

24. In 2021, UNODC supported the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer in South Africa in reviewing and enhancing the declaration of interests by suppliers and service providers who bid for contracts with the Government. As a result, a digital standard bidding document for the declaration of interests was approved in January 2022.

25. UNODC continued to promote the use of information and communications technologies and tools to prevent corruption. Technical assistance and mentorship on open contracting and public procurement transparency, including improving data quality and publishing procurement data in an accessible format to facilitate external monitoring, was provided to 22 countries.

26. In November 2021, UNODC organized a workshop on using open data in public procurement in the Philippines. In February 2022, UNODC supported the Government Procurement Policy Board Technical Support Office in the Philippines in the automation of the submission and publication of reports on public procurement through a web application.

27. Between August 2021 and February 2022, UNODC, in cooperation with the Corruption Eradication Commission in Indonesia, conducted a study on using big data to identify fraud and corruption in public procurement. The findings of the study were used by the Commission to analyse procurement data at the national and local levels.

28. In October and November 2021, UNODC organized a multi-stakeholder consultation with representatives of institutions and non-governmental organizations in Timor-Leste to map corruption risks in public procurement in the health sector.

29. In November 2021, UNODC supported Chile, Colombia and Paraguay in the use of data and the identification of red flags and risks of corruption in the procurement of goods and services necessary to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

30. UNODC organized virtual consultations with the Governments of Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Paraguay to better understand how to enhance inclusivity and gender-sensitive approaches to public procurement, including in times of crisis. A survey on those topics was conducted among the relevant authorities of those countries in 2021 and 2022. A regional conference in July 2023 brought together nine countries under the Regional Platform for South America and Mexico to share good practices regarding public procurement transparency and suggest how to take such work forward, including mainstreaming gender and harnessing beneficial ownership information to support anti-corruption efforts.

31. In October 2022, UNODC facilitated the exchange of experiences in the Western Balkans on strengthening integrity in procurement, in the context of the Regional Anti-corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap for the Western Balkans.

32. In July 2023, UNODC provided support to the National Directorate of Public Procurement in Paraguay in the development of an action plan for the Integrity and Compliance Policy to prevent corruption and money-laundering in procurement.

33. In February 2022, UNODC, in collaboration with Transparency Fiji, the Fiji Independent Commission against Corruption and the Ministry of Economy of Fiji, organized a training event on the strategic procurement process and corruption risks.

34. UNODC continued to implement Conference resolution 8/13, entitled “Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption”, and Conference 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”.²

D. Ensuring that anti-corruption bodies have the necessary competence

1. Designation of competent authorities

35. As of August 2023, the Secretary-General had received notifications from 120 States parties designating 190 competent authorities that might assist other States parties in developing and implementing specific measures to prevent corruption, as required under article 6, paragraph 3, of the Convention. An updated list is available

² For more information, see [CAC/COSP/2023/10](#).

in the online directory of competent national authorities under the Convention (www.unodc.org/comppauth_uncac/en/index.html).

2. Support for anti-corruption bodies

36. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of the specialized anti-corruption bodies with preventive functions. Support has been provided to the anti-corruption bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Mauritius, Montenegro, Palau, Samoa, Serbia, South Africa and Vanuatu. In October 2021, UNODC delivered training on corruption risk management to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice in Ghana.

37. In December 2021, UNODC supported Vanuatu in clarifying the anti-corruption roles of the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Office of the Ombudsman. A memorandum of understanding delineating the functions and roles of the two entities was signed in March 2023.

38. In November 2021, UNODC supported a meeting on the right to information in Samoa. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Right to Information Unit of Vanuatu, the Office of the Ombudsman of New Zealand and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. In August 2022, UNODC, in collaboration with the Public Service Commission, launched a research study on enhancing the effectiveness of public service in Samoa.

39. In November 2021, UNODC facilitated a study visit for anti-corruption practitioners and government officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Four anti-corruption tools developed by UNODC were translated and provided to all relevant authorities by the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and the Coordination of the Fight against Corruption.

40. In December 2021 and 2022, UNODC supported the anti-corruption bodies of Kenya, Kiribati, Mauritius, Palau, Samoa and South Africa in organizing awareness-raising activities marking International Anti-Corruption Day.

41. In 2022, UNODC delivered training to the Anti-Corruption Public Policy Secretariat in Ecuador on identifying and mitigating corruption risks and assisted in launching a self-diagnosis methodology for mapping and mitigation of institutional corruption risks.

42. In February 2023, UNODC, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre, facilitated a virtual training-of-trainers workshop for anti-corruption officers from 16 Commonwealth African countries on facilitating and conducting corruption risk management.

43. In June 2023, UNODC organized a training event on ethics, integrity and social media for law enforcement, the judicial police and the office of the Attorney General in Guinea-Bissau.

44. In August 2023, UNODC organized a study tour to Kenya for the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council of South Africa, which was appointed by the President to advise, among other matters, on the feasibility of establishing an independent anti-corruption agency.

3. Improving the coordination of global, regional and national anti-corruption initiatives

45. UNODC continued to promote the coordination of anti-corruption initiatives at the global, regional, subregional and national levels.

46. The Conference of the States Parties, in its resolution 9/4, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption at regional levels”, acknowledged the important contribution made by UNODC through the development of technical assistance programmes, and welcomed its initiative to adopt a regional approach in its anti-corruption technical assistance delivery, including

through the creation of regional platforms across the world to fast-track the implementation of the Convention. In the same resolution, the Conference requested that UNODC continue providing technical assistance to States parties, including through the regional platforms approach. In implementation of that resolution, eight regional platforms were established, covering South America and Mexico, East Africa, South-East Asia, Southern Africa, South-Eastern Europe, West Africa and the Sahel and Central America.³

47. In February 2022, UNODC organized a regional workshop for representatives of Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe entitled “Transforming societies through anti-corruption innovation: strengthening public procurement and whistle-blower protection in Southern Africa”.

48. In May 2023, UNODC organized a regional conference on the challenges of regional cooperation in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which gathered high-level officials, technical experts and civil society representatives from Southern African Development Community Member States including Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe in Luanda. The conference focused on national and regional coordination and public procurement and concluded with the adoption of a road map.

49. In July, September and October 2022, UNODC organized a series of high-level and technical-level meetings for the States parties in South-Eastern Europe and for Kosovo⁴ in the context of the Regional Anti-corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap to fast-track the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in support of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 in the Western Balkans jurisdictions. Those meetings facilitated the exchange of experiences and practices in law enforcement, international cooperation, public procurement and asset and interest disclosure.

50. In January 2023, UNODC concluded the national peer review mechanism for the implementation of the Convention in Mexico, an initiative that started in December 2020 to document and analyse the implementation of articles 9, 10 and 33 at the subnational level, involving the participation of supreme audit institutions, transparency guarantor bodies, citizen participation committees and the executive secretariats of subnational anti-corruption systems. The initiative involved 105 state institutions and led to the identification of 380 good practices and 38 general recommendations.

51. UNODC facilitated experience-sharing on inter-agency coordination in Namibia and Zambia in February 2022. In Zambia, in June 2023, UNODC also supported the adoption of an inter-agency framework to strengthen inter-agency coordination and cooperation.

52. In October 2021, UNODC supported inter-agency coordination in Zimbabwe by contributing to a discussion on the Government’s plan to establish a national anti-corruption coordinating committee. In order to promote South-South cooperation, relevant authorities from Kenya were invited to share their experiences in promoting inter-agency coordination.

53. In South Africa, UNODC worked with law enforcement agencies and oversight bodies since September 2022 to develop standard operating procedures for sharing information.

54. In coordination with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UNODC continued to provide technical support for the implementation of the regional anti-corruption road map, known as Teieniwa Vision, and to develop a priority implementation matrix.

³ For more information, see [CAC/COSP/2023/10](#).

⁴ All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

The road map provided a regional coordination platform for the Pacific region to address the recommendations emanating from the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention.

55. In September 2022, UNODC contributed to the World Customs Organization Subregional Workshop for Anti-Corruption and Integrity Promotion Partner Administrations on anti-corruption in border management for representatives from the customs services of Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Honduras and Mexico.

56. In February 2023, UNODC contributed to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group meeting, as well as the workshop on APEC anti-bribery principles. Input was provided to a regional event on beneficial ownership organized by Opening Extractives, the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America and the Inter-American Development Bank in Argentina.

57. In March 2023, UNODC delivered a presentation on its anti-corruption work at the UNODC/Implementation Agency for Crime and Security of the Caribbean Community High-Level Meeting on Cooperation in the Caribbean Region. In April 2023, UNODC contributed to the ninth Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Caribbean Association of Integrity Commissions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in Guyana, during which two presentations were delivered on the allocation of financial resources in combating corruption and on anti-corruption achievements and challenges in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

E. Promoting the integrity and accountability of the criminal justice system

1. Judicial integrity

58. The Global Judicial Integrity Network of UNODC continued to provide opportunities for experience-sharing and peer support. Through its website and various events, the Network continued to raise awareness and promote experience-sharing on issues related to the integrity of the judiciary. Specific issues of interest included the use of social media by judges, gender-related judicial integrity issues, increasing public trust in the judiciary and exploring the links between the physical and mental well-being of judges and judicial integrity. The Network website (www.unodc.org/ji) was enriched with new resources, including opinion pieces, webinars and training tools. UNODC supported the delivery of training on various aspects of judicial integrity in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, Senegal, Spain, Thailand and the Caribbean region.

59. In December 2021, UNODC, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Saudi Human Rights Commission co-organized a virtual training on good governance and the rule of law for the protection of human rights and the promotion of an independent and fair judiciary.

60. In March 2022 and March 2023, on the occasion of the annual International Day of Women Judges, the Network organized awareness-raising activities in collaboration with the International Association of Women Judges.

61. In December 2022, UNODC contributed to developing anti-corruption training modules for magistrates, used during the induction training for 2,500 newly appointed magistrates. Seventy jurisdictions worldwide use the judicial ethics training tools of the Network for national ethics training activities.

62. Gender issues related to judicial integrity were discussed with the judiciaries of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador and Haiti.

63. UNODC published a global report entitled “Exploring linkages between judicial well-being and judicial integrity”.

2. Prosecutorial integrity

64. In February 2022, UNODC supported the Attorney General of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in updating the code of ethics for prosecutors.

65. In September 2022, UNODC organized two workshops on ethics and social media with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Solomon Islands, aimed at building the capacity of prosecutors to recognize and manage ethical dilemmas.

3. Integrity in the prisons

66. In October 2021, under a joint project with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), UNODC facilitated an assessment of the risks of corruption in the prison system in the Central African Republic, formulating a list of measures to mitigate such risks and an implementation plan.

F. Preventing and combating corruption in the private sector

Promoting the development of standards and procedures to safeguard the integrity of the private sector by implementing article 12 of the Convention

67. UNODC continued to support efforts to prevent corruption involving the private sector. Technical assistance was provided to Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

68. In Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan, UNODC supported anti-corruption training of private sector employees through the development of training materials, facilitation of guest lectures, development of an ethics ambassador programme and facilitation of internships for ethics ambassadors in businesses.

69. UNODC continued to contribute to the work of the B20 Integrity and Compliance Taskforce under the Group of 20 presidency of Indonesia (in 2022) and India (in 2023). UNODC provided expertise and resources to support the development of policy papers on business integrity.

70. 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. UNODC participated in meetings and workshops organized by the Global Compact, aimed at updating the mechanism known as “Communication on progress” for companies to report on their efforts to implement the Ten Principles of the Global Compact. In December 2022, UNODC delivered a presentation, focusing on mainstreaming gender in compliance and business integrity programmes, as part of a workshop co-organized with the Global Compact Network in Mexico.

71. In October 2021, UNODC supported the launch of an initiative by more than 500 companies in the East African region to encourage the business community to fight corruption and promote a clean business environment.

72. In 2022, UNODC conducted workshops and conferences on anti-corruption programmes focused on ethics and compliance for the private sector and public officials of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador and Peru. UNODC provided technical assistance to Peru for reforming legislation on the liability of legal persons.

73. In October 2021, in partnership with the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, UNODC conducted two workshops to promote integrity among young entrepreneurs.

74. In November 2021, UNODC, in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Agency, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Commissioner for the Protection of

the Rights and Legitimate Interests of Entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan, organized a business forum entitled “Integrity in the business community of Uzbekistan”.

75. In December 2021, UNODC supported the Palau Chamber of Commerce in strengthening the capacity of women entrepreneurs and young people to create businesses that thrived with integrity.

76. UNODC held meetings with public and private sector stakeholders in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru to identify measures to increase beneficial ownership transparency and to take stock of progress in implementing the relevant regulations.

77. In 2022, UNODC launched a virtual library of national regimes to regulate the liability of legal persons and corporate compliance in South America and Mexico. The library was developed and validated with the support of 10 States parties. The UNODC Business Integrity Portal was launched in 2022 as an online one-stop shop that provided resources and tools to prevent and counter corruption in the private sector.

78. UNODC published 16 localized university modules for Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan with practical scenarios developed by academia and the private sector and piloted two on-the-job training modules for companies.

79. UNODC supported the development of a model code of conduct for business and an online game to raise awareness of corruption risks in the private sector in Myanmar. In the Middle East and North Africa region and Myanmar, UNODC developed online risk assessment tools for the private sector.

G. Promoting education and knowledge of the prevention of corruption

80. In December 2021, UNODC launched the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative to 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 (resolution S-32/1, annex). Through the GRACE initiative, UNODC has engaged more than 1,400 anti-corruption professionals, young people, educators and civil society organizations.

1. Academia

81. In February 2023, UNODC, together with UNDP, organized consultations with community members and educators from Malawi to develop a new integrity and ethics sourcebook for primary school teachers. This sourcebook, entitled *Teaching Values for a Corruption-Free Malawi: A Sourcebook for Primary School Teachers*, was completed and published in August 2023. In May and July 2023, round tables on anti-corruption education were organized in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo.

82. UNODC organized an international academic symposium in the margins of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties in December 2021, offering a forum for academics and experts to exchange experiences related to anti-corruption education and research. The symposium adopted recommendations on how UNODC could further support academic teaching and research on anti-corruption.

83. As of October 2021, 7,650 students from Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan were trained using the UNODC university integrity modules. Fifteen business practitioners delivered guest lectures on real-life case studies.

84. In December 2021, UNODC organized an anti-corruption workshop for university lecturers from Brazil, China, India and the Russian Federation to enhance their capacity to develop anti-corruption curricula and use the educational materials and tools produced by UNODC.

85. In October 2021, UNODC, together with the National University of Samoa Media and Journalism Programme and the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalist Network, delivered a training course for students of journalism on the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption and mechanisms to protect reporting persons.

86. UNODC organized training workshops for 54 academics from 40 African higher education institutions. In June and September 2022, UNODC, in cooperation with the International Anti-Corruption Academy, organized two online anti-corruption summer schools for 90 students and young people from 46 countries from Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific region.

2. Other work with young people

87. 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.

88. 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 among young people from different sectors of society and the Minister of Good Governance, Strengthening of Capacities and the Fight against Corruption on the contributions of young people to the fight against corruption.

89. In December 2021, UNODC, under the GRACE initiative, launched the YouthLED youth integrity advisory board. The board, consisting of up to 25 individuals aged 18 and 30 and representing all regions, advised UNODC on strategies to engage young people in anti-corruption initiatives.

90. 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.

91. 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 gathered approximately 60 young people from all over the world.

92. In September 2022, UNODC organized the second edition of the "Coding4Integrity" youth anti-corruption hackathon in Brazil. The third edition was organized in Mexico in March 2023. In March 2023, UNODC presented its "Coding4Integrity" hackathon project at the Blockchain in Education Summit, organized at the University of Oxford.

93. In December 2022, UNODC participated in an Educational Rally on Anti-Corruption, organized by the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

94. In February 2023, UNODC organized a regional dialogue in Mexico City for civil society organizations, academia and youth to discuss the implementation of the Convention and the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption. Another dialogue was carried out in Nairobi, covering the Africa region, in June 2023.

95. From January to July 2023, UNODC supported the Teieniwa Vision (the Pacific road map on anti-corruption) dialogue with youth. Dialogues were held in Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

3. Publications and online tools

96. UNODC continued to develop knowledge products and to make existing ones available in multiple languages.

97. A United Nations-wide policy paper entitled “Corruption and COVID-19: challenges in crisis response and recovery”, developed by the United Nations Global Task Force on Corruption under the co-leadership of UNODC, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and UNDP, was launched in October 2021.

98. UNODC continued to contribute to the work of the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, which issued high-level principles on enhancing the role of auditing in tackling corruption, a compendium of good practices in public participation and anti-corruption education, a compendium of good practices relating to regulatory frameworks and supervisory measures for legal professionals to mitigate corruption-related money-laundering risks, as well as to take a leading role in supporting the Indonesian presidency of the Group of 20 in developing the *Accountability Report 2022* of the Working Group.

99. In November 2021, UNODC published a paper entitled “Corruption risks in public procurement in the context of COVID-19 in Pacific Island countries”. The paper outlined how procurement systems in Pacific Island countries have changed as a result of COVID-19 and explored the challenges and risks of corruption associated with the pandemic.

100. In November 2021, the publication *The COVID-19 Pandemic: Exacerbating the Threat of Corruption to Human Rights and Sustainable Development in Pacific Island Countries* was launched in collaboration with UNDP. It illustrated how the pandemic has exacerbated the threat posed by corruption to human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the Pacific region.

101. Also in November 2021, UNODC and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) published *Legal Approaches to Tackling the Manipulation of Sports Competitions: A Resource Guide*. A study entitled *Tackling Bribery in Sport: An Overview of Relevant Laws and Standards* was also prepared by Task Force 4 of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport, co-chaired by UNODC and IOC.

102. In December 2021, UNODC launched the report *Preventing and Combating Corruption as it Relates to Crimes that Have an Impact on the Environment: An Overview*. The report analysed the relationship between corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment. That same month, a report entitled “Wildlife crime: key actors, organizational structures and business models” was published.

103. Also in December 2021, UNODC published a paper entitled “Crises and corruption: emergency responses during COVID-19 – experiences and lessons learned”, based on regional surveys conducted at the outset of the pandemic.

104. During the reporting period, the publication *The Time is Now: Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Corruption* was translated into Arabic, French, Spanish and English Braille.

105. UNODC, in collaboration with UNDP, launched the publications “Providing access to information in Pacific Island countries to better address corruption”, “Whistle-blower protections and corruption reporting in Pacific Island countries”, an upgraded *Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Toolkit: Integrity in Action*, an information note entitled “Breaking the silence on gender and corruption in the Pacific”, “Integrity and sport for Pacific youth toolkit”, “Advisory note: corruption in healthcare systems in the Pacific”, “Advisory note: mainstreaming anti-corruption into the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda in the Pacific”, and “Corruption below water: improving governance through corruption prevention in the fisheries sector of the Pacific Island countries”.

106. In November 2022, UNODC published *Enhancing Collaboration between Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in Preventing and Fighting Corruption: A Practical Guide*, developed in cooperation with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions.

107. The StAR Initiative launched a report entitled “Signatures for sale: how nominee services for shell companies are abused to conceal beneficial owners”; and

a publication entitled *Taxing Crime: A Whole-of-Government Approach to Fighting Corruption, Money Laundering, and Tax Crimes* on the benefits of inter-agency cooperation between tax authorities and law enforcement agencies to prevent, detect and recover illicit financial flows. A publication on “Beneficial ownership regulations and company registries in Southeast Asia: analysis of regulatory deficiencies” was published in March 2022.

108. Modules on establishing internal reporting and protection mechanisms and drafting, developing and implementing standard operating procedures for financial investigations were produced in 2022 and 2023. An e-learning tool on addressing corruption in the fisheries sector was launched in May 2022.

109. A UNODC advocacy paper on “Crime, corruption and other wrongdoings in the transfer of football players and other athletes” was published in November 2022.

110. The UNODC *Global Report on Corruption in Sport* was launched in 2021, highlighting for the first time the global scale of corruption in sport. The report was translated into Bahasa Malaysia, Khmer, Russian, Thai and Vietnamese.

111. The publications *Legal Approaches to Tackling the Manipulation of Sports Competitions: A Resource Guide* and *Reporting Mechanisms in Sport: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation* were translated into Bahasa Malaysia, Khmer, Lao, Thai and Vietnamese. The above-mentioned publications were also made available in English in a format accessible by electronic reading devices.

112. In August 2023, UNODC published a paper entitled *Something’s off: Corruption Risks Related to Food Safety and its Public Health Threats*, addressing corruption risks related to the design, adoption, implementation and enforcement of food safety measures and food control systems.

113. In the same month, UNODC published a guide entitled *A Prescription for Health: Assessing and Managing Corruption Risks in Public Health System Organizations*.

114. UNODC published the paper “Rooting out corruption: An introduction to addressing the corruption driving forest loss” and launched the eLearning course “Rotten fish: addressing corruption in the fisheries sector” in English and Spanish.

115. All UNODC publications were widely disseminated at relevant events, including conferences, workshops, training sessions and country visits. All technical tools and publications can be found on the UNODC website⁵ and are also clustered thematically on the web page of the Working Group on Prevention.⁶

H. Other preventive work and emerging topics

1. Parliaments

116. In November 2022, UNODC partnered with the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (Oceania Regional Branch) to host a regional conference at the New Zealand Parliament to discuss constituency development funds. Parliamentarians, Ombudspersons, Leadership Code Commission Representatives and public officials from Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga attended the event. The conference paper was published in July 2023.

2. Environment

117. UNODC continued to implement Conference resolution 8/12, entitled “Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment”, and supported the assessment and management of corruption risks in the wildlife, forest and fisheries sectors. UNODC facilitated corruption risk

⁵ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/index.html.

⁶ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/working-group-on-prevention.html.

assessments in 16 organizations mandated to conserve and manage environmental resources in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

118. UNODC continued to support the management of corruption risks in Kenya by assisting the Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forest Service in the development of codes of conduct, internal whistle-blower and complaint management systems, data gathering and analysis, strengthening of inter-agency cooperation, establishment of an Integrity Office within the Kenya Wildlife Service, and dissemination of tools developed earlier with UNODC support.

119. In collaboration with the Police Force of the United Republic of Tanzania, UNODC convened inter-agency discussions to improve understanding of wildlife and forest crime investigations and how corruption facilitated these crimes.

120. UNODC supported the Agency for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, facilitating a national inter-agency workshop in April 2022 on addressing corruption linked to forest, wildlife and biodiversity loss.

121. UNODC continued to assist States parties in building capacity for financial investigations in corruption cases related to the environment and provided mentorship for investigators. Basic and advanced financial investigation training was provided to Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and Uganda.

122. UNODC supported an event organized by the Wildlife Justice Commission, Belgium, France and UNODC in the margins of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties, entitled “Tackling corruption linked to environmental crime”; expert discussions on crimes that affect the environment under the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in February 2022; a meeting of the task force of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on illegal trade in specimens of tree species covered by the Convention in February 2022; and a workshop in Angola on vulnerabilities to corruption in the wildlife, fisheries and forest sectors in June 2023.

123. In October 2022, UNODC organized, jointly with the East African Community, a regional workshop on transparency and good governance in the forestry sector in the East African Community Partner States and neighbouring countries. The workshop concluded with a draft declaration for consideration by the responsible ministers and heads of anti-corruption agencies.

124. In June 2023, UNODC organized a workshop on strengthening integrity and advancing collective action against corruption in land-based sectors in Papua New Guinea.

3. Safeguarding sport from corruption

125. Through its programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime, UNODC organized or supported over 60 activities for over 1,200 participants to enhance the capacity of criminal justice authorities and sports organizations to tackle corruption in sport at the national, regional and global levels.

126. UNODC collaborated with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup 2022 Integrity Task Force; delivered two workshops for government officials and sports organizations from the Asia and Pacific regions; co-organized a virtual workshop with the IOC and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) for government officials and sports organizations from the Nordic region; co-organized a workshop for Paraguay on tackling corruption and crime in sport together with IOC in the framework of the XII South American Games; and contributed to meetings of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport.

127. In October and November 2021, UNODC collaborated with FIFA to implement the FIFA Global Integrity Programme by delivering 10 virtual capacity-building workshops on tackling competition manipulation for over 400 criminal justice officials and integrity officers of football associations from over 150 countries.

128. UNODC played a leading role in supporting the development of the Group of 20 High-Level Principles on Tackling Corruption in Sport, adopted under the Italian presidency of the Group in October 2021.

129. UNODC delivered workshops for representatives of Governments and sports organizations in Africa in October 2021, and a national workshop in North Macedonia in January 2022 with IOC and FIFA. In December 2021, in the margins of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, UNODC, IOC and FIFA organized a side event on tackling corruption in sports.

4. Journalists

130. In October 2021, jointly with the Media Association of Tonga, UNODC supported a webinar on public reporting.

131. In October 2021, jointly with the Fijian Media Association, UNODC organized a webinar on money-laundering in Fiji and other Pacific countries.

132. In November 2021, in the framework of the International Festival for Freedom of Expression and the Press in Burkina Faso, UNODC supported a meeting of the general assembly of the Norbert Zongo Cell for Investigative Journalism in West Africa and a regional training session for its members. UNODC continued to support the Norbert Zongo Cell in building a database with comprehensive information on companies awarded public contracts in West Africa.

5. Civil society

133. UNODC continued to strengthen the capacity of civil society to contribute to the work of the Implementation Review Mechanism. In 2022, UNODC facilitated two multi-stakeholder regional workshops in the Western Balkans to promote the involvement of civil society in implementing the Regional Anti-corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap.

134. On International Anti-corruption Day, UNODC distributed campaign materials to support civil society in their advocacy efforts. In 2023, in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, UNODC organized a seminar in Central Asia to discuss the Convention and launched a call for non-governmental organizations to apply for observer status to the Conference of the States Parties.

6. Gender

135. UNODC supported the development of a policy paper entitled “Women as agents for change in the fight against corruption”. In March 2023, UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and supported the launch of the South-Eastern Europe Women Leaders for Good Governance and Anti-corruption Forum in North Macedonia.

136. In March 2022, UNODC and the Agency for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption of the Democratic Republic of the Congo organized an event to celebrate International Women’s Day, presenting on the link between gender and corruption.

137. In July 2022, UNODC delivered a presentation on the mainstreaming of gender when measuring corruption in the Dominican Republic.

138. In October 2021, UNODC organized a round table on the gender dimensions of corruption in Côte d'Ivoire, which resulted in recommendations on advancing the theme nationally.

139. A round table and a panel discussion on the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in drug, crime and anti-corruption policies, with the participation of approximately 30 women leaders, were held during the UNODC Executive Director's visit to Uzbekistan in November 2021.

140. Cooperation with the Women Development Organization, a specialized institution of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, was established in 2021. UNODC supported the participation of the Organization in a side event at the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties, entitled "Shaping the future: anchoring gender in our anti-corruption efforts".

141. In July 2022, with UNODC support, Ghana launched the findings of the survey *Corruption in Ghana: People's Experiences and Views*, which included a dedicated module on the gender dimensions of corruption.

142. In December 2022, UNODC participated in the fourth episode of the podcast "PodControl", a joint project of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions and the German Agency for International Cooperation, which focused on anti-corruption, COVID-19 and gender.

143. In March 2023, UNODC presented on the gender dimensions of corruption in an event on women's engagement in anti-corruption in Haiti.

144. UNODC supported a virtual workshop on gender and corruption organized by the Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Anti-corruption Working Group for anti-corruption practitioners.

7. Health

145. In September 2022, UNODC joined the steering committee of the Global Network for Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability in Health established by the World Health Organization. UNODC supported the prevention of corruption in the health sector in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Mexico, South Africa and Timor-Leste.

146. In the margins of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties, Ghana, with the support of UNODC, organized a side event entitled "Stop the virus, stop corruption, speak up!" In 2023, UNODC facilitated two workshops on codes of ethics, standards and protocols for 66 district health directors in Ghana.

147. In December 2021, UNODC and the Anti-Corruption Commission in Timor-Leste produced a baseline assessment of the risks of corruption in the healthcare sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. The assessment contained recommendations for addressing gaps in the regulatory and institutional frameworks. UNODC is supporting the implementation of those recommendations.

148. In 2021, UNODC undertook a joint study with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission in Kenya on corruption in the Kenyan health sector, focusing on procurement and financial management practices in 24 counties. The study was completed in 2022.

149. In Colombia, UNODC published sectoral risk assessments and policy recommendations in the health and energy sectors.

8. Mainstreaming anti-corruption measures in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts

150. UNODC strengthened its cooperation with the Department of Peace Operations and increased support to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, including the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali and Somalia. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, assistance focused on strengthening

the legal and regulatory frameworks and the capacity of anti-corruption bodies; strengthening judicial integrity; and supporting countries in the Great Lakes region in addressing corruption that may facilitate biodiversity loss. In the Central African Republic, UNODC provided support for judicial integrity and the mitigation of corruption risks in the prison sector. UNODC continued implementing anti-corruption projects in partnership with MINUSCA in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

151. UNODC, jointly with the Department for Peace Operations, gave a presentation on how to mainstream anti-corruption measures in peace operations and post-conflict settings at a virtual conference organized by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on the occasion of its annual “Defence Leadership in Building Integrity” course in October 2021. The event brought together participants from Georgia, Iraq, Ireland, Mongolia, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine and the African Union.

9. Preventing corruption in international investments

152. In line with its mandate derived from Conference resolution 8/9, UNODC continued raising awareness of the existence, causes and gravity of corruption in international investment. In December 2021, UNODC launched a network of anti-corruption practitioners from States participating in the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative, namely, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Georgia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan. The network is designed to enhance the capacity of participating countries to prevent corruption in large-scale international investment projects and promote international cooperation.

153. UNODC organized workshops in May and June 2022 in Uzbekistan and Serbia and in May 2023 in Kazakhstan and has supported over 210 anti-corruption and investment practitioners across 16 countries participating in the Anti-Corruption Practitioners’ Network along the Silk Road Economic Belt in developing policies and practices aimed at tackling corruption in international investment. UNODC continued disseminating knowledge products and studies on relevant topics and presented their results to various forums.

III. Delivery framework and resources

154. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to provide assistance covering the full spectrum of chapter II of the Convention.

155. Several global, regional and national programmes and projects enabled UNODC to provide specialized guidance, advice and expertise, upon request from States parties. Some of the key global and regional programmes and projects include:

- (a) The Global Programme to Prevent and Combat Corruption through Effective Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Support of Sustainable Development Goal 16;
- (b) The Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate;
- (c) The global programme on strengthening criminal justice cooperation along trafficking routes (CRIMJUST);
- (d) The UNODC Pacific project; and
- (e) UNODC Regional Programmes.

156. In addition to specialized staff located at headquarters, UNODC regional and national anti-corruption advisers have been instrumental in delivering successful technical assistance initiatives. Their contributions to the implementation of Conference resolution 9/6 are reflected throughout the present report.

157. During the reporting period, a global adviser was based in Vienna, while experts and advisers providing regional coverage were stationed in Belgrade (for South-Eastern Europe), Fiji (for the Pacific), Mexico (for Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean), Senegal (for West and Central Africa), South Africa (for Southern Africa), Thailand (for South and South-East Asia) and Uzbekistan (for Central Asia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). In addition, country advisers were located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Papua New Guinea and Somalia.

158. UNODC continued to establish regional anti-corruption hubs to reinforce the presence of anti-corruption expertise in the field. A strengthened field-based capacity enabled UNODC to respond more rapidly to increasing technical assistance requests from States parties. In September 2021, UNODC launched its anti-corruption hub in Mexico to coordinate and deliver technical assistance to States parties in Latin America and the Caribbean in line with the UNODC Strategic Vision for the region 2022–2025. UNODC established a second anti-corruption hub for Africa, based in Kenya, thus contributing to the implementation of its Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and the continent’s “Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want”.

159. The demand for the expertise and technical assistance of UNODC, including with regard to preventing corruption, has steadily increased, in part as a result of the substantive focus of the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism on preventive measures.

160. Against this backdrop, increased and long-term support from donors and development partners is essential to continuing the work of the advisers and the staff located at headquarters who provide specialized anti-corruption expertise.

IV. Follow-up and recommendations

161. The Conference may wish to focus its deliberations on progress and challenges in the implementation of resolution 9/6 and recommend measures to be taken for the future. In this regard, the Conference may also wish to draw upon the conclusions and recommendations of the previous sessions of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, including its meetings held in Vienna from 15 to 17 June 2022 and from 14 to 16 June 2023.

162. The Conference may further wish to highlight the need for sufficient extrabudgetary resources to continue the provision of technical assistance related to the prevention of corruption at the national, regional and global levels. The Conference may thus wish to call upon States parties and other donors to reconfirm their commitment to the prevention of corruption, including through cooperation on ongoing initiatives and new work streams, and to the provision of financial means, in particular in the form of multi-year, soft-earmarked extrabudgetary contributions.
