

**CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION, SIXTH SESSION
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2-6 November 2015**

SPECIAL EVENT

**“Anti-corruption Reform in Small Islands: What is there and
what else is needed?”**

**Monday, 2 November 2015 – 12.30 PM to 2.30 PM
Conference Room “B” – Pavilion 7
Lenexpo Exhibition Complex**

I. INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a global phenomenon. The link between corruption and poverty is well documented, with clear evidence that corruption undermines development and sustains poverty, inhibits economic growth, drives political instability, hinders sustainable use of natural resources, impacts the delivery of services and undermines good governance and the rule of law. More recently, through the adoption of sustainable development goal 16 the international community recognizes the importance of anti-corruption and its impact on development. Said goal 16 requires specifically by 2030 to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all forms, strengthen asset recovery and build accountable institutions at all levels.

As of 1 October 2015, there are 177 States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). There are 32 out a total of 38 Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) that are among the State parties to the Convention. Of the 32, 21 have completed their respective reviews on the implementation of the Convention, during the first cycle of the review mechanism, focusing on Chapters III (criminalization and law enforcement); and IV (international cooperation).

Many SIDS have undergone important legal and institutional reforms in the past few years and continue to do so, following the focus on preventing and fighting corruption, also through the UNCAC reviews. However, there are numerous challenges to undertake reforms in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. SIDS are generally characterized by their ‘smallness’, need for affordable reforms, challenges in capacity, accessibility, and accountability; as well as a large reliance on the public sector, and different stages of development of the private sector.

The above-mentioned topics, among others, were discussed among SIDS anti-corruption officials at a “Global Conference on Anti-Corruption Reform in Small Island States,” convened from 17 to 21 August 2015, in Mauritius. As an outcome of this Conference, participants recommended through a communique a number of priorities on anti-corruption reform (‘Mauritius Communique’), which will be presented at this side event.

Furthermore, panellists will elaborate on national progress and pertinent challenges to anti-corruption reform; their respective progress and lessons learned while undertaking reform and present on priorities for reform. Technical assistance providers will discuss on how anti-corruption reform in SIDS can be supported through international technical cooperation.

II. PANELLISTS

1. Mr. Nandi Tuaine Glassie, Minister of Internal Affairs, Cook Islands, guest speaker on “general challenges on anti-corruption reform in SIDS.”
2. Mr. José Das Neves, Deputy-Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Timor-Leste, guest speaker on “national anti-corruption coordination and reforms.”
3. Mr. Dirk Harrison, Contractor-General of Jamaica, guest speaker on “combating corruption through the procurement process: lessons learned in Jamaica.”
4. Mr. Phil Mason, Senior Anti-Corruption Adviser of the UK Department of International Development, guest speaker on “technical assistance to strengthen anti-corruption in SIDS: supporting anti-money laundering measures in the Caribbean.”
5. Mr. Chuah Chang Man, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, guest speaker on “technical cooperation in support to Small Island States.”
6. Mr. Kaushik Goburdhun, Chief Legal Adviser of the Independent Anticorruption Commission (ICAC) of Mauritius, guest speaker on “anti-corruption reform in small islands: opportunities and priorities.”

III. FORMAT AND AGENDA

The side event will include a panel discussion followed by questions and answers from the audience. UNODC and UNDP will moderate the panel discussion and presentations as well as put forth lead questions. A copy of the ‘Mauritius Conference Communique’ will be available during the event.

Language: English

Presentations: Speakers will have 15 minutes for their oral presentations.

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