



## **UNDOC SPECIAL EVENT**

# **IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION AS A TOOL TO ADDRESS IT**

## **4<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

**Wednesday 26 October 2011**

**Marrakech, Morocco**

**15:00 – 18:00**

**Oliveraie Room**

### **I. Background**

Corruption that occurs in the environmental sector can have a devastating impact. Such practices include embezzlement during the implementation of environmental programmes, grand corruption in the issuance of permits and licenses for natural resources exploitation, and petty bribery of law enforcers. Corruption can happen during the initial stages of the resource exploitation process as well as during operation. Committed at the international, national or local level, these offences may result in the loss of resources and habitats, and the degradation of ecosystems, with direct and indirect effects on the livelihood of local communities.

A number of sectors are particularly vulnerable to corruption, including forestry, illegal trafficking in endangered species, water supply, oil exploitation, fisheries, hazardous waste management. In some cases, countries have adopted environmental laws with respect to relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements. However, corruption distorts the enforcement of such laws. In other cases, the lack or the weakness of regulations in the areas of both anti-corruption and environmental protection allows unsustainable practices and activities to be continued.

To tackle corruption in the environmental sector, it is crucial to enhance transparency, accountability, democracy and good governance. Commitment of politicians and policy-makers of resource-rich countries would be indispensable to strengthen the legal framework and relevant institutions. Nevertheless, it is important not to undermine the role of the foreign public and private partners, who should accept not to exploit natural resources by any unlawful means. Moreover, local communities and the general public

who consume relevant products may bring more transparency in the process by enquiring about how and with what kind of consequence on the environment such products or results are obtained. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is thus a useful tool for all stakeholders because it promotes comprehensive anti-corruption measures and activities in both the public and private sectors.

## **II. Draft programme**

The special event aims at promoting the awareness of the impact of corruption and related offences on the environment. Experts will present an overview of corruption and corruption risks in selected sectors, focusing on how corruption can generate negative effects on the environment and how bad such effects can be with regard to the sustainability of natural resources, the livelihood, and the economy. They will also highlight the use of UNCAC as a tool to address this problem.

The special event will take place from **15:00 to 18:00** on Wednesday 26 October 2011 in Oliveraie Room of the Palmeraie Golf Palace Complex in Marrakech, Morocco. Discussion will be held with all participants.

**Welcome and introduction of the topic (15:00 – 15:15):** John Sandage, Director, Division of Treaty Affairs, UNODC

### **Panel Discussion No. 1 (15:15 – 16:30): Sectoral Views on Corruption and the Environment**

**Chair: John Sandage, Director, Division of Treaty Affairs, UNODC**

- **Grand Corruption in the Regulation of Oil and the UNCAC** [Tina Soride, CMI expert, Norway]
- **Corruption and Hazardous Wastes Management** [Tatiana Terekhova, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, UNEP Geneva]
- **Corruption, Illegal Wildlife Trafficking and ICCWC** [Marceil Yeater, Chief, Legal Affairs & Trade Policy, Secretariat of CITES Convention on International Trafficking in Endangered Species]

**Discussion (30 minutes)**

### **Panel Discussion No. 2 (16:30 – 17:45): Countering Corruption in the Environmental Sector**

**Chair : Ajit Joy, Country Manager, UNODC Office in Indonesia**

- **View from the Government on Corruption in Light of Efforts to Manage Climate Change** [Trio Santoso, Directorate of Investigation and Forest Protection, Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia]
- **Corruption and Forest Crimes,** [Teten Masduki, Secretary General, Transparency International, Indonesia]
- **Addressing Corruption in the Environment: How the United Nations Convention Against Corruption Could Be An Effective Tool** [Thi Thuy Van Dinh, Associate Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC]

**Discussion (30 minutes)**

**Conclusion (17:45 – 18:00):** Ajit Joy, Country Manager, UNODC Office in Indonesia

### **III. Publication:**

Papers submitted by panelists and discussions held at the event will be documented in a publication to be disseminated electronically and in hard copy.