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## High Level Anniversary Event on Youth for Anti-Corruption

Special Event to CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

### Agenda

*The event will take place on November, 3 2015, from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30pm in the Conference Room B, Pavilion 7 of the Lenexpo Exhibition Complex, St Petersburg, Russia.*

#### Background

Marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth, 2015 is a landmark year for engaging youth. For the anti-corruption initiative in the UN system it is an opportunity to take stakes and define objectives for the promotion of participation of young citizens in the prevention of corruption (UNCAC article 5). Providing a forum for youth at the UNCAC CoSP responds to the clear interest signals young activists have been sending on corruption issues. Young respondents to the United Nations' "World we Want" consultations, for instance ranked "Good Governance and Effective Institutions" as a top priority<sup>1</sup> and around the world young advocates have been campaigning against corruption.

Reports<sup>2</sup> on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals conclude that inclusion, accessibility, collaboration and responsiveness are key to ensuring meaningful participation of young people in formal and informal prevention and accountability mechanisms. They further advocate for clear roles concerning youth at all levels and in all countries. As a result, this special event does not aim at establishing a list of traditional or innovative ways of raising awareness in the young generations of citizens, as such documents already exist<sup>3</sup>. It instead aims at exploring how innovation can empower

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/participation-global-governance/post-2015-the-signal-from-the-noise/>

<sup>2</sup> See for instance: UN Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth/ODI/Plan International, Young people's engagement in strengthening accountability for the post-2015 agenda, September 2014.

<sup>3</sup> U4 Expert answer, Best practices in engaging youth in the fight against corruption, July 2013.



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youth to collaboratively engage in design and to participate at every level of the corruption prevention agenda.

The stakes for the anti-corruption initiatives are high: how do we ensure corruption systems are not inherited from one generation to the other? Building on the principles of the Baku Commitments to Youth Policies<sup>4</sup>, the objective of this session is to discuss the capacity of innovative approaches in the outreach and involvement of youth beyond the educated and privileged.

Keeping this objective in mind, youth activists will join policy makers and experts to debate whether support and engagement has been sufficient. They will exchange ideas on the pros and cons of traditional and innovative mechanisms to engage youth.

#### **Panel:**

- Erion Veliaj, Mayor Tirana, Albania,
- Natthaya Rotjanadamrongkool, Thai Youth Anti-Corruption Network;
- Gabriela Ojog, Youth for transparency in the Education Sector in the Republic of Moldova;
- Assaad Thebian, co-founder “YouStink” Movement;
- Ms. Luisa Senibulu, UNDP-UNODC joint Anti-Corruption project;

Moderator: Patrick Keuleers, UNDP Governance and Peacebuilding Head of Practice.

#### **Proposed structure of the event:**

- Videos from projects (1 to 2 minutes maximum per video);
- Introduction of panellists from moderator;
- Moderator puts one question to each panellist, panellists get 5minutes to answer and provide insights on her/his experience;
- Panellists get the opportunity to ask questions to each other on their experience of Youth and Anticorruption initiatives;
- Moderator opens the floor for questions.

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<sup>4</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Global Forum on Youth Policies, Baku Commitments to Youth Policies, October 2014.