



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

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Agenda item 3

## Technical assistance

**Australia, Japan, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu: revised draft resolution**

### **Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

*Recalling* its resolution 7/7 of 10 November 2017, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”, and recalling with appreciation the related report of the Secretariat,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 8/11 of 20 December 2019, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”,

*Recalling further* the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, held in June 2021,<sup>2</sup>

*Recognizing* that progress towards and aspirations for peaceful, harmonious and prosperous small island developing States can be realized with the promotion of good governance practices,

*Emphasizing* that efforts by States parties to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>3</sup> are mutually reinforcing and contribute to their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, and recalling all of its Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16, which is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 77/235 of 15 December 2022, concerned about the negative impact that all forms of corruption can have on access to basic services and the enjoyment of all human rights, and recognizing that corruption can exacerbate poverty and inequality and may disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged individuals in society,

<sup>1</sup> CAC/COSP/2019/8 and CAC/COSP/2019/8/Corr.1.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-32/1, annex.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.



*Highlighting* that the fight against corruption and the promotion of good governance should be priorities for the international community, including small island developing States,

*Recognizing* that small island developing States have specific contextual and cultural characteristics and a narrow resource base that necessitate affordable and sustainable good governance practices, as well as tailored technical assistance,

*Welcoming* the progress made by small island developing States in implementing the Convention, while recognizing that greater efforts must still be made to achieve the effective implementation thereof,

*Noting* that, while the implementation of the Convention is the responsibility of States parties, promoting integrity, transparency and accountability and preventing corruption are responsibilities to be shared by all sectors of society involved in the fight against corruption, as corruption not only affects Governments but can also have a significant negative impact on the private sector and civil society by impeding economic growth, harming consumers and businesses, distorting competition and presenting serious health, safety, legal and social risks, and underlining the necessity of increasing the efforts of States parties in this regard,

*Highlighting* the need to improve anti-corruption frameworks, strengthen governance systems in ocean and land resources management in order to protect the environment and livelihoods of the people of small island developing States, enhance and build the inclusive resilience of those States to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters and further the transition to a more sustainable development path,

*Recalling* the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>4</sup> the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, which is of significance to small island developing States,

*Acknowledging* the upcoming fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024, and noting that its overarching theme will be “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity”,

*Recalling* the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, adopted by the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in 2018 in relation to the Pacific, in the context of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism of 2014 and the “Blue Pacific” narrative,

*Acknowledging* the regional anti-corruption road map known as the Teieniwa Vision, adopted by the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in 2021 as an official regional commitment to achieve Pacific unity against corruption and to build Pacific responses to corruption,

*Recognizing* the important role of regional and international partnerships and the relevance of collaborative learning among small island developing States,

1. *Welcomes* the accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption by Suriname in November 2021, and urges small island developing States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

2. *Calls upon* small island developing States parties to the Convention to enhance their active participation in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to make every effort to implement the recommendations arising from the reviews carried out under the Mechanism;

3. *Urges* States parties and interested donors, including development partners, to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement the Convention, including those aspects that will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and of the priorities and reforms identified, including those set

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<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

out in the Teieniwa Vision, through the provision of technical assistance at the bilateral, regional and international levels, including by addressing needs identified through the Implementation Review Mechanism or progress reports communicated through various regional platforms;

4. *Urges* States parties and interested donors with relevant expertise applicable to the contexts of small island developing States to share their best practices and lessons learned with small island developing States, upon request, through existing and future bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms;

5. *Encourages* small island developing States to consider establishing and developing, where appropriate, in line with article 33 of the Convention, confidential, safe and secure reporting systems, effective right-to-information mechanisms, protection programmes for reporting persons, including protected reporting systems, and effective witness protection measures, and to increase the awareness and accessibility of such measures;

6. *Also encourages* small island developing States to make use of opportunities for cooperation and peer learning through existing practitioner-based networks and to further share with one another information, research, best practices and lessons learned specific to those States on the implementation of the Convention;

7. *Urges* small island developing States to strengthen and effectively implement anti-corruption frameworks as part of the steps taken to enhance good governance and the rule of law in the area of ocean and land resources management, including in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, with the aim of enhancing and building inclusive resilience to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters in those States, with the support of the international community and relevant United Nations entities and regional bodies;

8. *Also urges* small island developing States to promote, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, the private sector, young people and the media, in the prevention of and fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threats posed by corruption;

9. *Encourages* small island developing States to engage in a whole-of-society approach to preventing and combating corruption, including through broad and inclusive participation in the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies and policies, including through legislation;

10. *Urges* small island developing States to promote the implementation of the Convention at the regional level, including through greater collaboration and regional mechanisms;

11. *Requests* the secretariat to submit to the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption a report on the progress made and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Recognizes* the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of Conference resolutions 7/7 and 8/11, and urges States parties to continue to support technical assistance efforts focused on the needs and priorities of small island developing States, including assistance with the ratification of or accession to the Convention, and on meeting the legislative and other technical requirements to implement the Convention effectively, upon request, and with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other technical assistance providers;

13. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.