



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

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### Prevention

## Status of implementation of Conference resolution 6/9, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”

### Report of the Secretariat

#### I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 6/9, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption requested the Secretariat to submit to the Conference at its seventh session a report on the progress made and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the resolution.
2. In accordance with that request, the present report has been prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to the Secretary-General’s note verbale of 20 June 2017. As at 4 September 2017, submissions had been received from 17 States. The submissions from the following 11 States parties contained information relating to their efforts to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States: Australia, China, Cook Islands, Dominican Republic, Kiribati, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America and Vanuatu. The present report contains an update on technical assistance provided to small island developing States by the United Nations.
3. The present report is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather to provide a summary of the information submitted by States parties and signatories.

\* [CAC/COSP/2017/1](#).



## **II. Analysis of submissions of States parties and signatories**

### **A. Ratification of or accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption by small island developing States**

4. The ratification of or accession to the Convention against Corruption is a key element of Conference resolution 6/9. There are currently 182 States parties to the Convention. The process of ratification by or accession of small island developing States was supported by both bilateral and multilateral technical assistance providers. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to promote the ratification of or accession to the Convention by providing targeted awareness-raising and advocacy at both the political and legislative levels, as well as technical assistance, including pre-ratification workshops, to those small island developing States that are not yet parties to the Convention.

5. Since the adoption of resolution 6/9, one small island developing State, Belize, acceded to the Convention. Most small island developing States have now become parties to the Convention, with the exception of Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Suriname and Tonga. The Cook Islands is not a State Member of the United Nations but it acceded to the Convention in October 2011.

6. Small island developing States reported that, in general, the ratification of the Convention was positively perceived by government bodies, parliament and society. Nauru noted that the accession process itself was simple, and that there was a strong political will in the country to accede to the Convention, owing to the need to strengthen its financial integrity and improve its reputation, following a severe financial crisis and blacklisting by the Financial Action Task Force.

7. However, States also underlined that the specificities of the small island setting engendered certain challenges relating to both the formal ratification or accession process and domestic efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention. Some States, for example, reported that the lack of understanding as to the rationale and purpose of the Convention, the obligations associated with being a State party, and the breadth of legislative measures required in order to implement the Convention were obstacles to ratification or accession. States further noted that the importance of efforts to fight corruption and the relationship of those efforts to development were not always well understood in small island States where economic activities were not complex and corruption was not perceived as a major threat.

8. Some countries reported that the process of ratification or accession had been delayed by time-consuming legal, analytical and procedural consultations at the national level, as well as by the partial incompatibility of their national legislative framework with the Convention. Nauru and Vanuatu stated that, while they had improved their legislative frameworks before and following accession to the Convention, they continued to face challenges in fully implementing the Convention, in particular in relation to law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

9. Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of) and Nauru reported having received assistance in the accession process, in particular from UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). That assistance included training on the Convention, pre-ratification workshops, bilateral advisory meetings, information-sharing and general support. Vanuatu referred to indirect support that it had received from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in the form of general accountability and integrity training.

## **B. Participation of small island developing States in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Conventions against Corruption**

10. Small island developing States actively participated in the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and provided a valuable contribution to the operation of the Mechanism. All small island developing States, with the exception of Belize, whose review started in June 2017, and Comoros, Guyana and Saint Lucia, had finalized their executive summaries for the first review cycle by 4 September 2017.

11. The Implementation Review Mechanism was seen as an effective instrument for strengthening the implementation of the Convention by identifying gaps in the legal framework and in the enforcement of laws.

12. Small island developing States reported that the Mechanism provided a valuable opportunity to review the anti-corruption legislative framework and to assess whether reforms were needed to existing laws and policies to meet the obligations of the Convention.

13. The review process helped States to prioritize and focus their anti-corruption efforts. It also helped to strengthen coordination among stakeholders. For example, the Cook Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu established or strengthened national anti-corruption committees, task forces, units or parliamentary committees. Kiribati and Vanuatu observed that the Implementation Review Mechanism had contributed to strengthening the participation of society in anti-corruption efforts and had led to the launch of a variety of training and awareness-raising programmes.

14. Nauru described the Implementation Review Mechanism as a unique tool for examining the anti-corruption landscape across the region and for identifying good practices from other countries that could be replicated. The Cook Islands noted that the peer-review process contributed positively to enhancing the principles and objectives of the Convention. In some cases, the participating countries had continued their dialogue after the review.

15. Many States reported undertaking legislative reforms in preparation for, or as a follow-up to, the findings and recommendations of the review. In particular, the Cook Islands, the Dominican Republic and Nauru reported the introduction of new legislation and significant amendments to existing legislation.

16. Some States, including Kiribati and Vanuatu, highlighted that they were in the process of strengthening their anti-corruption policy framework through the development of national anti-corruption strategies as a result of recommendations stemming from the review. The Dominican Republic also provided information on institutions that had been established to strengthen the efforts of the Government to prevent and combat corruption. The Cook Islands stated that it had developed a comprehensive public service manual, which included sections relevant to combating corruption. Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of) and Nauru also reported ongoing or planned legislative, policy and institutional reforms to address the review recommendations. Kiribati stressed that the review process had contributed to the strengthening of institutions and the development of anti-corruption programmes.

17. Kiribati and Nauru referred to the positive experience of participating in the Mechanism as a reviewing State party, noting that they had learned from the exchange with other States parties and the Secretariat, including from the best practices of the State party under review. Nauru noted that the review process was transparent and informative, allowing small island developing States to play a significant role in the reporting and accountability mechanisms of the Convention. Nauru highlighted that participation in the Mechanism as a reviewing State had been beneficial and helpful in the preparation for its own review.

18. While the implementation review process was universally seen as useful, there were some challenges associated with it. Nauru reported that the main challenge that it had faced in participating in the review was the lack of human resources and institutional capacity in its small public administration. Within Government agencies, the lack of staff dedicated to anti-corruption matters had led to those issues being dealt with mostly in an ad hoc manner. Kiribati stated that it had been challenging to compile information at different stages of the review process, including gathering inputs from all relevant stakeholders in a timely manner.

19. A further difficulty that was stressed by States was the enforcement of the new legislation that had been adopted as a follow-up to the review. Nauru noted that such enforcement was challenging, both because of its small geographical size and because most of the country's population had familial or other ties that prevented them from reporting corruption. The lack of capacity, training and skills within the police service and the judiciary to investigate and prosecute corruption offences was also underlined.

20. Many States reported receiving technical assistance from UNODC and UNDP to support both the preparation for the review and the follow-up to the outcomes of the review. That assistance had included the strategic prioritization of review recommendations and technical assistance needs.

### **C. Sharing of best practices among small island developing States on the reform of anti-corruption measures**

21. Peer learning and South-South exchange of relevant, tested and effective anti-corruption measures that reflect local circumstances were highlighted as important for successful anti-corruption efforts in the small island developing States. Those States often share similar characteristics and might benefit from knowing how comparable problems were addressed by other countries facing similar constraints.

22. Many States parties in the Pacific region provided examples of regional initiatives, including South-South exchanges and secondments of staff organized under the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project. Reference was also made to the meetings of the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network and, in particular, its working group on environmental crime and corruption, which, in 2017, had been focusing on legislation relating to the protection of reporting persons.

23. Kiribati, Mauritius and Vanuatu highlighted that they had adopted selected anti-corruption practices as a result of having been involved in bilateral dialogues and exchanges with other small island States.

24. States parties called for continued opportunities to participate in peer learning. Kiribati suggested that additional resources be made available to UNODC and UNDP to undertake more regional meetings in order to facilitate the sharing of anti-corruption practices, in particular those related to legal reform. Vanuatu expressed interest in exchanging information on best practices that could be incorporated into the anti-corruption policies and strategies of small island developing States.

25. Mauritius highlighted that, in 2015 and 2016, in order to facilitate the exchange of good practices among small island developing States, it had hosted two global conferences for such States. The conferences, co-organized with UNODC, had provided small island developing States with the opportunity to strengthen networking and had exposed them to the achievements and best practices of similar jurisdictions.

26. Many States provided examples of good practices that they would be willing to share with other small island developing States. For example, Vanuatu had appointed a national integrity and anti-corruption committee, representing a wide variety of stakeholders, to coordinate the development and implementation of its national anti-corruption strategy. Vanuatu had also linked the development of that strategy with its

existing National Sustainable Development Plan. The Federated States of Micronesia reported on its nationwide public campaigns to raise awareness of corruption and on the hotline that it had established to allow for anonymous reporting of suspected crime and fraud.

27. The Cook Islands and Micronesia (Federated States of) shared information on their ongoing or concluded prosecutions of corruption cases. Mauritius noted that its Independent Commission against Corruption had established an international cooperation and capacity-building unit in April 2017, as part of its efforts to foster international cooperation in the fight against corruption.

#### **D. Establishment of an anti-corruption research platform for small island developing States**

28. Following the adoption of resolution 6/9, in which the Conference encouraged States parties and other interested donors to support the setting-up of a dedicated platform for anti-corruption reforms for small island developing States, the Independent Commission against Corruption of Mauritius, together with UNODC, established the SIDS Anti-Corruption Research Platform, which has been online since July 2017.

29. Many States indicated their support and willingness to contribute to the operation of the Platform. Vanuatu noted that, given the similarity of the challenges faced and the scarcity of resources in many small island developing States, there was potential for good practices in one jurisdiction, shared through the Platform, to be used successfully in another jurisdiction.

#### **E. Activities undertaken by small island developing States in the implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 16**

30. In their submissions, States parties recognized the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, the need to address Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and its targets. To that end, many small island developing States reported implementing an array of preventive and enforcement-related measures to combat corruption.

31. Kiribati, Mauritius and Vanuatu reported incorporating many of the targets contained in Goal 16 into their national policies, including national development plans, national visions and anti-corruption strategies. Some of those policies included specific implementation plans, as well as monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

32. Vanuatu provided information on its National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 and highlighted the commitment of its Government to addressing corruption, which was reflected in a specific strategic objective to establish a national anti-corruption policy and institutional framework. Kiribati noted that the importance of combating corruption was articulated in both the Kiribati Development Plan 2016-2019 and Kiribati Vision 20. Kiribati further stated that many sections of its national anti-corruption strategy, which was currently under development, would address the achievement of Goal 16.

33. Nauru and Vanuatu reported having contributed to the achievement of Goal 16 through the establishment or strengthening of anti-corruption and integrity bodies, such as the national anti-corruption committee, the ombudsman's office, the justice department, the public prosecutor's office, the judiciary and the financial intelligence unit. Inter-agency coordination among law enforcement and other relevant stakeholders, as well as capacity-building, were identified as furthering the achievement of Goal 16.

34. Nauru indicated that it had addressed some of the targets of Goal 16 in its legislative reforms, although it recognized that the enforcement of those laws remained challenging. Legislative reforms related to the implementation of initiatives aimed at achieving Goal 16 were also ongoing in Vanuatu.

35. Mauritius reported that it had contributed to the achievement of Goal 16 through empowering and engaging both public and private sector organizations in integrating corruption prevention into their organizational structures, policies, procedures and practices.

36. The Federated States of Micronesia highlighted that measures taken to implement the Convention had also assisted in the achievement of the targets of Goal 16. Such measures included raising awareness of the importance of anti-corruption efforts, encouraging the public to report corrupt activities, increasing transparency and accountability in the Government, and strengthening the prosecution of corruption cases.

37. Vanuatu stressed that an example of the country's commitment to fighting corruption was the prosecution and conviction of 16 members of parliament, many of whom were serving ministers, for corruption and bribery.

38. Nauru reported that the implementation of initiatives aimed at achieving and monitoring the achievement of Goal 16 were being carried out through multisectoral and interdepartmental collaboration.

## **F. Technical assistance from States parties and other donors**

39. The importance of technical assistance provided to small island developing States was underlined in all of the submissions by States parties. The diverse challenges faced by small island developing States and the limited capacity of their public bodies to respond to those challenges had led to a growing need for external support.

40. Most small island developing States that provided submissions indicated that they had received technical assistance, which had enhanced the implementation of the Convention and contributed to the implementation of Conference resolution 6/9.

41. The Cook Islands, Kiribati and Nauru reported having received bilateral technical assistance from Australia, Fiji, Malaysia, New Zealand, Samoa, Singapore and the United States in a variety of areas, including legislative drafting, training and liaison programmes for police, and training programmes for the judiciary and communities, and relating to initiatives, including at the local level, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16.

42. Technical assistance was also provided to small island developing States by regional organizations and bodies. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat supported legislative drafting in Nauru and organized training on investigating and prosecuting fisheries-related crime in the Cook Islands; the Asia-Pacific Group on Money-Laundering organized training for the financial intelligence unit of Nauru; the Council of Europe provided training on awareness-raising, forensic tools and prosecutions related to cybercrime to the Cook Islands; and the Commonwealth Secretariat and the secretariat of the Pacific Community supported the implementation of initiatives aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Cook Islands.

43. Australia reported having provided assistance to small island developing States by means of, for example: (a) supporting the implementation of anti-corruption reforms, including priorities and reforms identified in the Mauritius Communiqué on the Global Conference on Anti-Corruption Reform in Small Island States; (b) supporting the sharing of best practices in fighting corruption; (c) supporting efforts to achieve and monitor the achievement of Goal 16; and (d) providing broad technical assistance to support anti-corruption reforms. Australia had leveraged its membership

of the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre to support small island developing States in the implementation of Convention-related reforms. For example, in March 2017, at the request of the Government of Solomon Islands, the Centre had conducted a workshop in Honiara to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the new national anti-corruption strategy.

44. China reported that it had provided technical assistance by hosting an annual corruption prevention workshop for developing countries during the period 2008-2012. Those workshops had been attended by a number of small island developing States, including Grenada, Mauritius and Seychelles. Further, in July 2017, the Ministry of Supervision of China had hosted a seminar on combating corruption for anti-corruption officials from the Maldives at the China Academy of Discipline Inspection and Supervision.

45. The United States reported that its Agency for International Development, the Department of State and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State were the primary bodies responsible for providing technical assistance to small island developing States. The Bureau had contributed to anti-corruption efforts in the Caribbean through a regional project, which focused on strengthening asset recovery and which benefited Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Bureau had also supported a flexible, demand-driven mechanism to respond to assistance requests from Caribbean Basin Security Initiative countries for justice sector training or for technical assistance programmes through the National Center for State Courts.

46. In Haiti, programmes of the United States Agency for International Development had promoted transparency and government accountability through an integrated financial management system, which provided automated financial functions, enhanced control of revenues and expenditure, and facilitated investigations. The Office of Technical Assistance of the Department of the Treasury of the United States had worked with a number of small island developing States to strengthen the ability of those States to manage public finances effectively and to prevent corruption and money-laundering in their financial sectors. For example, the Office had provided assistance to Guyana to build the capacity of the internal affairs function of its revenue authority in order to detect and deter corruption.

47. Mexico reported on its participation in the Financial Action Task Force of the Caribbean (CFATF), the main objective of which was to participate in the evaluations of its member countries in accordance with Financial Action Task Force standards. Mexico collaborated with States members of CFATF and its secretariat to provide technical assistance to the financial intelligence units of those States. Mexico was also a member of the group of cooperating and sponsoring nations which, together with the Governments of Canada, France, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States, provided technical assistance to both CFATF and its members to prevent and combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

48. Mauritius reported that its Independent Commission against Corruption had assisted Seychelles in setting up its national anti-corruption agency.

49. Many small island developing States indicated further needs for technical assistance in order to ensure effective implementation of the Convention and achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

## **G. Technical assistance provided by the Secretariat to support anti-corruption reform in small island developing States**

50. To facilitate the provision of technical assistance to small island developing States, until 2016, UNODC had provided a dedicated anti-corruption adviser for those States. The adviser had sought to ensure that the specific needs of small island

developing States were properly addressed and to facilitate coordination and the sharing of experiences among them. The position was abolished in October 2016 owing to a lack of funding. Currently, the Secretariat provides technical assistance to small island developing States through a dedicated regional adviser based in Fiji. Other regional anti-corruption advisers, including a Panama-based regional adviser for Central America and the Caribbean, also provide technical assistance for small island developing States in their respective regions.

51. During the reporting period, UNODC finalized a new guide, entitled *Procurement and Corruption in Small Island Developing States: Challenges and Emerging Practices*. The guide contains an overview of the elements of a strong procurement system and is focused on the specific challenges that small island developing States face in strengthening integrity in procurement. It also contains examples of how international standards can be translated into specific norms and implemented locally.

52. Most States mentioned the support provided by UNODC at all stages of participation in the review mechanism, including the training provided to focal points and reviewing experts and the support made available during the follow-up to the review. Technical assistance is provided by UNODC in multiple areas, including legislative drafting, support for policy development, capacity-building, participation of society, and the implementation of local initiatives and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

53. UNODC delivered technical assistance to small island developing States at the national, regional and global levels.

54. At the national level, UNODC worked to facilitate accession to the Convention and to support effective participation in the review. The Office delivered technical assistance to Grenada to prepare for participation in the Implementation Review Mechanism, including through workshops for the finalization of the self-assessment checklist for the first and second review cycles, in April 2016 and March 2017, respectively. In 2015, training on the review mechanism was provided to focal points and governmental experts from Grenada, Guyana and Saint Lucia. UNODC conducted a mission to Barbados to advocate for the ratification of the Convention and to assess needs for technical assistance in relation to asset recovery and the creation of an anti-corruption body. UNODC also provided ongoing follow-up to the focal point of Guyana for the completion of the self-assessment for the first review cycle. In September 2017, a national anti-corruption adviser was placed in Guyana to provide ongoing mentoring and support to national authorities.

55. UNODC also directly supported national anti-corruption reforms in small island developing States. In March 2016, assistance was provided to the Dominican Republic to assist it in developing an anti-corruption national action plan, drafting the reform of the Criminal Code based on review recommendations, and completing the self-assessment checklist for the second review cycle. In follow-up to the recommendations on article 23 of the Convention made as part of the review process, UNODC provided legislative drafting advice on the anti-money-laundering bill of the Dominican Republic.

56. In June 2017, UNODC supported Cabo Verde in strengthening capacity to detect and investigate corruption by conducting a training course for prosecutors on investigating economic and financial crimes, corruption and abuse of power. UNODC also facilitated participation by a Brazilian prosecutor, in order to support the training and encourage South-South cooperation.

57. In Mauritius, UNODC supported the Independent Commission against Corruption to develop an integrity management toolkit as part of a public sector strategic framework. The toolkit was launched in June 2016. Also in 2016, assistance was provided to Mauritius to develop a code of conduct for public officials involved in procurement. UNODC convened an inter-institutional stakeholder workshop on the



draft self-assessment checklist for the second review cycle, which took place in the country in July 2016.

58. UNODC also facilitated the signing of an agreement between the Washington and Lee University in the United States and the Independent Commission against Corruption of Mauritius in May 2016 for the placement of an independent professional at the Commission. Two research studies were conducted and published on protecting witnesses and whistle-blowers and on corruption in procurement.

59. At the regional level, UNODC provided continued support to the process of negotiation and approval of the regional agreement on the sharing and return of recovered assets for Central America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with the Community Council of Ministers and the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security of the Caribbean Community.

60. Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau were involved in two regional events in West Africa. The first event was an advisory board meeting of the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, hosted by the African Development Bank in September 2016; the second was a training workshop on international investigative journalism, held in the Sahel region in April 2017 in partnership with the Norbert Zongo Cell for Investigative Journalism in West Africa.

61. A number of regional events were held for Pacific island States under the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, as outlined below.

62. At the global level, a conference for small island developing States on public procurement was held in Mauritius in August 2016. UNODC conducted a workshop for 13 small island developing States, held in Vienna in June 2016, on the protection of whistle-blowers. Identified technical assistance needs and follow-up to implementation review recommendations were addressed with a view to developing targeted action plans.

63. Australia provided information on its support to the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project since 2012. The Project supported small island developing States in the Pacific to better prevent and combat corruption through effective implementation of the Convention and through the design and implementation of related anti-corruption reforms.

64. In particular, the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project had provided assistance to enable States to accede to the Convention, provided legislative support, helped States in the Pacific region to better prepare for participation in the Implementation Review Mechanism and supported efforts to address recommendations stemming from the review. The initiative facilitated the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies. It also supported knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among States in the Pacific region by helping facilitate secondment and exchange programmes among relevant institutions, as well as providing other opportunities for South-South exchange. The project organized regional and national training workshops to strengthen the knowledge of parliaments on the Convention and to provide information on their oversight role in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 16. The project also promoted social accountability mechanisms and the role of non-State actors in combating corruption.

65. For example, under the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, pre-ratification workshops were held in Niue and Samoa, and all 11 States parties from the Pacific region were supported in the self-assessment stage of the Implementation Review Mechanism. Post-review workshops were also organized in many States in the region to help countries prioritize the review recommendations and create an action plan for their implementation.

66. UNODC and UNDP provided assistance in relation to transparency, integrity and accountability, and the rule of law to Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands and

Vanuatu in developing codes of conduct, drafting right-to-information laws and reviewing toolkits.

67. The Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, together with the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption, conducted parliamentary workshops for the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu in order to support the oversight role of those States, establish anti-corruption committees and increase understanding of the Convention. The Project has worked extensively with young people and civil society, holding anti-corruption workshops and the Regional Youth Anti-Corruption Innovation Lab to raise awareness about corruption among young people. The Project has also supported civil society and young people in anti-corruption initiatives in Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. It has further produced, jointly with the Pacific Youth Council, the *Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Advocate's Toolkit*.

68. The Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have received support to develop anti-corruption strategies and policies. Assistance was provided to Kiribati and Vanuatu in the establishment of national anti-corruption committees that coordinate the development of strategies and broader anti-corruption reform. Solomon Islands received legislative drafting advice on a law on combating corruption.

69. Under the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, UNODC and UNDP organized a regional training programme related to anti-corruption investigations and prosecutions and supported a regional training programme to fight money-laundering with the participation of the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga. The Marshall Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu received assistance on that topic. A number of South-South knowledge exchanges were also held under the auspices of the Project, and its annual secondment programme continued, involving financial intelligence units in the region and the financial intelligence unit of Fiji.

70. Further information on technical assistance provided to the small island developing States is available in the note by the Secretariat on technical assistance in support of the implementation of the Convention ([CAC/COSP/2017/3](#)) and the background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of Conference resolution 6/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption" ([CAC/COSP/2017/4](#)).

### III. Conclusions and recommendations

71. The small island developing States are a diverse group of countries that nevertheless face similar challenges in implementing the Convention, owing to their small economies, small geographical size, low population, limited public administration capacity and frequent conflicts of interest.

72. The Conference may wish to recognize the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of Conference resolution 6/9 and propose future measures to be taken by both States parties and the Secretariat.

73. The Conference may wish to highlight the need for extrabudgetary resources to allow UNODC and other assistance providers to continue providing technical assistance to small island developing States. To that end, the Conference may wish to call upon States parties and other donors to reconfirm their commitment to anti-corruption reform in small island developing States, including through individual initiatives, collaboration and the provision of financial means, in particular in the form of multi-year, soft-earmarked extrabudgetary contributions.