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The following document is being circulated in accordance with paragraph 1 (i) of resolution 4/6 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and rule 17, paragraph 3 (b), of the rules of procedure for the Conference.

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CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH

SUBMISSION OF THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Introduction

As the world is set to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Conference of States Parties of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and set a common vision for our future anti-corruption work, it is the right time to assess what has been achieved, identify the challenges to implementation and promote cooperation in seeking collective solution that leaves no individual or nation behind.

Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

We emphasize that continuous review of the implementation of the Convention is key to achieving its objectives. We commend the Implementation Review Mechanism of the United Nation Conventions against Corruption (UNCAC) and applaud States that have proactively undertaken self-appraisal and subject their countries implementation of the Convention to review. We however are a concerned that partial periodic review of the Convention may not achieve the objective of the Convention as it will drive member states to focus per time on areas within scope of next review. We invite member states to consider the advantage of a holistic and integrated review mechanism that periodically holistically assess an assessed countries strategy and implementation of key component of the Convention including preventive measures, criminalisation and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, contribution to giving or receiiving technical assistance, information exchange and their interlinkages with other processes addressing other organized crimes including drug trafficking and their implication for human rights, gender and poverty.

Technical assistance.

We recognize the key role of technical assistance in the fight against corruption and commend global action to strengthen and expand assistance to Member States for identifying and returning stolen public assets, assessing technical assistance for nations to fight corruption and request for strengthening of programmes aimed at providing and making Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and digitalization assessable through development of capacity and expansion of technical assistance flow.

Integrated Approach to Corruption and Drug Trafficking Nexus

The combination of corruption and drug trafficking has created a complex and terrible cycle of criminality across board. Corrupt practices among a lot of officials manning various control agencies, weak governance structures, and the exploitation of porous borders have provided fertile ground for drug cartels and criminal syndicates to thrive. This partnership between corrupt elements and drug traffickers perpetuates a network that not only undermines the rule of law but also erodes the very fabric of our societies.

The consequences of this collusion are far-reaching. It promotes socio-economic inequalities, fuels violence, undermines the foundations of democratic governance and most importantly, destroys the lives of people using these drugs, especially young people across the world. Moreover, the proceeds from drug trafficking often infiltrate financial systems, distorting economies and hindering legitimate economic growth. The resulting destabilization not only threatens peace and security but also impedes efforts toward achieving sustainable development goals in the world.

To effectively tackle this complex issue, a multifaceted approach is indispensable as the challenge of combating corruption and drug trafficking requires collaborative effort on a global scale, international cooperation, information sharing, and joint operations among nations are crucial in disrupting the intricate web of criminality that spans across continents. Strengthening institutional frameworks, empowering law enforcement, enhancing judicial systems to combat corruption and drug-related offenses are urgent imperatives. Investment in border security, intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and capacity-building initiatives for law enforcement agencies are essential to disrupt the flow of illicit drugs and dismantle criminal

networks. Support for nations in capacity building, technical assistance, and resource allocation is pivotal in strengthening their ability to combat these transnational threats effectively.

CALL FOR URGENT ACTION

We call on member states as we celebrate the successes achieved in the last 2 decades to continue to build synergy in planning, action and financing for cooperation to support future more coordinated action and strengthen weaknesses revealed in several assessments and reports. We can collectively address the menace posed by a global culture of corruption by promoting education for a culture of anti-corruption and lawfulness, creating and supporting ethical values in line with anti-corruption, creating economic opportunities which are indispensable in addressing underlying drivers like poverty and prioritizing the issue of addressing corruption on the global agenda and committing resources, expertise, and cooperation to monitoring of compliance with relevant laws, whistleblowing protection, promoting development and implementation of policies and laws aimed at new standards, promoting the role of Civil Society Organizations, investing in research, advancing youth role in implementation and promoting international cross boundary law enforcement cooperation on asset recovery and drug trafficking prevention and law enforcement.

We implore you to stand in solidarity and take decisive action to address the pressing issue of corruption. Let us work together to support our nations, strengthen global partnerships, and foster a future where justice, integrity, and prosperity prevail across our continents. This can be achieved together by adopting a multi-stakeholder approach that promotes partnerships in which global leaders take the lead and ensure that academic, youth, civil society and private sector do not fall off the partnership circle bound by respect for humanity and the values of multilateralism as we together strengthen the United Nations to continue to foster peace and development.