



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

Distr.: General
7 May 2009

Original: English

**Open-ended Intergovernmental Working
Group on Review of the Implementation of the
United Nations Convention against Corruption**

Vienna, 11-13 May 2009

**Letter dated 4 May 2009 from the Secretary-General to the
Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and
Crime**

It is with great pleasure that I present to you a letter by business leaders from around the world, declaring their strong support for the United Nations Convention against Corruption and calling for action to establish an effective implementation review mechanism for the Convention (see annex).

I deeply appreciate the leadership demonstrated by the corporate community in this critical matter. Corruption inflicts tremendous costs on both business and society. It is a major impediment to economic growth and development. Reducing corruption collectively is in everybody's best interest.

The business advocacy for an effective review mechanism and the growing number of States adopting and implementing the Convention are evidence of a shared commitment to tackle corruption.

I very much hope that this letter will be an encouragement to successfully establishing a review mechanism, thus contributing a critical element to an effective United Nations Convention against Corruption.

I ask you to share this letter with State Parties and Signatories of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

(Signed) **Ban Ki-moon**



Annex

Implementation review of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1 May 2009

At the invitation of the International Chamber of Commerce, Transparency International, the United Nations Global Compact, and the World Economic Forum Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI), we are writing to express our strong support for the UN Convention against Corruption and to call for action to establish an implementation review mechanism at the Conference of States Parties to be held in Doha in November 2009.

As business leaders we recognize the risks and damage caused by corruption. Therefore our companies conduct rigorous anti-corruption programmes. We have seen how widespread corruption in countries discourages investment and makes it difficult for companies to compete on an ethical basis.

The adoption of the UN Convention in December 2003 was an important breakthrough because it recognized that a global framework was needed to combat global corruption. It is very encouraging that the Convention has been signed by 140 countries and ratified by 136. However, its success will remain uncertain until an effective implementation review mechanism is established. Experience with other anti-corruption conventions demonstrates that review of implementation is crucial.

In our view, the UN Convention is an essential instrument in the fight against corruption because it covers countries all over the world, emerging as well as developed; because it addresses all types of corrupt practices, in both the public and the private sector; and because it contains preventive measures, as well as law enforcement provisions. The Convention holds the promise of curbing corruption and creating a level playing field for all participants in the global economy.

The UN Convention is a complex legal instrument and requires careful follow-up of its implementation to achieve its objectives. Political will and determined action by governments are necessary to put into place effective prevention and enforcement measures, as well as new processes for international cooperation. Hoping that the Convention's provisions will work, without follow-up reviews, would be a dangerous mistake.

Especially now, in a period of deep financial and economic turmoil, an effective implementation review mechanism is essential. The economic crisis will inevitably place severe strains on worldwide competition, threatening an erosion of ethical standards that will be hard to reverse.

In December 2006 the parties to the Convention agreed that "effective and efficient review of the implementation of the Convention (...) is of paramount importance and urgent." We consider it essential that the Doha Conference in November 2009 takes action to establish an effective review mechanism. Further delay would damage the credibility of the Convention and its ability to build momentum in overcoming corruption.

We recognize that it is up to the governments to decide how the review mechanism should be organized. However, we have a strong interest in seeing that the mechanism will be credible and effective and offer the following suggestions. First, the process should have adequate and dependable long-term funding. Second, it should include country visits with peer reviewers from other countries. Third, the process should function transparently, with inputs from the private sector and other stakeholders, and with published reports.

The adoption of a rigorous implementation review mechanism will send a very positive message to international business. Our companies will work actively to make the Convention succeed. A large number of corporate, industry sector and global business initiatives against corruption have already been launched and bear witness to our determination to improve corporate ethics. Such efforts will be greatly strengthened by working under the umbrella of an effective UN Convention.

We kindly request that you transmit this letter to all States Parties in advance of the Doha meeting.

Attachment

Chief executive officers having signed the letter on the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Cynthia Carroll CEO Anglo American plc. United Kingdom	Jeffrey Immelt Chairman and CEO General Electric Company United States of America	Jeroen van der Veer CEO Royal Dutch Shell plc. Netherlands
Mark Cutifani CEO AngloGold Ashanti Company South Africa	Anders Dahlgv CEO and President IKEA Group Sweden	Léo Apotheker Co-CEO SAP AG Germany
Juergen Hambrecht Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors BASF AG Germany	S. Gopalakrishnan CEO and Managing Director Infosys Technologies Ltd. India	Tianwen Huang CEO Sinosteel Corporation China
Joseph Massey Managing Director and CEO Bhoruka Power Corporation India	Amit Arora CEO Kanoria Chemicals & Industries Ltd. India	Christian Jourquin CEO Solvay Belgium
Louis Gallois CEO EADS France	Victor Fung ICC Chairman & Chairman of Li and Fung Group China	Peter Barker-Homek CEO TAQA United Arab Emirates
Alan L. Boeckmann Chairman of the Board and CEO Fluor Corporation United States of America	Richard T. O'Brien CEO and President Newmont Mining Corporation United States of America	Jamshed J. Irani Director Tata Sons India
Tadahito Yamamoto President and Representative Director Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd. Japan	Daniel Vasella Chairman and CEO Novartis International AG Switzerland	Peter Bakker Chairman and CEO TNT N.V. Netherlands
G�rard Mestrallet Chairman and CEO GDF Suez France	Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican President and CEO Petronas Malaysia	James J. Schiro CEO Zurich Financial Group Switzerland