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**CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST
CORRUPTION**

7th session (Vienna, 6-10 November 2017)

**Special Event: Experiences of States parties in making use
of best practices suggested under the framework of the
CoSP and its subsidiary bodies**

Tuesday, 7 November, 13:30-15:00

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to be with you all here today to reflect on our collective experiences in making use of best practices suggested under the framework of the CoSP and its subsidiary bodies and to chair this important event.

This week in Vienna, we are reflecting on 14 years since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by General Assembly resolution in 2003. During those 14 years, we have successfully organized 7 sessions of the Conference of the States



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Parties, 8 meetings of the Implementation Review Group (and 8 resumed sessions of the IRG), 8 meetings of the Working Group on Prevention, 11 meetings of the Working Group on Asset Recovery and 6 expert meetings on international cooperation.

During these meetings of the CoSP and its subsidiary bodies, we have tackled many important thematic areas to support States parties' efforts to fully implement the Convention. The meetings have allowed for the exchange of good practices and lessons learned and the identification of challenges in various anti-corruption-related thematic areas, such as prevention, education, criminalization of corruption offences, asset recovery, international cooperation and integrity in the justice sector.

The establishment and operation of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption have furthered this peer learning aspect and have created a momentum that has resulted in States initiating concrete and tangible reforms to align their national systems with the requirements of the Convention. Indeed, in a majority of countries, the peer review exercise has helped to identify gaps and shortcomings in anti-corruption



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frameworks, and the Mechanism has had an overall positive impact on national efforts to fight corruption. A majority of countries have initiated legislative reforms and have improved institutional structures and cooperation at the national level as a result of undergoing reviews and participating in the work of the Mechanism. The reviews have also had a positive impact on strengthening international cooperation capacities, both at domestic and international levels. One further important impact is that the Review Mechanism has allowed for the collection, systematization and dissemination of an unprecedented wealth of information that is useful for furthering the goals of the Convention. Numerous recommendations concerning the introduction of new measures and laws were made during the reviews. They include recommendations on considering the consolidation and clarification of existing legislation in the context of ongoing legal reforms and the adoption of stand-alone legislative frameworks with anti-corruption measures. In this regard, the operation of the Mechanism has helped to create a global community of practitioners in fighting corruption, with over 2,000 experts trained on the working of the Mechanism and the Convention since its inception. In sum, the tangible impact of the Mechanism has exceeded expectations and is



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clearly shown by the pace of domestic reforms and enhanced capacities to counter corruption in line with the Convention.

Apart from the Review Mechanism, the Secretariat continued to act as an international observatory in gathering all of the materials from the Working Group on Prevention and making them available through the thematic compilation pages. The thematic pages are a compilation of the information and material submitted by States parties ahead of the meetings of the Working Group on Prevention, excerpts from background reports or publications by the Secretariat, and presentations given during the Working Group sessions. They include relevant policies, practices and legislation, as well as further resource material.

Throughout the six open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation, practical issues relevant to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on international cooperation have been actively discussed. The experts have been regularly exchanging their important experiences and practical challenges in the area of requesting and providing legal assistance related to the investigation and prosecution of transnational



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corruption cases. Furthermore, UNODC, based on the Convention's requirements, the Conference's resolutions and the recommendations of the expert meetings, has created an online directory of central authorities, containing not only the information on Central Authorities for the purposes of MLA, but also separate sections on focal points for asset recovery, competent national authorities in charge of extradition, as well as focal points in the area of civil and administrative proceedings relating to corruption. Reports, encompassing the observations and recommendations emanating from the expert meetings, and links to the online directory on Central Authorities are readily available on UNODC website with a view to serve as practical tools to enhance international cooperation among States Parties to the Convention.

I wish to thank the National Anti-Corruption Authority of Saudi Arabia for organizing this important side event, and for providing the opportunity to reflect on our experiences in making use of best practices and lessons learned in the framework of the CoSP, its subsidiary bodies and the Implementation Review Mechanism.



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I am looking forward to hearing the experiences and views of the panellists on how to most effectively put into practice the recommendations and best practices identified by translating those outcomes into action, as well as the tangible ways in which States parties can effectively utilize the framework of the CoSP, the IRG and the Working Groups in order to advance their national anti-corruption agendas.

I have the pleasure to give the floor to Dr. Khalid bin Abdulmohsen bin Mohammed Al-Mehaisen, President of the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Dr. Al-Mehaisen, you have the floor.

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Thank you Dr. Khalid for this very interesting introduction. I now give the floor to Ms. Nan Fife, Senior Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Permanent Mission to International Organizations in Vienna.

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Thank you Ms. Fife for this insightful intervention.