



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

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Fifth session

Panama City, 25-29 November 2013

Statements made at the closure of the fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. As indicated in paragraph 106 of the report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its fifth session, held in Panama City from 25 to 29 November 2013 (CAC/COSP/2013/18), the Conference heard the closing remarks of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, delivered by the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs. He noted the commitment of the international community to the fight against corruption and welcomed the additional States parties that had acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including during the Conference. Making reference to the negative effects of corruption on the rule of law, governance and livelihoods, he stressed the important areas addressed by the resolutions of the Conference, in particular the role of the private sector and of young people in fighting corruption, as well as international cooperation and asset recovery. Further, he welcomed the decision taken on the Implementation Review Mechanism with a view to strengthening the Mechanism, and highlighted the importance of the continuing commitment of States parties to the Mechanism when finalizing its first cycle and launching its second one. He stressed that the Conference had sent a strong message on the prevention of corruption, including in areas such as the organization of major public events and match-fixing and illegal or irregular betting. Referring to the post-2015 development agenda, he stressed that the rule of law and the fight against corruption needed to be integral components of that agenda.

2. The representative of the European Union, speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United States of America, expressed disappointment that the sessions of the working groups and mechanisms established by the Conference continued to take place without the participation of non-governmental organizations

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(NGOs). She expressed the view that NGOs with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council should be invited to participate as observers in sessions of the working groups and mechanisms established by the Conference, while States parties should continue to be consulted in the selection of NGOs without such status. A decision to allow NGOs to participate as observers should be based on the relevance of the work of a particular organization with regard to the subject matter under consideration at the meetings. In her view, work would need to be continued with all States parties to advance principles of openness and transparency in the sessions of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies.

3. In response, the representative of Pakistan expressed concern with the statement made. He acknowledged the important role of civil society in the overall efforts to prevent and combat corruption, and in particular its role in assisting States parties in the effective implementation of the Convention, and welcomed the participation of a large number of civil society organizations in the plenary sessions of the Conference. He further emphasized the need to act in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference and to firmly uphold the intergovernmental nature of the working groups established by the Conference. He recalled the agreement reached at the previous session of the Conference to organize briefings for civil society at the margins of the sessions of the Implementation Review Group, with a view to promoting constructive dialogue between States parties and non-governmental organizations, and building confidence and trust in the ability of the latter to contribute to the work of States parties.

4. In her closing statement, the President of the Conference noted the major progress that had been made at the Conference. She expressed the hope that over time agreement could be reached on all issues. She thanked all participants for contributing to open discussions at the fifth session of the Conference.