



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

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Report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its eighth session, held in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019

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I. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. At its eighth session, held in Abu Dhabi, from 16 to 20 December 2019, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted the following resolutions and decisions and approved the following draft resolution to be recommended for adoption by the General Assembly:

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly

2. The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution

Special session of the General Assembly against corruption

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [54/205](#) of 22 December 1999, [55/61](#) of 4 December 2000, [55/188](#) of 20 December 2000, [56/186](#) of 21 December 2001 and [57/244](#) of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolutions [58/4](#) of 31 October 2003, [58/205](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/242](#) of 22 December 2004, [60/207](#) of 22 December 2005, [61/209](#) of 20 December 2006, [62/202](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/226](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/237](#) of 24 December 2009, [65/169](#) of 20 December 2010, [67/189](#) and [67/192](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/195](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/199](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/208](#) of 19 December 2016 and [73/190](#) of 17 December 2018, and Human Rights Council resolutions [23/9](#) of 13 June 2013,¹ [29/11](#) of 2 July 2015² and [35/25](#) of 23 June 2017,³

Recalling also its resolution [73/191](#) of 17 December 2018, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, in which it decided to convene in the first half of 2021 a special session of the Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation,

Recalling further the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁴ which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and the full and effective implementation of its obligations,

Bearing in mind that the prevention and eradication of corruption is a responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another, with the support and involvement of individuals and groups outside the public sector, and noting with appreciation the endeavours by States to promote their active participation,

Recognizing article 4 of the Convention, according to which States parties shall carry out their obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, and recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015,

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

² *Ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/70/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

³ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Bearing in mind that nothing in the Convention shall entitle a State party to undertake in the territory of another State the exercise of jurisdiction and performance of functions that are reserved exclusively for the authority of that other State under its domestic law,

Noting with appreciation all relevant regional political declarations of States Members of the United Nations against corruption,

Stressing the importance of the special session for preventing and combating corruption and strengthening international cooperation for that purpose by, inter alia, promoting the full and effective implementation of the obligations of the Convention,

Stressing also that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵ addresses the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and concerned about the seriousness of the problems and threats to the stability and security of societies posed by corruption, which undermine the institutions and values of democracy, ethics and justice and jeopardize sustainable development and the rule of law,

1. *Decides* that the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation shall be convened for three days, from 26 to 28 April 2021, at United Nations Headquarters, in New York;

2. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the special session shall be as follows:

(a) The special session shall consist of plenary meetings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.;

(b) The opening of the special session shall include statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the President of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(c) The plenary meetings shall include statements by Member States, observer States, observers to the General Assembly and, time permitting, a limited number of representatives from relevant organizations attending the special session, in line with subparagraphs (d) and (e) below, selected by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, with due regard for geographical balance and gender equity; the list of speakers shall be established in accordance with the established practices of the Assembly,⁶ and the time limit for the statements will be five minutes for individual delegations and seven minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;

(d) Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the special session in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

(e) Recalls the established practice of the General Assembly for the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the special session, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for the meaningful participation of women, in accordance with the established practice of the

⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁶ In accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, if there are speakers from other non-governmental organizations that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, this should be considered by Member States on a non-objection basis.

General Assembly and submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis;⁷

3. *Reiterates* the central role of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to improve the capacity of and cooperation among States parties to achieve the objectives set forth in the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁴ and to promote and review its implementation;

4. *Also reiterates* its invitation to the Conference of the States Parties to lead the preparatory process for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner;

5. *Invites* all relevant United Nations system entities, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, to participate in the special session;

6. *Requests* the extended Bureau of the Conference of the States Parties to organize all actions to be taken by the Conference in preparation for the special session and to address all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended and transparent manner, including by appointing facilitators for the informal consultations on the draft political declaration;

7. *Also requests* the extended Bureau of the Conference of the States Parties, in consultation with Member States, to develop a workplan and timeline to advance consultations on the political declaration;

8. *Affirms* that the intersessional meetings of the Conference of the States Parties on the preparations for the special session will be open to participation by all States parties and observers, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference and established practice;

9. *Reiterates* its request to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide substantive expertise and technical support;

10. *Requests* the Conference of the States Parties to produce, in due time, a concise and action-oriented political declaration agreed upon in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, under the auspices of the Conference for adoption by the General Assembly at its special session;

11. *Also requests* the Conference of the States Parties to hold a special session for the purpose of approving the political declaration for subsequent transmittal to the General Assembly for adoption at its special session against corruption;

12. *Further requests* the Conference of the States Parties to report to the General Assembly at its special session on the preparations that have been undertaken by the Conference for the session;

13. *Reiterates* the importance of an inclusive preparatory process, including extensive substantive consultations, and invites the Conference of the States Parties to hold up to three intersessional meetings, as required, to advance such consultations, encourages organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the preparatory process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect such contributions, including specific

⁷ The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

recommendations on the issues to be addressed by the General Assembly at its special session, and make them available to the Conference;

14. *Requests* the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to prepare a report on creating synergies between the work and outcomes of the special session of the General Assembly and the forthcoming Conference of the States Parties to be held in 2021 and to present this report to the proposed intersessional meetings to be discussed and adopted by States parties;

15. *Invites* all Member States, observer States and observers to the General Assembly to consider being represented at the special session at the highest possible level;

16. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level supporting event on the margins of the special session on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to organize a youth forum to discuss ways for young people to contribute to efforts to prevent and counter corruption, and invites a youth forum representative, selected by the President of the General Assembly, to participate in the special session, including through the delivery of a statement on the outcome of the discussions at the youth forum, during the opening segment of the special session;

18. *Reaffirms* its decision in resolution [73/191](#) to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing resources.

B. Resolutions

3. At its eighth session, held in Abu Dhabi, the Conference adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution 8/1

Strengthening of international cooperation on asset recovery and of the administration of frozen, seized and confiscated assets

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

Welcoming the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁸ which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and its full and effective implementation,

Noting the high-level debate held on 23 May 2018 on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, at which the effectiveness of the Convention as a platform for mobilizing political and public action to fight corruption was reaffirmed,

Reaffirming its commitment to fully implementing the provisions of the Convention in order to prevent and detect, in a more effective manner, international transfers of property acquired through the commission of an offence established in accordance with the Convention and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, bearing in mind that corruption is a transnational phenomenon that affects all societies and economies, making international cooperation to prevent and combat it essential,

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Acknowledging the importance of promoting, facilitating and supporting international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery, as set out in article 1, subparagraph (b), of the Convention,

Noting the efforts of relevant international organizations and practitioner networks, including the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and the International Centre for Asset Recovery, whose activities are aimed at, inter alia, ensuring the effective sharing of information, best practices and experiences in asset recovery and the administration of proceeds of crime that have been frozen, seized or confiscated,

Recognizing the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building organizations,

Recalling its resolution 6/3 of 6 November 2015, in which it urged States parties to establish or strengthen domestic mechanisms for inter-agency coordination and intergovernmental cooperation and to ensure appropriate levels of information-sharing and coordination between competent authorities that have a role in efforts to prevent and prosecute corruption and in asset recovery, including, but not limited to, regulatory authorities, investigative authorities, financial intelligence units and prosecutorial authorities,

Welcoming the progress report on the implementation of the mandates of the Working Group on Asset Recovery, in which the Working Group re-emphasized the importance of asset recovery as an important factor of the domestic resource mobilization required for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommended strengthening cooperation between financial intelligence units, anti-corruption authorities and central authorities responsible for mutual legal assistance at the national and international levels,

Recalling its resolution 7/1 of 6 November 2017, in which it urged States parties to ensure that the information provided regarding their central and competent authorities, in line with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention, was up to date, in order to enhance the dialogue on mutual legal assistance,

Recalling also article 35 of the Convention, which obliges States parties to take measures, in accordance with principles of their domestic law, to ensure that entities or persons who have suffered damage as a result of an act of corruption have the right to initiate legal proceedings against those responsible for that damage in order to obtain compensation,

Recalling further its resolution 7/1, in which it encouraged States parties to make full use of the possibility of concluding agreements or mutually acceptable arrangements for the return and final disposal of confiscated property pursuant to article 57, paragraph 5, of the Convention and to consider the Sustainable Development Goals in the use and management of recovered assets, while fully respecting the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, in line with article 4 of the Convention,

Noting that the effective implementation of the provisions of article 31, paragraph 3, of the Convention, relating to the administration of frozen, seized and confiscated assets, is essential to depriving criminals of the proceeds of their crimes,

Welcoming the preparation by the Secretariat of the study entitled *Effective Management and Disposal of Seized and Confiscated Assets* and the draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets,⁹ and noting the practical benefits of those documents in the framework of improving national legislation and implementing the provisions of the Convention,

⁹ CAC/COSP/WG.2/2018/3, annex.

Stressing the need for States parties to ensure, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, that there are adequate mechanisms in place to manage and preserve the value and condition of assets pending the conclusion of confiscation proceedings and, where appropriate, non-conviction-based proceedings to recover identified proceeds of crime,

Recalling its resolution 7/5 of 6 November 2017, in which it recalled the importance of States parties taking appropriate measures, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of domestic law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental and community-based organizations, the private sector and academia, in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption,

1. *Calls upon* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁸ to take effective measures at the national level to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention, in particular chapter V of the Convention, on asset recovery;

2. *Encourages* States parties to take the necessary measures, in accordance with their domestic law, to implement the provisions of article 31, paragraph 3, of the Convention, relating to the administration by the competent authorities of frozen, seized and confiscated assets, in order to secure those assets or preserve their economic value, and to consider making that process of administration transparent;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to consider, consistent with article 31, paragraph 3, of the Convention, where appropriate and consistent with their national legal systems, the possibility of establishing the necessary human and institutional capacities for competent authorities responsible for the administration of frozen, seized and confiscated proceeds of crime, as well as of improving the national legal basis for ensuring effective regulation of the administration of such proceeds, with a view to the return or disposal of the proceeds of crime, consistent with chapter V of the Convention;

4. *Emphasizes* that the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States should be fully respected during and after the return or disposal of confiscated property, and encourages States parties, where appropriate, to give special consideration to concluding agreements, or mutually acceptable arrangements, on a case-by-case basis, for the return and final disposal of confiscated property, pursuant to article 57, paragraph 5, of the Convention;

5. *Encourages* States parties, in a common effort, to apply lessons learned in all areas of asset recovery cooperation by, inter alia, strengthening domestic institutions and enhancing international cooperation, including through participation in relevant international practitioner networks, such as the asset recovery focal points under the Convention against Corruption, the Global Focal Point Initiative, supported by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, and the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network and other similar networks, as well as regional initiatives, as appropriate;

6. *Calls upon* States parties to consider, with full respect of the fundamental principles of their domestic law and consistent with the Convention, the possibility of improving the effectiveness of domestic inter-agency coordination by, inter alia, developing strategic policies to combat corruption and recover proceeds of crime;

7. *Urges* States parties to consider, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law and in accordance with the Convention, the establishment or further development of inter-agency or intergovernmental cooperation in identifying, tracing, freezing, seizing, confiscating and returning

proceeds of crime which will enable States parties to better detect, deter and prevent acts of corruption;

8. *Calls upon* States parties to consider, in line with international standards and in accordance with their domestic law, with due respect for all the rights and guarantees provided under that law, improving lawful access to relevant information sources, including international databases, which would positively affect the quality and efficiency of the tracing of proceeds of crime, with due respect for personal data;

9. *Encourages* the States parties to consider, with due regard to article 4 of the Convention, within their domestic legal framework or administrative arrangements, the various possible models of disposal and administration of confiscated proceeds of offences established in accordance with the Convention, including, but not limited to, allocating such proceeds to the national revenue fund or the State treasury, reinvesting funds for special purposes and compensating victims of the underlying crime, including through the social reuse of assets for the benefit of communities, including with a view to returning such proceeds of crime in accordance with chapter V of the Convention;

10. *Calls upon* States parties to ensure the effective use of State resources in the process of administering frozen, seized and confiscated assets, where appropriate and in accordance with their domestic legal systems, by deepening internal cooperation between competent authorities and enhancing the capacities of competent authorities responsible for the administration of such assets, with a view to involving them in the early stages of the process of preparing and planning asset seizures;

11. *Welcomes* the study prepared by the Secretariat entitled *Effective Management and Disposal of Seized and Confiscated Assets*, and decides that the Working Group should continue its work by, inter alia:

(a) Continuing to collect information on best practices from States parties, with a view to completing the draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets and updating the study entitled *Effective Management and Disposal of Seized and Confiscated Assets*;

(b) Continuing its efforts to collect information on challenges and barriers that States parties face, as well as best practices in recovery and return of proceeds of crime, with a view to proposing possible recommendations for the full and effective implementation of chapter V of the Convention;

(c) Continuing to provide reports to the Conference on its activities;

12. *Encourages* States parties to further work closely to strengthen the capacities of competent authorities responsible for asset recovery to draw upon and improve the skills of experts on an ongoing basis in order to enhance the identification, tracing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of crime;

13. *Recommends* that States parties, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law and in accordance with the Convention, take necessary measures to develop or establish an appropriate legal framework and allocate the resources necessary to ensure that authorities responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes of corruption, as well as tracing, seizing, freezing and confiscating the proceeds of crime and implementing measures for their return and administration, are enabled to carry out their functions effectively and free from any undue influence;

14. *Encourages* States parties to remove barriers to applying measures for the recovery of assets, in particular by simplifying their legal procedures, where appropriate and in accordance with their domestic law, and by preventing the abuse of such procedures;

15. *Requests* the Secretariat, within available resources, to provide assistance to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the

open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the Convention in the discharge of their functions, including through the provision of interpreting services in the six official languages of the United Nations;

16. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes specified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/2

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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

Recalling article 63, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,¹⁰ which established the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention to promote and review the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also its resolution 3/1 of 13 November 2009, entitled “Review mechanism”, in which it adopted the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and requested the Implementation Review Group to conduct an evaluation of the terms of reference, as well as the challenges encountered during the country reviews, at the conclusion of each review cycle, and to report to the Conference on the outcome of those evaluations,

Acknowledging that continuing the process of evaluation of the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism before the completion of the second review cycle on the basis of the experiences gained in the first review cycle could significantly contribute to useful outcomes, and that this process should be started without prejudice to any subsequent continuation of such work following the completion of the second review cycle, in accordance with decision 5/1 of 29 November 2013,

Bearing in mind the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism, in particular the guiding principles and characteristics of the Mechanism and the functions of the Implementation Review Group, as established in section II and paragraph 44 of the terms of reference, respectively,

Recalling its resolutions 4/1, 4/5 and 4/6 of 28 October 2011, in which it provided further guidance on the Implementation Review Mechanism and on the work of the Implementation Review Group, its decision 5/1 on preparations for the performance assessment of the Mechanism, and its resolution 6/1 of 6 November 2015, by which it launched the second cycle of the Mechanism,

Recognizing that one of the goals of the Implementation Review Mechanism is to promote and facilitate international cooperation in the prevention of and the fight against corruption, including in the area of asset recovery, in accordance with the Convention,

Welcoming the convening of the “First meeting of chairpersons, governing bodies and secretariats of the international instruments and mechanisms devoted to preventing and combating corruption to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Merida Convention)”, held in Mexico City on 14 May 2019, and welcoming also in this regard the high-level debate

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

convened on 23 May 2018 by the President of the General Assembly to highlight emerging trends and promote the effective implementation of the Convention,

Noting with appreciation the continued commitment of States parties to the country review process, which has so far led to the successful completion of 169 reviews under the first review cycle and 29 reviews under the second cycle, and taking note of the information gathered so far through the review of implementation of chapters II (Preventive measures), III (Criminalization and law enforcement), IV (International cooperation) and V (Asset recovery) of the Convention in the course of 237 country visits and joint meetings under both cycles and the training of focal points and governmental experts from 177 States for the review of the implementation of the Convention,

Noting with concern the significant delays encountered in completing the first and second review cycles and how far behind schedule the second cycle is, compared with the projected schedule outlined in resolution 6/1,

Recognizing the endeavour and existing practice of States parties to enhance their cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the context of the implementation review and country visits, while noting that each State party has the sovereign right to decide how to involve such stakeholders in the review process, in accordance with the fundamental principles of domestic laws,

Commending the secretariat and the Implementation Review Group for their immense efforts in the past decade and for operating on the basis of clear, established guidelines for the compilation, production and dissemination of information in the conduct of country reviews, including the submission of the outcome to the Conference, as provided in paragraph 3 (g) of the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism,

Recognizing the success of the Implementation Review Group in identifying good practices and challenges encountered by States parties in the fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention, disseminating the good practices and making efforts to address the challenges and provide technical assistance as needed,

Remembering Dimitri Vlassis, the former Secretary of the Conference and Chief of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, whose vision in the drafting of the Convention and the designing of its mechanisms and whose everlasting endurance in managing its day-to-day operations have brought the Convention to universality,

1. *Commemorates* the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,¹⁰ and congratulates the States parties, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the secretariat, and the Implementation Review Group on their ongoing efforts and the significant progress made to date to conclude the reviews under the first and the second cycles of the Mechanism, which have led to a better understanding of the phenomenon of corruption and its challenges worldwide;

2. *Encourages* States parties to keep using the Implementation Review Group as a platform for the voluntary exchange of information on national measures taken during and after the completion of country reviews, including strategies adopted, challenges encountered and best practices identified, as well as, where appropriate, the follow-up to the recommendations made in the country review reports, while taking into account the need for efficient discussions and decision-making processes in the sessions of the Group;

3. *Welcomes* the important and useful thematic implementation reports, regional supplementary addenda and updates on technical assistance needs prepared by the secretariat for the consideration of the Implementation Review Group, and

encourages States parties, the United Nations and other stakeholders to make full use of those documents;

4. *Encourages* States parties to make their country review reports publicly available, in accordance with paragraphs 36, 37, 38 and 39 of the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the commitment of States parties to the country review process in their capacity as both States under review and reviewing States, recognizes the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the country reviews, in accordance with the fundamental principles of domestic law, and urges them to adhere to the indicative timelines for country reviews, as contained in the guidelines for governmental experts and the secretariat in the conduct of country reviews, and to avoid, as much as possible, delays in the various stages of the review;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to provide to the Implementation Review Group analyses of the time frames associated with the crucial stages of the review process, including statistics on the number of States parties that are behind schedule, with the aim of facilitating a more efficient process;

7. *Encourages* States parties to enhance active participation, including by representatives from competent authorities involved in preventing and combating corruption, in the meetings of the Implementation Review Group;

8. *Calls upon* States parties to further promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, in line with article 1 (b) of the Convention, with a view to facilitating the implementation of article 43 of the Convention;

9. *Welcomes* the secretariat's practice of arranging and facilitating trilateral meetings among States parties under review and reviewing States parties on the margins of sessions of the Implementation Review Group, and encourages States parties to make use of this helpful practice to enhance the efficiency of the review process;

10. *Approves* the set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention as a potentially useful guide for practitioners, prepared in accordance with paragraph 11 of its resolution 6/1 and with paragraph 44 of the terms of reference and acknowledged in its decision 7/1 of 10 November 2017, and acknowledges that, while these non-binding recommendations and conclusions may be used to ensure consistency in the Implementation Review Mechanism, nothing in them is to be regarded as the sole option for the implementation of the relevant articles of the Convention;

11. *Encourages* States parties to periodically update their lists of governmental experts for the second review cycle and to nominate experts for the training courses organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes for focal points and governmental experts participating in the review process, in order to familiarize them with its methodology and increase their capacity to participate in the reviews;

12. *Requests* the Implementation Review Group to continue to hold regular sessions at least once a year, based on an annotated provisional agenda and programme of work issued as early as possible in order to enable the States parties to plan the composition of the delegations and prepare for focused and efficient discussions on the main topics of the session, and, while taking into consideration the directions of the Conference, being able to adjust topics of discussion to maximize the effectiveness of its discussions and work outcomes, subject to the availability of existing resources;

13. *Encourages* the States parties, with the help of the secretariat, to voluntarily share their views in the Implementation Review Group, without prejudice

to the existing mandates of the Group and the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism, on the possible ways forward following the end of the first review phase, and requests that the Group submit its report to the Conference at its tenth session;

14. *Requests* the Implementation Review Group to continue to collect, with the support of the secretariat, relevant information, including the views of States parties, pertaining to the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, with a view to continuing, at the appropriate time, its assessment of the performance of the Mechanism, as provided for in paragraph 48 of its terms of reference and decision 5/1, and in this regard to continue to report to the Conference on progress made, bearing in mind the request in paragraph 5 of resolution 3/1 for the evaluation of the terms of reference at the conclusion of each review cycle;

15. *Encourages* the secretariat to continue to strengthen synergies with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral organizations in the field of anti-corruption, within their respective mandates, to avoid duplication of effort and enhance the performance of the various review mechanisms, in accordance with its resolutions 6/1 of 6 November 2015 and 7/4 of 10 November 2017, and requests the secretariat to report to the Implementation Review Group on progress made in this regard;

16. *Encourages* States parties that are members of different multilateral review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption to support, within their respective organizations and within the governing bodies of those organizations, efficient and effective cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of those review mechanisms and the secretariat of the Conference, while respecting the mandates of all review mechanisms;

17. *Calls upon* States parties and the secretariat to continue to develop and promote the use of information and communications technologies in order to support the implementation of the Convention by the States parties and facilitate country reviews, in accordance with resolution 6/7 of 6 November 2015;

18. *Encourages* the Implementation Review Group to continue to conduct briefings on the outcomes of the review process for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the sessions of the Implementation Review Group, in accordance with resolution 4/6;

19. *Requests* the secretariat to submit a report to the Conference at its ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Resolution 8/3

Promoting integrity in the public sector among States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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

Acknowledging that the prevention of and the fight against all forms of corruption require a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹¹ and the domestic legal frameworks of States parties, including by implementing chapter II and article 36 of the Convention, which, inter alia, require States parties to take appropriate legislative and regulatory measures and ensure the existence of specialized bodies to prevent and combat corruption, consistent with articles 6, 7 and 36 of the Convention,

Highlighting the prominence that the Convention has given to the prevention of corruption as an integral part of a comprehensive approach to fighting corruption, as

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

reflected in the commitment of States parties under chapter II of the Convention to take measures aimed at the prevention of corruption,

Emphasizing that efforts by States parties to implement the Convention are mutually reinforcing and contribute to their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, and recalling all its Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16, which is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Underlining, in view of the ongoing review of the implementation of chapter II of the Convention during the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the importance of the commitment of States parties to building legislative and institutional frameworks, policies, practices and capacities, consistent with the requirements of that chapter, and urging States parties to actively engage in the second cycle to complete their country reviews in a timely manner,

Highlighting the importance of preventing and combating corrupt practices in the public sector and establishing a culture of integrity in that sector, given the severe economic and social impacts of corruption, including the citizens' loss of trust in the public sector,

Recalling its resolution 7/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption", in which States parties are called upon to take measures to enhance integrity, transparency, accountability and the rule of law in public administration, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems,

Acknowledging that sustainable efforts to uphold integrity in the public sector require strategies encompassing the broader public management and governance framework,

Bearing in mind that the promotion of integrity is one of the purposes of the Convention and that it is essential for ensuring good governance and building a culture that is intolerant of corruption,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening integrity in the public sector at all stages of the policy cycle, including, as appropriate, by undertaking a corruption risk analysis of internal policies and procedures in order to prevent, detect and sanction corruption,

Recalling the importance of States parties taking appropriate measures, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental and community-based organizations, the private sector and academia, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption, including the adoption of integrity measures, and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of, and the threat posed by, corruption,

Stressing the crucial importance of technical assistance in building and strengthening capacities and institutions of States parties so as to facilitate and promote the effective implementation of the provisions of chapter II of the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the contributions that relevant international organizations and institutions, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Anti-Corruption Academy, can provide in the areas of technical assistance and training, upon the request of States parties, to enhance integrity in the public sector of States parties,

1. *Urges* all States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,¹¹ consistent with their obligations under the Convention, and in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, to commit to concrete actions aimed at preventing public sector corruption, and to strengthen internal cooperation between anti-corruption bodies and other public bodies, including public agencies and enterprises in adopting and implementing effective public integrity measures;
2. *Encourages* States parties to establish, in accordance with their financial capacity and domestic legal frameworks, customized integrity programmes for public bodies which are compatible with their size, complexity, structure and field of work, with a view to creating a framework for preventing, detecting and deterring acts of corruption;
3. *Invites* States parties to develop integrity programmes in public bodies, taking into consideration their institutional characteristics and responsibilities, and to introduce organizational standards of ethics and rules of conduct capable of, among other things, preventing and managing conflicts of interest;
4. *Encourages* States parties to adopt specific measures to foster integrity in public enterprises and so that those enterprises have mechanisms for effectively identifying, assessing and mitigating corruption risks;
5. *Calls upon* States parties to ensure that public bodies have the mandate and capacity to analyse, evaluate and mitigate corruption risks, and routinely monitor the results of integrity programmes;
6. *Encourages* all States parties to provide the necessary resources, in accordance with their legal systems, as appropriate, for the development, implementation and assessment of domestic integrity programmes;
7. *Urges* States parties to consider adopting strategies to foster a culture of integrity, honesty and responsibility throughout all aspects of public administration and to consider adopting, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, procedures that reflect responsiveness, reliability, regulatory improvement, accountability, transparency and impartiality;
8. *Also urges* States parties to include in the scope of their integrity programmes, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, such measures as are necessary to promote compliance by public officials with applicable standards of conduct, anti-corruption measures and public integrity values in interactions with the private sector, civil society, academia and individuals;
9. *Further urges* States parties to promote effective integrity programmes at all levels of government and to ensure that integrity programmes provide sufficient training and timely advice to public officials so as to enable them to understand and apply public integrity standards, as well as to make available clear and up-to-date information about the organization's policies, rules and administrative procedures relevant to maintaining high standards of public integrity;
10. *Recommends* that States parties promote dialogue within their public bodies, regarding integrity matters, especially through the establishment of channels for discussion and advice on ethical dilemmas and public integrity concerns;
11. *Emphasizes* that senior public officials should take the lead in complying with integrity standards and that integrity programmes should have the support and commitment of senior public officials, who should exercise personal leadership in maintaining effective integrity programmes at their agencies and enterprises and should take necessary steps to foster a culture of integrity among public officials under their management;
12. *Encourages* States parties to enhance engagement of public bodies with relevant stakeholders, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental

principles of their domestic laws, with regard to the promotion of integrity, including by granting relevant stakeholders effective access to information in the development and implementation of public policies in this area;

13. *Also encourages* States parties to engage the private sector in the promotion of integrity in its relations with the public sector, including, as appropriate, by encouraging the business community to develop and implement integrity programmes and policies that set forth clear integrity standards that regulate such relations;

14. *Calls upon* States parties to adopt mechanisms capable of providing effective, proportionate and dissuasive responses to violations of public integrity standards committed by public officials;

15. *Recommends* that States parties, in accordance with article 8 of the Convention, establish channels for reporting suspected violations of integrity standards, including, when appropriate, the possibility of confidentially reporting to a body with the mandate and capacity to initiate or conduct an independent investigation, consistent with article 33 of the Convention on the protection of reporting persons;

16. *Calls upon* States parties to use, when applicable and in accordance with the resources available, information and communication technologies to enhance the effective and efficient implementation of chapter II of the Convention, in line with Conference resolution 6/7 of 6 November 2016;

17. *Requests* the Secretariat, within its mandate, to continue to collect information on the legislative and administrative measures adopted to promote integrity in the public sector, in consultation with States parties and taking into consideration, among other things, the information gathered during the second review cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to make such information available to the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at its upcoming meetings, within existing reporting requirements;

18. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/4

Safeguarding sport from corruption

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

Reaffirming its resolution 7/8 of 10 November 2017, entitled “Corruption in sport”, in which it called upon States parties to strengthen and further coordinate their efforts to effectively mitigate the risks of corruption in sport,

Recognizing the important role played by the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹² in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against corruption in all its forms, and reaffirming its relevance to promoting integrity, transparency and accountability and preventing corruption, including in sport,

Reaffirming that sport is an important enabler of sustainable development, and recognizing the growing contribution of sport to the realization of justice and peace through its promotion of tolerance, fairness and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and young people, individuals and communities, as well as to development objectives relating to health, education and social inclusion,

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Recognizing that sports organizations within the Olympic movement have the rights and obligations of autonomy, which include freely establishing and controlling the rules of sport, determining the structure and governance of their organizations, enjoying the right to elections free from any outside influence and the responsibility for ensuring that principles of good governance be applied,

Recognizing also that corruption in sport undermines the fundamental principles of Olympism, as reflected in the Olympic Charter,

Noting with great concern that corruption and organized and economic crime can undermine the potential of sport and its role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹³

Recognizing the importance of protecting children and young people in sport from potential exploitation and abuse so as to ensure a positive experience and a safe environment that supports their healthy development,

Concerned that the challenges posed by corruption could undermine the potential of sports to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Affirming the invaluable contribution of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, acknowledging the opportunities provided by past Olympic and Paralympic Games, welcoming with appreciation all upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, and calling upon States parties that will host such Games and other major sporting events in the future, as well as other States parties, to enhance measures to address the risks of corruption related to such events,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring transparency and integrity in the process used for selecting locations for major sporting events,

Acknowledging the fundamental role played by States parties, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in preventing and combating corruption in sport,

Recognizing the crucial role of the United Nations in combating and preventing corruption in sport and promoting integrity in sport,

Recognizing also the contributions that other intergovernmental organizations and forums¹⁴ make in the fight against corruption in sport and the promotion of integrity in sport,

Noting that, while the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption is the responsibility of States parties, the promotion of integrity, transparency and accountability and the prevention of corruption in sport are responsibilities to be shared by all relevant stakeholders,

Highlighting, in this context, the contributions of sports organizations and the role of athletes, the media, civil society, academia and other private sector entities in safeguarding sport from corruption, and highlighting also the key role of public-private partnerships in this regard,

Recognizing the continuing importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in combating and preventing corruption in sport, and noting the contributions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to those partnerships,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and corruption, including through the

¹³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹⁴ Such as the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. See also, inter alia, the Group of 20 leaders' declarations of 5 and 6 September 2013 and 8 July 2017.

development of relevant tools and guidance material and the provision of technical assistance, including in the context of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness, and the Global Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime,

Referring to the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime signed in May 2011, which provides a framework for cooperation between the two entities in the fields of preventing and fighting corruption in sport, including through the delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance, upon request,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 73/24 of 6 December 2018, entitled “Sport as an enabler of sustainable development”, and the references made therein to the threat to sport posed by corruption,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/16 of 23 July 2019, entitled “Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies”, in which the Council expressed concern about the risks to youth posed by corruption and crime in sport,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace,¹⁵ in which he proposed an update to the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace,¹⁶

Welcoming the international conferences on the theme “Safeguarding sport from corruption”, held in Vienna on 5 and 6 June 2018 and on 3 and 4 September 2019, noting their contribution towards international progress, and acknowledging their outcomes,

1. *Calls upon* States parties to strengthen and further coordinate their efforts in an inclusive and impartial manner, including under the auspices of the United Nations, to promote synergies between all relevant work streams,¹⁷ inter alia, but not limited to, existing multi-stakeholder partnerships, to ensure the mainstreamed consideration of efforts to safeguard sport from corruption, which will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹³ and to highlight the role of sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace, justice and dialogue during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games;

2. *Invites* States parties, entities of the United Nations system, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and other stakeholders, including sports organizations, federations and associations, athletes, the media, civil society, academia and the private sector, to promote greater awareness, develop their capacity and provide technical assistance, where applicable and upon request, in order to address corruption in sport;

3. *Encourages* States parties to further increase capacity, where possible, to strengthen cooperation between their law enforcement authorities, with a view to more effectively tackling corruption crimes in sport, exacerbated, in particular, by the infiltration of organized crime, and to guarantee, without prejudice to their domestic law, the timely sharing of information concerning corruption, fraud and money-laundering in sport at the national, regional and international levels, and to do so using relevant modern technologies;

4. *Urges* States parties to enforce their national legislation criminalizing bribery and other forms of corruption by preventing, investigating and prosecuting corrupt acts involved in sports, bearing in mind, in particular, articles 12, 15 and 21

¹⁵ A/73/325.

¹⁶ See A/61/373.

¹⁷ Including those on procurement, conflicts of interest, good governance and cooperation between criminal justice, law enforcement and sport organizations, other crimes, misconduct and misbehaviour in sport.

of the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹² and without prejudice to article 4 of the Convention;

5. *Encourages* States parties to enhance cooperation between their law enforcement authorities and sports organizations in order to effectively prevent, detect in a timely manner and counter corruption crimes in sport, as well as to facilitate the exchange of expertise and the dissemination of information, and to raise awareness within sports organizations and the sports community of the gravity of corruption offences;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, building on the outcomes of the international conferences on the theme “Safeguarding sport from corruption”, to hold further international forums in Vienna to raise awareness and promote cooperation among relevant stakeholders;

7. *Invites* States parties to consider establishing a Vienna chapter of the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an informal group of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva serving as a platform to promote dialogue and exchange of views and information on issues relevant to the present resolution, Conference resolution 7/8 and activities and mandates of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;¹⁸

8. *Calls upon* States parties, where possible and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to inform the Secretariat of the names and addresses of authorities that may be able to assist other States parties in developing and implementing specific measures to address corruption in sport;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop, within its mandate, in close consultation with States parties and in cooperation with interested stakeholders, a comprehensive thematic study on safeguarding sport from corruption, including consideration of how the Convention can be applied to prevent and counter corruption in sport, to update training materials, guides and tools for Governments and sports organizations, to disseminate information and good practices and to develop projects and deliver technical assistance, upon request, to support the implementation of the present resolution and further strengthen measures against corruption in sport;

10. *Urges* States parties and relevant stakeholders to address risks to vulnerable groups, in particular children and young athletes, posed by corruption in sport, with a view to promoting healthy lives and principles of integrity and to creating an atmosphere of intolerance towards corruption in junior and youth sport;

11. *Invites* States parties and relevant stakeholders, with a view to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, to actively encourage the greater participation and representation of women in sports-related activities, programmes and initiatives and in sports governing bodies, including by developing robust awareness programmes that address gender-related barriers in sport caused by corruption;

12. *Encourages* States parties and sports organizations, bearing in mind in particular articles 8, 32 and 33 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in conformity with national legislation and in the context of sport, to consider developing reporting mechanisms in sport and establishing effective protection measures for reporting persons and witnesses, to increase awareness of such measures and to make use of the joint publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Olympic Committee entitled *Reporting Mechanisms in Sport: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation* and the publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons*;

¹⁸ See General Assembly resolution 73/24.

13. *Encourages* States parties and relevant stakeholders, including organizing committees, in the course of organizing sports events, to take the necessary steps to establish appropriate systems of procurement, based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making, that are effective, inter alia, in preventing corruption and to make use of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publication entitled *The United Nations Convention against Corruption: A Strategy for Safeguarding against Corruption in Major Public Events*, as well as of its support tool;

14. *Urges* States parties, in accordance with their domestic legal systems, to strongly encourage sports organizations at all levels and relevant stakeholders to promote and enhance ethical practices and transparency in sport, including through the adoption, where appropriate, of term limits for senior officials of sports organizations and by developing and implementing conflict of interest policies, preparing and making publicly available relevant information, including statutes, rules and regulations, annual activity reports and main events reports, annual financial reports and summaries of reports or decisions taken during executive board and committee meetings, election processes and results, and monitoring the implementation of such policies and procedures, and encourages the use by sports organizations of the publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *An Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance Programme for Business: A Practical Guide*;

15. *Encourages* States parties, in order to tackle the problems of competition manipulation, illegal betting and related money-laundering activities, to periodically evaluate national policies, effective practices and national law with a view to determining their efficiency and effectiveness in preventing and combating corruption in sport and to make use of the booklet entitled “Model criminal law provisions for the prosecution of competition manipulation” and the study entitled *Criminalization Approaches to Combat Match-Fixing and Illegal/Irregular Betting: A Global Perspective*, joint publications of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Olympic Committee, and of the *Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Investigation of Match-Fixing and National Anti-Corruption Strategies: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation*, published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

16. *Also encourages* States parties to enhance international cooperation to tackle illegal betting, given its cross-border dimension;

17. *Calls upon* States parties to ensure that organizations involved in host selection operate in a transparent manner and in conformity with the applicable rules and procedures;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide information to the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 7/8 and the present resolution as a possible contribution to his report on the implementation of resolution 73/24 on sport as an enabler of sustainable development, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

19. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/5

Enhancing integrity by raising public awareness

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

Welcoming the commitments of the States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹⁹ to achieving appropriate policies and preventive measures to enhance integrity and combat corruption,

Acknowledging the multiplicity and diversity of approaches to preventive measures, and that such approaches may require context-based, sector-specific and country-specific adaptation, bearing in mind the Convention as a starting point,

Noting the corrosive impact that corruption has on the development of the rule of law, including by undermining the legitimacy and effectiveness of key public institutions,

Reaffirming the need to implement chapter II of the Convention to prevent and combat corruption,

Recognizing that, while the implementation of the Convention is the responsibility of States parties, the promotion of a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability and the prevention of corruption are responsibilities shared by all stakeholders and sectors of society, in accordance with chapter II of the Convention,

Recalling article 7, paragraph 1 (d), of the Convention, in which States parties are called upon to promote education and training programmes to enable public officials to meet the requirements for the correct, honourable and proper performance of public functions, including specialized training to enhance their awareness of the risks of corruption inherent in the performance of their functions,

Recognizing the important contribution of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international organizations and institutions, such as the International Anti-Corruption Academy, in providing technical assistance and training to raise public awareness and enhance integrity,

Recalling article 13 of the Convention, in which each State party is called upon to take appropriate measures, within its means and in accordance with fundamental principles of its domestic law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption,

Convinced that effective measures for the prevention of corruption promote good governance in all sectors, reinforce trust in public institutions and increase corporate social responsibility, in both the public and private sectors,

Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²⁰ and that Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda addresses the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and stressing the importance of target 16.5 to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003 to designate 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day,

1. *Calls upon* States parties to promote awareness of the concept of corruption and point out its dangers and effects, as well as the importance of maintaining integrity and of self-monitoring and the non-tolerance of corruption;

2. *Encourages* States parties to implement article 13 of the Convention, including by promoting the participation of the private sector and academia in the

¹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

²⁰ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

prevention of and the fight against corruption, and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption;

3. *Encourages* States parties to use technological innovations, including e-government instruments, and social media to promote public awareness and disseminate information aimed at contributing to the non-tolerance of corruption;

4. *Encourages* States parties to raise awareness of administrative procedures for accessing information regarding anti-corruption laws and programmes and to make them available to those interested in accordance with domestic laws;

5. *Also encourages* States parties to consider, where appropriate and without prejudice to the protection of privacy and personal data, the use of technology systems to raise public awareness of and provide relevant information on anti-corruption laws and regulations, noting that, in accordance with the principles of domestic laws, such information may include:

(a) Relevant information on the rights and obligations of public servants and the general public;

(b) Information on the evaluation of the performance of government programmes;

(c) The functions, responsibilities and roles of the designated public servants or offices;

(d) The decision-making process for obtaining public services;

6. *Calls upon* States parties to raise public awareness of the use of public communication channels to facilitate public reporting on corrupt practices by highlighting ways for reporting cases of corruption and, when appropriate, publish relevant statistical reports on corruption;

7. *Urges* States parties to increase public awareness of means for reporting instances of corruption, including by disseminating information regarding the rights and responsibilities of whistle-blowers in accordance with domestic legislations;

8. *Encourages* States parties to establish national educational programmes to build a culture of zero tolerance for corrupt practices, as a tool to raise awareness and enhance integrity among young people in order to mitigate risks of corruption;

9. *Also encourages* States parties to take advantage of capacity-building and training programmes provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international organizations and institutions, such as the International Anti-Corruption Academy, to increase public awareness and integrity;

10. *Invites* States parties, through their relevant entities, to raise public awareness of the threat posed by corruption and to launch national awareness campaigns, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their national laws, on the importance of integrity and the dangers of corruption;

11. *Emphasizes* to States parties the importance of raising public awareness of the threat posed by corruption and its consequences by means of public displays, such as billboards, text messages and broadcast advertising;

12. *Also emphasizes* to States parties the need to take appropriate measures to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, so that the conditions are present for their effective contribution to achieving the objectives of the Convention, such as measures for respecting, promoting and protecting the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption, and for civil society institutions and the media to organize and operate independently and without fear of reprisal because of their efforts in that regard, consistent with relevant international norms and in accordance with domestic laws;

13. *Encourages* States parties that have not already done so to designate 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day as an instrument to raise public awareness on the threat posed by corruption.

Resolution 8/6

Implementation of international obligations to prevent and combat bribery as defined under the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of the obligations of the United Nations Convention against Corruption²¹ is essential for preventing and combating corruption more effectively and efficiently,

Noting that those who engage in transnational bribery, whether natural or legal persons, should be held accountable by all States parties, consistent with domestic law and the requirements of the Convention,

Reaffirming that chapter III of the Convention obligates all States parties to criminalize and punish transnational bribery as provided by the Convention, reaffirming also the commitment of States parties to giving effect to those obligations, and recognizing the relevance of implementation of chapters II, IV and V of the Convention in that regard,

Bearing in mind that States parties giving effect to their obligations under chapters III, IV and V would be conducive to dissuading criminals,

Recalling article 4 of the Convention, according to which States parties shall carry out the obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1, by which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and, in this regard, encouraging States parties to remove restrictive measures that negatively impact international cooperation in preventing and combating corruption,

Bearing in mind that nothing in the Convention shall entitle a State party to undertake in the territory of another State the exercise of jurisdiction and performance of functions that are reserved exclusively for the authority of the other State by its domestic law,

Recognizing the barriers and international challenges of States parties in implementing and enforcing the Convention and at the same time finding an appropriate balance between any immunities or jurisdictional privileges and enforcement of the Convention, in accordance with obligations under article 30 paragraph 2, of the Convention,

Recognizing the relevance of chapters IV and V of the Convention to preventing and combating corruption, including bribery,

Welcoming the progress made by States parties in giving effect to chapter III of the Convention, in particular regarding the criminalization of bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, while recognizing that further efforts must be made to achieve full and effective implementation and, in particular, enforcement, of the obligations, and fully respecting the provisions of the Convention by all States parties,

²¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Recognizing the critical importance of effective international cooperation in efforts to detect, investigate and prosecute acts of bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, and recalling article 46 of the Convention in which States parties are mandated to afford one another the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings in relation to the offences covered by the Convention, as well as of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of cooperation in the recovery of proceeds of crime emanating from bribery,

Taking note of the role that the private sector can play in preventing and combating bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, and the importance of promoting cooperation between corruption prevention agencies, law enforcement agencies and relevant private entities in that regard, in accordance with domestic law, while maintaining strong enforcement efforts against those entities that choose to engage in bribery,

Noting the efforts of other international and regional organizations and forums to prevent and combat bribery of national public officials and of public foreign officials and officials of public international organizations,

1. *Calls upon* States parties to fulfil their obligations under articles 15 and 16 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,²¹ in accordance with the Convention and its terms, to criminalize the bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, including the solicitation and acceptance of bribes by a national public official, and to strengthen their efforts to effectively enforce those laws;

2. *Also calls upon* States parties to the Convention to fulfil their commitments under article 26 of the Convention, in accordance with its terms, to establish the liability of legal persons for participation in the offences established in the Convention, including bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, and to effectively enforce those laws with effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal or non-criminal sanctions;

3. *Further calls upon* States parties to the Convention to fulfil their commitments, under articles 12 and 13, to prevent corruption involving the private sector, including the bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, by taking measures in accordance with their domestic law and regulations regarding the maintenance of books and records, financial statement disclosures and accounting and auditing, and calls upon States parties to effectively enforce those measures;

4. *Encourages* States parties to use the outcome of their country reviews to strengthen their anti-corruption frameworks, including implementation of the mandatory provisions of articles 15 and 16, and encourages States parties to consider using the Implementation Review Group to update each other on their efforts to do so, and invites the Secretariat to collect good practices and lessons learned in this regard;

5. *Also encourages* States parties to ensure in particular that all modalities of the commission of bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations (promising, offering, giving, soliciting and accepting), as well as third-party beneficiaries and indirect acts, are criminalized in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Convention and that the subjects of the offence include all categories of persons listed in article 2 of the Convention;

6. *Stresses* the importance of sustained and enhanced political will and the commitment of all States parties, consistent with the Convention, to criminalize bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of

public international organizations and to hold accountable those who commit those offences, noting the importance of international cooperation in that regard;

7. *Encourages* States parties to take all measures to prevent and detect bribery offences under articles 15 and 16, ensuring that, consistent with domestic legislation, information useful to competent authorities for investigative and evidentiary purposes is referred in a timely fashion to law enforcement authorities responsible for investigating and prosecuting such crimes;

8. *Notes* the efforts of States parties to sanction bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations consistent with the terms of the Convention, including through alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements;

9. *Encourages* States parties that are using alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements to sanction cases of bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, where appropriate and consistent with domestic legal systems and the terms of the Convention, to cooperate with all relevant States parties to enhance information-sharing, bearing in mind that doing so will enhance the prevention and prosecution of bribery offences;

10. *Calls on* States parties to ensure that easy, accessible channels and appropriate measures are in place for the reporting to competent authorities of suspected acts of bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations in business transactions, in accordance with their domestic legal systems;

11. *Urges* States parties to encourage their law enforcement authorities, in accordance with their domestic law, to be active in effectively investigating and prosecuting the bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, including acts of solicitation and the acceptance of bribes by national public officials;

12. *Encourages* States parties to conduct training and awareness-raising activities, consistent with articles 7 and 13 of the Convention, to enhance the familiarity of both national public officials and the general public with domestic bribery laws, implementing articles 15 and 16 of the Convention, including laws on the solicitation of bribes, with a view to stopping bribery offences;

13. *Encourages* States parties using alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, to resolve cases of bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations to share information and make public concluded cases, consistent with the Convention and in line with requirements at the national level, and where appropriate, to promote prosecutions consistent with obligations under articles 15 and 16 of the Convention;

14. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and the sharing of information between States parties, in accordance with domestic law, in the detection, investigation and prosecution of cases involving the bribery of national public officials and of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations and those cases involving asset recovery, as set forth in chapters III, IV and V of the Convention;

15. *Emphasizes* that it is crucial to establish jurisdiction to combat bribery offences in accordance with article 42 of the Convention, and urges States parties, consistent with domestic law and as appropriate, to ensure that their competent authorities consult one another and work together with a view to coordinating their actions and resolving conflicts on jurisdiction for prosecution or enforcement in bribery cases involving multiple jurisdictions;

16. *Calls upon* States parties to dispose of and return the confiscated proceeds of crime derived from bribery cases in accordance with their domestic legal systems and article 57 of the Convention;

17. *Encourages* States parties that have not yet done so to consider the Convention as a legal basis for extradition in respect of offences covered by it, when possible, in their domestic legal system, and to endeavour to conclude bilateral extradition agreements and arrangements to carry out, or to enhance the effectiveness of, extradition;

18. *Encourages* States parties to conclude appropriate bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements, for the use of special investigative techniques in the context of international cooperation to investigate and prosecute transnational bribery cases, as set forth in article 50 of the Convention, without prejudice to article 4 of the Convention;

19. *Also encourages* States parties, consistent with domestic law, to transmit information related to foreign bribery, without prior request, to interested competent authorities of other States parties, in line with article 46, paragraph 4, of the Convention, when they believe that such information could assist those authorities, without prejudice to mutual legal assistance;

20. *Invites* States parties to take measures as may be necessary to encourage, in accordance with their domestic law and article 39 of the Convention, the effective cooperation of the private sector with their national authorities in investigations and prosecutions of offences established in accordance with the Convention, including, in particular, articles 15 and 16;

21. *Recommends* that States parties consider, in accordance with their domestic legal systems, establishing confidential complaint systems and effective programmes and measures for the protection of witnesses, experts and victims and reporting persons, consistent with articles 32 and 33 of the Convention;

22. *Strongly encourages* States parties to raise awareness within the private sector on the need to establish and implement appropriate anti-corruption ethics and compliance programmes or measures, and invites States parties to consider, in accordance with their domestic laws, to provide appropriate incentives for the effective implementation of such programmes or measures;

23. *Invites* States parties, in accordance with domestic law, to consider the possibility of providing appropriate incentives for effective cooperation with national authorities in investigations and prosecutions of offences established in accordance with the Convention, including, in particular, articles 15 and 16;

24. *Calls upon* States parties to continue the exchange of best practices and precise information on successful cases of cooperation between different States parties relating to the implementation of articles 15 and 16 of the Convention;

25. *Decides* that the Implementation Review Group should include as a topic for 2020 best practices and lessons learned by States parties in investigating and enforcing their laws implementing articles 15 and 16 of the Convention, including on solicitation, as well as strengthening international cooperation in this regard.

Resolution 8/7

Enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies in fighting corruption

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

Recalling article 65, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,²² on implementation of the Convention, which states that each State party shall take the necessary measures, including legislative and administrative measures, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its domestic law, to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also that the purposes of the Convention are:

(a) To promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively;

(b) To promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and the fight against corruption, including in asset recovery;

(c) To promote integrity, accountability and the proper management of public affairs and public property;

Recalling further article 61 of the Convention, on the collection, exchange and analysis of information on corruption, in particular paragraph 3, by which each State party is required to consider monitoring its policies and actual measures to combat corruption and making an assessment of their effectiveness and efficiency,

Recalling Conference resolution 3/1 of 13 November 2009, by which the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption were adopted,

Highlighting the importance of other relevant multilateral and regional instruments on preventing and combating corruption,

Noting also the holding of the Regional Conference on Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Financial Intelligence Units in Fighting Corruption and Money-Laundering in Africa, in Mauritius in May 2018, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, at which the need to develop effectiveness indicators and a monitoring and evaluation framework for anti-corruption agencies was identified,

Taking note of the communiqué of the above-mentioned Regional Conference, in which participants recommended that the outcome of the Regional Conference be reflected in a formal resolution to be adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its eighth session,

Taking note also of the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies, issued on 27 November 2012, in which the participants of the Jakarta conference called for accountability and the safeguarding of political, functional, operational and financial independence as a means of ensuring the effectiveness of anti-corruption authorities,

Taking note further of the work of the first Global Expert Group Meeting on Corruption involving Vast Quantities of Assets, held in Lima from 3 to 5 December 2018, and of the second Global Expert Group Meeting on Corruption involving Vast Quantities of Assets, held in Oslo from 12 to 14 June 2019, in identifying best practices for strengthening cooperation between experts in order to more effectively prevent and combat corruption involving vast quantities of assets,

Recognizing that increasingly complex and sophisticated methods are being used to avoid anti-corruption measures, and acknowledging the emerging challenges in the fight against corruption and other offences covered by the Convention,

Highlighting the need to coordinate and share the necessary tools, experiences and means of taking up the challenge of more effectively countering different forms of corruption,

²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Recognizing that natural and legal persons that engage in corrupt acts should be held accountable and be prosecuted by the respective domestic authorities, consistent with domestic law and the requirements of the Convention, and that public and private organizations should take anti-corruption measures,

Recognizing also that consistent with article 65, paragraph 2, of the Convention and in accordance with the fundamental principles of a State's domestic law, each State party may adopt measures for preventing and combating corruption that are stricter or more severe than those provided for in the Convention,

1. *Encourages* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption²² to give adequate consideration and resources to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies and agencies with anti-corruption responsibilities, consistent with article 6 of the Convention, in order to meet the emerging challenges in preventing and combating different forms of corruption;

2. *Calls upon* States parties to use the outcome of their country reviews to strengthen their anti-corruption framework, including through technical assistance, where requested;

3. *Decides to include* the issue of enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies in the agenda of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to carry out a study on best practices, lessons learned and challenges encountered by States parties in their efforts to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies, and invites States parties to submit information in this regard;

5. *Also requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, to submit to the Conference at its ninth session a report on the progress made and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the present resolution, for follow-up and review;

6. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/8

Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption

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

Concerned about the seriousness of the threats that corruption poses to the stability of societies by eroding the legitimacy and effectiveness of key public institutions and the values of democracy and by jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law,

Highlighting the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption²³ and the prominence it has given to the prevention of corruption as part of a comprehensive approach to fighting corruption by having its entire chapter II devoted to measures to prevent corruption,

Reaffirming its resolution 6/1 of 6 November 2015, in which it launched the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the review of chapter II (Preventive measures),

²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Underlining, in view of the ongoing review of the implementation of chapter II of the Convention during the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, the importance of building legislative and institutional frameworks and capacities consistent with the requirements of that chapter,

Recalling its resolution 5/6 of 29 November 2013, entitled “Private sector”, and resolution 6/5 of 6 November 2015, entitled “St. Petersburg statement on promoting public-private partnership in the prevention of and fight against corruption”,

Welcoming the progress made by States parties and the Secretariat in the implementation of Conference resolutions 5/4 of 29 November 2013 and 6/6 of 6 November 2015, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, and underlining the need to maintain efforts in that regard,

Acknowledging the crucial importance of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, in strengthening structural, institutional and human capacity and thereby facilitating implementation of the provisions of chapter II of the Convention,

1. *Encourages* States parties to promote universal adherence to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,²³ and urges all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as soon as possible;

2. *Calls upon* States parties to continue and to reinforce the effective implementation of the preventive measures outlined in chapter II of the Convention, including by addressing the recommendations emanating from the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in the resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption to facilitate the sharing of information between States parties on their initiatives and good practices relating to the topics considered at the meetings of the Working Group held in Vienna from 5 to 7 September 2018 and 4 to 6 September 2019;

4. *Underlines* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group at the above-mentioned meetings, and encourages States parties to implement them as appropriate;

5. *Decides* that the Working Group should continue its work to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption and should hold at least two meetings prior to the ninth session of the Conference;

6. *Welcomes* the commitment made and efforts undertaken by States parties to provide information on good practices in preventing corruption that is gathered, systematized and disseminated by the Secretariat in the performance of its functions as an international observatory, requests States parties to continue sharing information, and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue its work as an international observatory, including by updating the thematic website of the Working Group with relevant information;

7. *Highlights* the importance of the Secretariat’s work, in accordance with the agreed terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, on the preparation of thematic reports on the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, as well as supplementary regional addenda, and requests the Secretariat to share those reports with the Working Group;

8. *Encourages* States parties to develop, revise and update, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, national anti-corruption strategies and/or action plans addressing, inter alia, the needs identified during their country reviews and to promote such strategies and/or action

plans as a tool for country-led and country-based, integrated and coordinated technical assistance programming and delivery;

9. *Calls upon* States parties to ensure that anti-corruption bodies have the necessary independence and competence, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, as well as the material resources and specialized staff, and the training that such staff may require to carry out their functions effectively and free from undue influence, in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and to take note of the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies, developed by the International Conference on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies, held in Jakarta on 26 and 27 November 2012;

10. *Reminds* States parties of their commitment under article 6 of the Convention, which states that each State party shall, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, ensure the existence of a body or bodies, as appropriate, that prevent corruption by such means as:

(a) Implementing the policies referred to in article 5 of the Convention and, where appropriate, overseeing and coordinating the implementation of those policies;

(b) Increasing and disseminating knowledge about the prevention of corruption;

11. *Calls upon* States parties to take measures to enhance integrity, transparency, accountability and the rule of law in public administration, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, including through the promotion of effective public service delivery, the use of information and communications technologies and the establishment of measures and systems to facilitate the reporting of incidents that may be considered to constitute offences established in accordance with the Convention;

12. *Urges* States parties to promote the integrity and accountability of their criminal justice systems, including by developing innovative ways of enhancing judicial integrity, in accordance with the Convention and consistent with paragraph 5 (d) of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,²⁴ adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, while bearing in mind the independence of the judiciary, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, and notes with appreciation the assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to States parties, upon request, to strengthen integrity and anti-corruption measures in institutions of the criminal justice system;

13. *Calls upon* States parties to strengthen measures to prevent corruption in the public procurement process and the management of public finances, as well as to ensure adequate access to information, and to promote, as appropriate, the involvement of the private sector in the prevention of corruption;

14. *Also calls upon* States parties to use the Convention as a framework for the development of tailored anti-corruption safeguards, including in specific vulnerable areas, and requests the Secretariat to assist States parties in doing so, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of efforts by States parties to promote, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems, the measures outlined in article 12 of the Convention, which are designed to prevent and, if appropriate, combat corruption involving the private sector, and requests the Secretariat to continue to assist States parties, upon request, in those efforts;

²⁴ General Assembly resolution [70/174](#), annex.

16. *Encourages* States parties, in accordance with their domestic law, to consider taking measures to encourage cooperation between their competent authorities and the private sector and to endeavour to periodically evaluate these measures in order to better prevent and detect corruption;

17. *Also encourages* States parties to consider, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, promoting the development of standards and procedures designed to safeguard the integrity of relevant private entities, including codes of conduct for the correct, honourable and proper performance of the activities of business and all relevant professions, and the prevention of conflicts of interest, and for the promotion of the use of good commercial practices among businesses and in the contractual relations of businesses with the State;

18. *Further encourages* States parties, with the assistance of the Secretariat and in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations, where appropriate, to continue strengthening public-private partnerships in the prevention of and the fight against corruption by, inter alia, facilitating the adoption of domestic legislation or regulations implementing article 12 of the Convention, where appropriate and necessary, organizing opportunities for the exchange of relevant experience and good practices in this field and raising awareness of the principles of the Convention within the private sector;

19. *Calls upon* States parties to promote, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, the adoption, maintenance and strengthening of systems that promote transparency and prevent conflicts of interest and, where appropriate, to make use of innovative and digital instruments in this field;

20. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime under its Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, supported by Qatar, on judicial integrity and education through its Education for Justice initiative, and requests the Office to continue, in close consultation with States parties, its efforts to promote education on the rule of law, anti-corruption and crime prevention and criminal justice in collaboration with other international organizations, as well as with other relevant partners;

21. *Requests* States parties to promote training and education on the prevention of corruption, welcomes the achievements made under the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, in cooperation with relevant partners, to develop comprehensive academic and other educational materials in the field of anti-corruption for universities and other institutions and to support States parties in this field;

22. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide and develop capacity-building initiatives, including new knowledge products, guidance notes on implementation of article 6 of the Convention and technical tools, upon request and subject to extrabudgetary resources, on measures to prevent corruption, to identify comparative good practices, and to facilitate the exchange of expertise and lessons learned among States parties;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of including the prevention of corruption in the broader development agenda, including through the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and other relevant goals of Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁵ and through other initiatives aimed at strengthening the coordination and exchange of such information with development partners;

24. *Encourages* States parties to take measures within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to promote the

²⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption;

25. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue, in close cooperation with multilateral and bilateral assistance providers, to provide technical assistance to States parties, particularly developing countries, upon request and subject to extrabudgetary resources, with a view to advancing the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, including in the form of tailored assistance for participation in the review process for chapter II;

26. *Notes* that a large number of States parties have informed the Secretary-General of the designation of competent authorities that may assist other States parties in developing and implementing specific measures for the prevention of corruption, as required under article 6, paragraph 3, of the Convention, and calls upon States parties that have not yet done so to provide that information and to update existing information as necessary;

27. *Underlines* the importance of providing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with sufficient and adequate funding to be able to respond to the increasing demand for its services, and encourages Member States to make adequate voluntary contributions to the account referred to in article 62 of the Convention, operated within the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund,²⁶ for the provision to developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the technical assistance that they may require to improve their capacities to implement chapter II of the Convention;

28. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at its intersessional meetings and to the Conference at its ninth session;

29. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/9

Strengthening asset recovery to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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

Recalling that the return of proceeds of crime is a fundamental principle of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,²⁷ and bearing in mind that chapter V of that Convention is one of the chapters critical to the successful implementation of the Convention,

Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in the area of asset recovery, including in relation to tracing, freezing and confiscating the proceeds of crime in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and recalling article 51 of the Convention, obligating States parties to afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance with regard to the return of assets,

Taking note of the contributions of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, the International Centre for Asset Recovery and similar initiatives committed to improving the capacity of States to effectively implement the Convention and, in

²⁶ See General Assembly resolution 58/4, para. 4.

²⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

particular, the recommendations made as part of these initiatives to improve the process of asset recovery, as well as the legally non-binding guidelines for the efficient recovery of stolen assets emanating from the Lausanne process,

Taking note also of the draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets,²⁸ developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pursuant to Conference resolution 7/1 of 6 November 2017 on the basis of the study prepared by the Office entitled *Effective Management and Disposal of Seized and Confiscated Assets*, which is aimed at enhancing the effective implementation of article 31, paragraph 3, of the Convention,

Taking note further of the study conducted by the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative entitled *Left Out of the Bargain: Settlements in Foreign Bribery Cases and Implications for Asset Recovery*, which highlights the use of settlements and other alternative legal mechanisms to conclude transnational corruption cases, and the implications of such use for asset recovery,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, committed itself to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, and recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, was the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and bearing in mind that strengthening the recovery of stolen assets and their return in accordance with the Convention will support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming the commitment of States parties, and determined to give effect to the obligations set out in the Convention, in particular in chapter V, to prevent, detect and deter the domestic and international transfer of proceeds of crime and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery,

Reiterating that corruption in all its forms poses a serious challenge to the stability and security of States, undermines institutions, ethical values and justice and jeopardizes sustainable development and the rule of law,

Underlining that the full and effective implementation of relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular with respect to preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, and international cooperation, has a bearing on asset recovery,

Recalling its resolution 6/3 of 6 November 2015, in which it recognized that those who engage in corrupt acts, whether natural or legal persons, consistent with the requirements of the Convention, should be held accountable and prosecuted by the competent authorities, and that all efforts should be made to conduct a financial investigation into assets illegally acquired by them and to recover such assets through domestic confiscation proceedings, international cooperation for the purposes of confiscation or appropriate direct recovery measures,

Recalling also its resolution 6/2 of 6 November 2015 on facilitating international cooperation in asset recovery and the return of proceeds of crime, and reiterating, without prejudice to domestic law, the importance of the spontaneous sharing of information, the expeditious return of proceeds of crime consistent with article 57, paragraph 3, of the Convention and the establishment of practical guidelines to facilitate the recovery of assets,

Recalling further the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,²⁹ in which the international community was encouraged to develop good practices on asset return,

²⁸ CAC/COSP/2019/16, annex.

²⁹ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

Noting the international expert meeting on the management and disposal of recovered and returned stolen assets, including in support of sustainable development, held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 16 February 2017, and the international expert meeting on the return of stolen assets, held in Addis Ababa from 7 to 9 May 2019,

Noting also the Global Expert Group Meetings on Corruption involving Vast Quantities of Assets held in Lima from 3 to 5 December 2018 and in Oslo from 12 to 14 June 2019,

Noting with concern the ongoing problem of the increase in proceeds of crime derived from corruption flowing from developing countries in particular, and the danger that increase poses to the sustainable development, rule of law and security of nations,

Recognizing that States continue to face challenges in the recovery of assets owing, inter alia, to differences in their legal systems, the limited implementation of tools such as non-conviction-based confiscation, as provided for in article 54, paragraph 1 (c) of the Convention, the complexity of multi-jurisdictional investigations and prosecutions, lack of familiarity with the mutual legal assistance procedures of other States parties and difficulties in identifying and exposing the flow of proceeds of corruption,

Recalling that in its resolution 6/2, the Conference noted in particular that a large proportion of the proceeds of corruption, including those emanating from transnational bribery and other offences established under the Convention, were yet to be returned to the requesting States parties, their prior legitimate owners and victims of the crimes, recognizing that since 2014, when the study entitled *Few and Far: The Hard Facts on Stolen Asset Recovery* was concluded, further work to enhance the recovery of assets has been done, and welcoming the most recent initiative of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative to update and collect relevant data regarding asset recovery cases,

Recalling its resolution 7/1, in which it stressed the need for countries to ensure, in accordance with national legislation, that there are adequate mechanisms in place to manage and preserve the value and condition of assets pending the conclusion of confiscation proceedings, with a view to returning the assets in the future, and, where appropriate, non-conviction-based proceedings to recover identified proceeds of crime,

Concerned about the practical difficulties that both requested and requesting States face in asset recovery,

Noting that alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, in accordance with the Convention, have in some cases enhanced the effectiveness of enforcement actions, and mindful that such resolutions should be used in a manner consistent with the Convention to effectively combat corruption and enhance the recovery of proceeds of crime and international cooperation among all affected States parties,

Noting the positive role of international investments and the importance of minimizing opportunities for corruption and transfer of proceeds of crime in this context,

Noting also the growing practice by some States parties of the use of alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, in accordance with the Convention and with domestic law, to conclude transnational corruption cases, and mindful of the need to give due consideration to the interest of the affected States parties,

Noting further in this regard that improving international cooperation, including information-sharing among affected States parties can contribute to combating corruption more effectively in those States parties,

Recalling that in its resolution 6/3, it encouraged States parties to make widely available information on their legal frameworks and procedures, including those used in settlements and alternative legal mechanisms, in a practical guide or other format designed to facilitate use by other States, and encouraged States parties and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue sharing experiences and building knowledge on the management, use and disposal of frozen, seized, confiscated and recovered assets, and to identify good practices as necessary,

1. *Urges* all States parties, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,²⁷ to cooperate to recover the proceeds of crime, at home and abroad, and to demonstrate strong commitment to ensuring the return of confiscated assets, in accordance with article 57 of the Convention;

2. *Urges* States parties to make full use of the asset recovery measures set forth in chapter V of the Convention;

3. *Also urges* States parties to, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, take appropriate measures to promote transparency and accountability in the management of public finances, including recovered and returned assets;

4. *Encourages* States parties to consider establishing effective financial disclosure systems for appropriate public officials, where appropriate and consistent with article 52, paragraph 5, of the Convention, and to consider taking such measures as may be necessary to permit their competent authorities to share that information, consistent with the requirements of domestic law, with other States parties when necessary to investigate, claim and recover proceeds of offences established in accordance with the Convention, in order to promote asset recovery;

5. *Emphasizes* that the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States should be fully respected, in particular during and after the return, disposal and use of confiscated property, and encourages States parties, where appropriate, to give special consideration to concluding agreements, or mutually acceptable arrangements, on a case-by-case basis, for return and final disposal of confiscated property pursuant to article 57, paragraph 5, and encourages States parties to give due consideration to agreeing to measures to enhance transparency and accountability, recognizing that consistent with article 4, States parties cannot unilaterally impose terms;

6. *Urges* States parties, consistent with chapter V of the Convention, to ensure that they have adequate legal and institutional frameworks in place to prosecute corruption, to detect the illegal acquisition and transfer of proceeds of crime derived from corruption, to request and provide international legal cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, to ensure that there are suitable mechanisms in place – conviction-based and, in accordance with domestic law and where appropriate, non-conviction-based – to recover through confiscation the identified proceeds of corruption, to enforce foreign conviction-based and, where appropriate, non-conviction-based orders in accordance with the requirements of the Convention and to ensure that such frameworks are enforced, and encourages technical assistance in this regard;

7. *Encourages* States parties to consider making use of opportunities for cooperation through existing practitioner-based networks, such as the asset recovery focal points under the Convention, the Global Focal Point Initiative, supported by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, and the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network and other similar networks, and information provided at the financial intelligence unit-level in the course of making requests for mutual legal assistance;

8. *Encourages* States parties to, in accordance with their domestic laws and in line with domestic priorities, consider the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³⁰ in the use of returned assets;

9. *Calls upon* States parties to give particular and timely consideration to the execution of requests for mutual legal assistance, including in asset recovery, in accordance with domestic law and the Convention;

10. *Encourages* States parties, where appropriate and in accordance with national law or administrative arrangements, to consider and review the best way to regulate the management of recovered and returned assets with a view to efficiently preserving and managing such assets and to continue to exchange their practical experience with interested States and providers of technical assistance upon request, taking into consideration, inter alia, the draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets;

11. *Encourages* all States parties to participate and offer the greatest degree of cooperation in the existing collection of data and information, including through the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative data collection questionnaire and the self-assessment checklist for the second review cycle, and would encourage States parties to make public their responses on international asset recovery in corruption cases, on a voluntary basis, in order to identify trends in asset recovery volumes and practices, promote transparency and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat, and invites the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to:

(a) Continue to provide States parties with information and knowledge products relevant to the implementation of chapter V of the Convention;

(b) Collect information from States parties on international asset recovery cases in relation to offences established in accordance with the Convention, including on volumes of assets frozen, seized, confiscated and returned; report on the findings to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the Conference at their next sessions, and update the Asset Recovery Watch database;

(c) Continue to maintain and update the database, particularly in relation to alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, in accordance with the Convention, and to provide regular updates to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery;

(d) Study how the use of alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, in accordance with the Convention, taking into account relevant existing information provided, could further promote the effective application of chapter V of the Convention;

(e) In consultation with States parties, and taking into account, inter alia, the information gathered during the first and second review cycles of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and by panels and studies, to continue to collect information on the legal frameworks, legal procedures and judicial actions taken by States to recover proceeds of crime derived from offences established in accordance with the Convention;

(f) Collect information from States parties on the most common challenges in the judicial process with regard to asset recovery, and provide an analytical report to guide technical assistance;

³⁰ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

13. *Requests* the Secretariat to strengthen, as appropriate, cooperation with specialized organizations and institutions, such as the International Anti-Corruption Academy, on developing and implementing training for professionals and practitioners working in the field of asset recovery and the return of proceeds of crime;

14. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to consider organizing an expert meeting, an ad hoc expert discussion or an expert discussion, open to all member States, to discuss the issues of the existence and the extent of corruption and the transfer of proceeds of crime in the context of international investments, with a view to raising awareness of existing issues in this area and promoting the implementation, if appropriate, of relevant provisions of the Convention and other international instruments;

15. *Directs* the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery to:

(a) Continue to collect information, with the support of the Secretariat, regarding the use by States parties of alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, in accordance with the Convention and domestic law, and analyse the factors that influence the differences between the amounts realized in alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, in accordance with the Convention and domestic law and the amounts returned to affected States, with a view to considering the feasibility of developing guidelines to facilitate a more coordinated and transparent approach for cooperation among affected States parties;

(b) Collect information on challenges, good practices and lessons learned, and procedures allowing the confiscation of proceeds of corruption without a criminal conviction from States parties that have implemented such measures in accordance with article 54, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention;

(c) Report its findings on each of these matters to the Conference of the States Parties at its next session, with the support of the Secretariat;

16. *Urges* States parties that use alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, in accordance with the Convention, to resolve corruption-related cases to collaborate, where appropriate and consistent with domestic law, with affected States parties to enhance international cooperation, information and evidence-sharing and the recovery of proceeds of crime, as well as the prosecution of corruption offences;

17. *Calls* upon States parties that use alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return, in accordance with the Convention, to return and dispose of assets in accordance with article 57 of the Convention;

18. *Calls* the attention of States parties to the work undertaken following resolution 6/2 of 6 November 2015, in which the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery was directed to initiate the process of identifying best practices for identifying victims of corruption and the parameters for compensation, and encourages States parties to provide information on existing laws and practices on identification and compensation of victims of corruption;

19. *Directs* the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to sustain the process of identifying best practices and developing guidelines for proactive and timely sharing of information, in accordance with article 56 of the Convention;

20. *Encourages* States parties to enhance international cooperation and asset recovery by interpreting terms such as “proceeds of crime”, in accordance with the

Convention, and “compensating the victims of the crime” in a manner consistent with the aims of the Convention and in accordance with domestic law;

21. *Notes* that, under article 57, paragraph 4, of the Convention, where appropriate, unless States parties decide otherwise, the requested State party may deduct reasonable expenses incurred in investigations, prosecutions or judicial proceedings leading to the return or disposition of confiscated property, and urges States parties to waive or reduce such expenses to the barest minimum, in particular where the requesting State is a developing country, bearing in mind that the return or disposal of illicitly acquired assets contributes to sustainable development;

22. *Welcomes* the outcome of meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, and requests the Working Group to develop a new multi-year workplan to continue its analytical work during the period 2020–2021, designating specific agenda items to be discussed as the main topic for each session;

23. *Requests* the Secretariat, within existing resources, to assist the Working Group in the performance of its functions, including by providing interpretation services in the six official languages of the United Nations;

24. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/10

Measurement of corruption

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

Concerned about the seriousness of the problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention against Corruption,³¹ which is the most comprehensive, universal and legally binding instrument on corruption, and acknowledging the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and its full and effective implementation,

Recalling article 61 of the Convention, in which it is stated that States parties shall consider analysing, in consultation with experts, trends in corruption in their territories, as well as the circumstances in which corruption offences are committed; developing and sharing statistics, analytical expertise concerning corruption and information with a view to developing, insofar as possible, common definitions, standards and methodologies, as well as information on best practices to prevent and combat corruption; and monitoring their policies and actual measures to combat corruption and making assessments of their effectiveness and efficiency,

Recalling also article 63, paragraph 5, of the Convention, in which it is stated that the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption shall acquire the necessary knowledge of the measures taken by States parties in implementing the Convention and the difficulties encountered by them in doing so through information provided by them and through such supplemental review mechanisms as may be established by the Conference,

Noting that, in some cases, the country reviews conducted in the context of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention have observed the

³¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

importance of strengthening statistical data on investigations, prosecutions and convictions, for example through national crime registers or other mechanisms,

Noting also the non-binding nature of recommendations made pursuant to the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³² including Sustainable Development Goal 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and its target 16.5 of substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms, and acknowledging that measuring corruption contributes also to efforts towards sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, in line with article 4 of the Convention, should be fully respected,

Taking note, for the purposes of experience-based measuring of corruption, of the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes* as the international statistical standard for data classification of crime based on empirical evidence, which provides a framework for the systematic production and comparison of statistical data across institutions and jurisdictions, independent of national legal specificities, as endorsed by the relevant United Nations bodies,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/24 of 21 July 2015, in which the Council welcomed the endorsement of the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes* by the Statistical Commission and confirmed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the custodian of the *International Classification*,

Referring to the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/313 of 6 July 2017, in which the Assembly defined indicator 16.5.1 as the proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months, and indicator 16.5.2 as the proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months,

Taking into account that in its resolution 71/313, the General Assembly stressed, inter alia, that official statistics and data from national statistical systems constitute the basis needed for the above-mentioned global indicator framework, and urged countries, the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the Secretariat, including the regional commissions, the Bretton Woods Institutions, international organizations and bilateral and regional funding agencies to intensify their support for strengthening data collection and statistical capacity-building, including capacity-building that strengthens coordination among national statistical offices,

Considering that improving the measurement of corruption through comprehensive, evidence-based and multifaceted efforts to detect and measure corruption-related trends enables a deeper understanding of the phenomenon, contributes to identifying areas, procedures or positions at risk of corruption and to designing and implementing evidence-based anti-corruption strategies and policies, and brings added value to advancing the rule of law, in line with the purposes of the Convention, as defined in its article 1, and to promoting sustainable development,

³² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Affirming the importance of developing an international statistical framework for measuring corruption, grounded in objective methodologies and reliable data sources, recognizing that drawing on a range of approaches and indicators contributes to a more comprehensive assessment of corruption,

Affirming also the importance of such effort also for supporting States parties, upon request, in their efforts to measure corruption in their respective jurisdictions, on the basis of on information provided by the requesting States parties,

Welcoming the *Manual on Corruption Surveys: Methodological Guidelines on the Measurement of Bribery and Other Forms of Corruption through Sample Surveys* recently published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which offers operational and methodological guidance to implement household and business surveys to carry out scientific studies of corruption,

Acknowledging the progress made by States parties in conducting household and business surveys on corruption, including with assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and encouraging States parties to enhance the collection of relevant data, as appropriate,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Statistical Commission and in close cooperation and consultation with States parties, to continue expert-level consultations on identifying and refining methodologies on the issue of the measurement of corruption in order to develop proposals on a comprehensive, scientifically sound and objective framework for the purpose of assisting States parties, upon their request, in measuring corruption, consistent with the Convention, and requests the Office to report to the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption for its consideration;

2. *Recognizes* that such an exercise should include a broad range of data sources, including administrative statistics on the criminal justice response to corruption offences, experience-based data deriving from household and business surveys on corruption occurrence and indicators of risk and vulnerabilities to corruption, taking into consideration the different circumstances of respective countries, as its fundamental purpose is to contribute to the fight against corruption;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to consider establishing and managing, in accordance with domestic law, repositories of crime and criminal justice data on corruption in accordance with the Convention, covering investigations, prosecutions, convictions and non-trial resolutions, including on transnational cases, pertaining to the liability of both legal and natural persons, and to make such information publicly available for little or no cost on a recurring basis;

4. *Invites* States parties to aggregate crime data, in accordance with domestic law, that may be comparable at the international level, bearing in mind the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes*;

5. *Encourages* States parties to consider conducting high-quality sample surveys on corruption experiences following the standardized methodology presented in the *Manual on Corruption Surveys: Methodological Guidelines on the Measurement of Bribery and Other Forms of Corruption through Sample Surveys* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and to voluntarily share the results of these efforts with the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and at relevant meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

6. *Also encourages* States parties to consider working with other stakeholders, including the private sector, academia and civil society, in their efforts to develop methodologies and indicators to measure corruption, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue methodological work to improve the comprehensive, evidence-based and

multifaceted actions undertaken to detect and measure corruption, consistent with the Convention, without duplicating existing efforts, and to provide technical assistance, upon request, to countries intending to conduct surveys and studies on corruption;

8. *Encourages* States parties to share information voluntarily with the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on how they have used the information generated through the corruption measurement methodologies that they have chosen to apply in order to strengthen the policy, legal or institutional approach to combating corruption;

9. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extra-budgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/11

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,

Recalling its resolution 7/7 of 10 November 2017, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”, and taking note with appreciation of the related report of the Secretariat,³³

Recalling also its resolution 6/9 of 6 November 2015, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”,

Reiterating the concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, and that corruption can exacerbate poverty and inequality,

Emphasizing that efforts by States parties to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption³⁴ are mutually reinforcing and contribute to their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, and recalling all of its Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16, which is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/208 of 19 December 2016, concerned about the negative impact that corruption can have on the enjoyment of human rights, and recognizing that corruption may disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged individuals in society,

Highlighting that the fight against corruption should be a priority for the international community, including small island developing States,

Recognizing that small island developing States have specific contextual characteristics that necessitate affordable and sustainable anti-corruption reforms, as well as tailored technical assistance,

³³ CAC/COSP/2019/8 and CAC/COSP/2019/8/Corr.1.

³⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

Welcoming the progress made by small island developing States in giving effect to the Convention, while recognizing that greater efforts must still be made to achieve the effective implementation thereof,

Recognizing that small island developing States, having smaller administrative capacities and limited resources, nevertheless have the same legal obligations as all States parties to the Convention,

Highlighting the importance of preventing and eliminating corrupt practices in public institutions and the public sector in order to build integrity,

Noting that, while the implementation of the Convention is the responsibility of States parties, promoting integrity, transparency and accountability and preventing corruption are responsibilities to be shared by all sectors of society involved in the fight against corruption, as corruption not only affects Governments, but can also have a significant negative impact on the private sector and civil society by impeding economic growth, harming consumers and businesses, distorting competition and presenting serious health, safety, legal and social risks, and underlining the necessity of increasing the efforts of States parties, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention, to prevent and fight corruption involving the private sector, as highlighted in Conference resolution 6/5 of 6 November 2015,

Highlighting the need to improve anti-corruption frameworks and strengthen governance systems in ocean and land resources management in order to protect the environment and livelihoods of the people of small island developing States and enhance and build the inclusive resilience of those States to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters,

Acknowledging the establishment of the Small Island Developing States Anti-Corruption Research Platform by the Independent Commission against Corruption of Mauritius, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for the purpose of research and the sharing of best practices specific to such States,

Recalling the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,³⁵ the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia, from 1 to 4 September 2014, which is of significance to the Pacific island countries,

Acknowledging the Boe Declaration on Regional Security adopted by the leaders of the Pacific Island Forum in 2018 in relation to the Pacific, in the context of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism of 2014 and the “Blue Pacific” narrative,

Welcoming the work carried out under the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, which, as a result of close cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Development Programme, may serve as a model for collaboration on anti-corruption issues among United Nations entities,

Recognizing the important role of regional and international partnerships and the relevance of collaborative learning among small island developing States,

1. *Welcomes* the accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption³⁴ by Samoa in April 2018, and urges small island developing States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

2. *Calls upon* small island developing States parties to the Convention to enhance their active participation in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to make every effort to implement the recommendations arising from the reviews;

3. *Urges* States parties and interested donors, including development partners, to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement the

³⁵ General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

Convention, including those aspects that will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16;

4. *Also urges* States parties and interested donors, including development partners, upon request, and with the assistance of the United Nations and other relevant regional bodies, within their existing mandates, to support the implementation of anti-corruption reforms in small island developing States through the provision of technical assistance at the bilateral, regional and international levels, including by addressing needs identified through the Implementation Review Mechanism or progress reports communicated through various regional platforms;

5. *Urges* States parties and interested donors with relevant expertise applicable to the contexts of small island developing States to share their best practices and lessons learned with small island developing States, upon request, through existing and future bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms;

6. *Encourages* small island developing States to further share with one another information, research, best practices and lessons learned specific to them on the implementation of the Convention;

7. *Urges* small island developing States to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks as part of the steps taken to enhance good governance in the area of ocean and land resources management with the aim of enhancing and building inclusive resilience to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters in those States, with the support of the international community and relevant United Nations entities and regional bodies;

8. *Encourages* small island developing States to continue efforts aimed at building integrity and preventing and eliminating corruption in the public and private sectors, and invites other States parties and interested donors to support small island developing States, upon request, including with the assistance of other development partners and relevant United Nations entities and regional bodies, within their existing mandates;

9. *Urges* small island developing States to promote, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, the private sector, young people and the media, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threats posed by corruption;

10. *Encourages* small island developing States to engage in a whole-of-society approach to preventing and combating corruption, including through broad participation in the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies and policies;

11. *Urges* small island developing States to promote the implementation of the Convention at the regional level, including through greater collaboration with regional mechanisms, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project for Pacific island countries to develop a Pacific anti-corruption vision consistent with the commitment made by the leaders of the Pacific Forum under the Boe Declaration on Regional Security;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit to the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption a report on the progress made and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Encourages* small island developing States to consider the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretariat on strengthening the implementation of the Convention in small island developing States;

14. *Recognizes* the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of Conference resolution 7/7, and urges States parties to continue to support technical assistance efforts focused on the needs and priorities of small island developing States, including assistance with the ratification of or accession to the Convention, and on meeting the legislative and other technical requirements to implement the Convention effectively, upon request, and with the assistance of the United Nations;

15. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extra budgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/12

Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment

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

Recognizing that combating corruption in all its forms is a priority, and reiterating its concerns regarding the seriousness of the problems and threats posed by corruption,

Recognizing also the purposes of the United Nations Convention against Corruption³⁶ and, in this regard, its important role, and that one of its purposes is to promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and the fight against corruption, as outlined in article 1, subparagraph (b), of the Convention,

Recalling the second preambular paragraph of the Convention, in which States parties expressed concern about the links between corruption and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime, including money-laundering, and the fifth preambular paragraph of the Convention, in which States parties expressed their conviction that a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach is required to prevent and combat corruption effectively,

Reaffirming its resolution 7/6 of 10 November 2017, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, in which it called upon States parties to use the Convention as a framework for the development of tailored anti-corruption safeguards, including in specific vulnerable areas,

Taking note of the existing research³⁷ on the cost of crimes that have an impact on the environment,

Noting with concern the role that corruption can play in crimes that have an impact on the environment, which may constitute a growing source of profits for various criminal activities,

Concerned that money-laundering may be used to disguise and/or conceal the sources of illegally generated proceeds, as well as to facilitate crimes that have an impact on the environment, and can generate wider criminality,

Emphasizing that efforts by States parties to implement the Convention are mutually reinforcing and contribute to their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, and recalling the Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goals,

³⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

³⁷ Such as United Nations Environment Programme, *The State of Knowledge of Crimes That Have Serious Impacts on the Environment* (Nairobi, 2018); International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Environment Programme, *Strategic Report: Environment, Peace and Security – A Convergence of Threats* (2016); UNODC, *World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in Protected Species* (Vienna, 2016); and publications of the World Bank.

including Goal 16, which is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Stressing that corruption is a global phenomenon affecting all societies and economies, making international cooperation to prevent and combat it essential, based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, including through the recovery and return of proceeds of crime, and recalling in this context its resolution 7/2 of 10 November 2017, and taking note of the note by the Secretariat on preventing and combating corruption involving vast quantities of assets,³⁸

Noting barriers and international challenges encountered by States parties which negatively impact international cooperation in preventing and combating corruption more efficiently and effectively,

Recalling, in this regard, the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,³⁹ in paragraph 9 (e) of which Member States undertook to adopt effective measures to prevent and counter the serious problem of crimes that have an impact on the environment by strengthening legislation, international cooperation, capacity-building, criminal justice responses and law enforcement efforts aimed at, inter alia, dealing with transnational organized crime, corruption and money-laundering linked to such crimes, and recalling also paragraph 10 (e) of the Doha Declaration, in which Member States undertook to raise public confidence in criminal justice by preventing corruption and promoting respect for human rights, as well as enhancing professional competence and oversight in all sectors of the criminal justice system, thus ensuring that it is accessible and responsive to the needs and rights of all individuals,

Reaffirming that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its natural resources,

Concerned about the corrupt practices facilitating the persisting use of forged or illegally issued permits and certificates or the fraudulent use of authentic permits and certificates to mask trade in illegally obtained natural resources or illicitly trafficked waste, or to launder such illegally obtained natural resources or illicitly trafficked waste,

Acknowledging the central role played by States parties, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption,

Acknowledging also the important contribution made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through the development of technical assistance programmes aimed at or contributing to preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment, including through the production of resource guides for Governments, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders on addressing corruption in the wildlife, timber and fisheries sectors, with a focus on promoting adequate integrity policies and assessing and mitigating corruption risks along the value chain,

Reaffirming that, while the implementation of the Convention is the responsibility of States parties, corruption not only affects Governments but also has a significant impact on the private sector, impeding economic growth, distorting competition and presenting serious legal and reputational risks, and noting that the promotion of integrity, transparency and accountability and the prevention of

³⁸ CAC/COSP/2019/13.

³⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

corruption are responsibilities of States parties, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders,

Recalling article 12 of the Convention, which recognizes the need to prevent corruption involving the private sector, including by preventing the misuse of procedures regulating private entities, including procedures regarding licenses and subsidies granted by public authorities for commercial activities,

Highlighting, in this context, the contributions of intergovernmental organizations and the important role of the media, civil society, academia and private sector entities in the prevention of and the fight against corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment, and recalling article 63 of the Convention, which, inter alia, provides for cooperating with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations,

1. *Affirms* that the United Nations Convention against Corruption³⁶ constitutes an effective tool and an important part of the legal framework for preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment and for strengthening international cooperation in this regard;

2. *Urges*, in this regard, all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as soon as possible;

3. *Also urges* States parties to implement the Convention in accordance with their domestic legislation and to ensure respect for its provisions, with a view to making best use of the Convention to prevent and combat corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment and the recovery and return of proceeds of crimes that have an impact on the environment, in accordance with the Convention;

4. *Further urges* States parties to enhance the application of the Convention, in accordance with its terms, in order to effectively prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption offences established in accordance with the Convention, including in circumstances where they may be linked to crimes that have an impact on the environment, as well as to freeze, seize, confiscate and return the proceeds of crime, in accordance with the Convention, and to consider measures criminalizing the attempt to commit such corruption offences, as provided in article 27 of the Convention, including when organized criminal groups are involved;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to make use, to the greatest extent possible, of other relevant legal instruments available at the national, regional and international levels to tackle corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment, including through legislation related to money-laundering, corruption, fraud, racketeering and financial crime;

6. *Also calls upon* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks, and to promote ethical practices, integrity and transparency, and to endeavour to prevent conflicts of interest, with the aim of preventing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment;

7. *Further calls upon* States parties to ensure integrity throughout the entire crime prevention and criminal justice system, including by promoting integrity among customs and border control services, without prejudice to judicial independence and in accordance with the fundamental principles of the legal systems of States parties;

8. *Recognizes* the importance for States parties, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, of taking appropriate measures within their means, in accordance with article 13 of the Convention and the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of corruption, and to raise public awareness regarding the existence and

causes of, and the gravity of the challenge posed by corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment, and encourages States parties to enhance their capacity in this regard;

9. *Urges* States parties to take measures to ensure that legal and natural persons are held accountable for corruption offences, in accordance with chapter III of the Convention, in particular its article 26;

10. *Also urges* States parties to strengthen cooperation in criminal matters in this regard, in accordance with chapter IV of the Convention, and to afford one another the widest measures of mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings;

11. *Expresses its concern* at the financial flows of proceeds of crime and money-laundering which may derive from corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment, and urges States parties to investigate and prosecute those offences, including by using financial investigation techniques, and to strive to eliminate incentives for the transfer abroad of the proceeds of crime, and to afford one another the widest measures of cooperation and assistance to recover and return proceeds of crime consistent with chapter V of the Convention;

12. *Encourages* States parties, bearing in mind, in particular, articles 8, 32 and 33 of the Convention and in conformity with national legislation, to consider establishing and developing, where appropriate, confidential complaint systems, whistle-blower protection programmes, including protected reporting systems, and effective witness protection measures, and to increase awareness of such measures;

13. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the development of technical assistance programmes aimed at or contributing to preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with States parties and relevant international and regional organizations, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to conduct scientific-based research on the topics identified in the scope of this resolution and to report to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption;

15. *Encourages* States parties, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to take measures to assess and mitigate corruption risks along the value chains in order to prevent and counter offences covered by the Convention, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support States parties, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, in this regard;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the publication by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of resource guides for Governments and other stakeholders on addressing corruption in the wildlife, timber and fisheries sectors, with a focus on assessing and mitigating corruption risks along the value chain, encourages States parties to make use of those tools, and invites the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue developing similar guides on addressing corruption in other economic sectors related to the management of natural resources and waste, in accordance with its mandate;

17. *Invites* States parties to provide information to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the issues contained in the present resolution, in the interests of identifying appropriate technical assistance needs and, together with the Office, to consider the possibility of whether and how the Office can assist in collecting appropriate information on institutional policy and programme-related developments regarding efforts to prevent and fight corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment;

18. *Also invites* States parties to share with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for further dissemination through the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime and use in capacity-building training, their legislation and case laws regarding corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment;

19. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue, in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations, partners and donors and in close consultation with States parties, to develop technical assistance programmes, research, studies, training materials, guides and tools for Governments, and to disseminate information and good practices, which could help to inform possible future measures to prevent and combat corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment;

20. *Welcomes*, consistent with article 63 of the Convention, the work done by other relevant regional and international organizations and mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment;

21. *Urges* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue its ongoing cooperation with the other members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and to strengthen its cooperation and coordination with other relevant international and regional organizations in providing States parties with support and technical assistance, upon request, as well as data and analyses, for preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment;

22. *Requests* the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to report, within existing resources, on the implementation of the present resolution to the Conference at its ninth session and to its relevant subsidiary bodies;

23. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/13

Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption

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

Concerned about the negative effects of corruption on the stability and security of societies, the effectiveness of institutions, the rule of law and sustainable development,

Convinced that a comprehensive, balanced and multifaceted approach is indispensable for the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁴⁰

Convinced also of the importance of timely, adequate, effective and, where possible, long-term, sustainable technical assistance for the implementation of the Convention, including through the targeted capacity-building of the States parties' institutions involved in the implementation of anti-corruption measures,

Bearing in mind that the effective implementation of the Convention through the promotion and strengthening of efforts to prevent and combat corruption is the responsibility of all States parties and that the support and participation of individuals

⁴⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

and groups outside the public sector will make those efforts more efficient and effective,

Reaffirming the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility for wrongdoing, including criminal wrongdoing, and equality before the law, and the need to safeguard integrity and foster a culture of rejection of corruption,

Taking note with appreciation of the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts⁴¹ and the Mexico Declaration on Supreme Audit Institutions Independence,⁴² adopted by, respectively, the Ninth and Nineteenth Congresses of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, held in Lima in October 1977, and in Mexico City in November 2007, and the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, signed on 30 July 2019, which provides a framework for cooperation between the two institutions in preventing and combating corruption,

Stressing the key role played by the supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption, in particular with regard to promoting integrity, accountability, transparency and the proper management of public affairs and public property, as well as the efficient use of public resources, and recalling, in this regard, the importance of protecting and safeguarding and enhancing the necessary independence of those institutions, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the legal systems of States parties, to enable them to carry out their functions effectively and free from any undue influence,

Reaffirming article 63, paragraph 4, of the Convention, which provides, inter alia, for facilitating the exchange of information between States parties on patterns and trends of corruption and on successful practices in preventing and combating corruption, including through the dissemination of relevant information as mentioned in that article, for cooperating with international organizations and mechanisms, as well as regional organizations, and for making use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [66/209](#) of 22 December 2011 and [69/228](#) of 19 December 2014, on promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions,

Noting the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴³ including Sustainable Development Goal 16, which is aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Convention, other anti-corruption commitments undertaken by the States parties, and the Sustainable Development Goals, among other factors, may benefit from the effective use of new developments in technology,

Recognizing the meeting of the supreme audit institutions and the specialized anti-corruption bodies, which was held in Abu Dhabi on 14 and 15 December 2019, prior to the eighth session of the Conference, and which was organized by the State Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions,

Noting the implementation of Conference resolutions 6/7 of 6 November 2015, entitled “Promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the

⁴¹ Adopted by the Ninth Congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, Lima, 17–26 October 1977.

⁴² Adopted by the Nineteenth Congress of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, Mexico City, 5–10 November 2007.

⁴³ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, and 6/8 of 6 November 2015, entitled “Prevention of corruption by promoting transparent, accountable and efficient public service delivery through the application of best practices and technological innovations”,

Reaffirming its resolution 5/5 of 29 November 2013, entitled “Promotion of the contribution of young people and children in preventing corruption and fostering a culture of respect for the law and integrity”,

Noting the efforts made by States parties to encourage the contribution of young people to the prevention of corruption and to promote a culture of respect for the law and integrity,

1. *Encourages* States parties to promote, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, the independence of their supreme audit institutions, which is essential to the performance of their duties, and, in accordance with domestic law, and, where appropriate, to implement policies for the effective operation of the supreme audit institutions in accordance with the principles and standards formulated by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, in particular with regard to ensuring the proper management of public finances and public property, and in areas such as public procurement;

2. *Urges* States parties, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁴⁰ subject to the fundamental principles of their legal systems and where appropriate, to take measures to promote transparency and accountability in the management of public finances, including through a system of accounting and auditing standards and related oversight, and highlights in this regard the important role of the supreme audit institutions in examining, periodically or as necessary, the applicable financial and accounting frameworks and procedures, in order to determine their effectiveness in the fight against corruption;

3. *Also urges* States parties to ensure that the audited entities respond to the findings of the audit reports, implement the recommendations of the supreme audit institutions and take appropriate corrective action, including criminal prosecution, to ensure the proper management of public affairs and public property with a view to enhancing the fight against corruption for the benefit of society;

4. *Encourages* States parties, in accordance with their domestic law and where appropriate, to involve the supreme audit institutions and the internal audit units in their country reviews under the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular in relation to the review of the implementation of chapter II, on preventive measures, including in the country visits, where applicable;

5. *Also encourages* States parties to promote integrity and honesty through the application of codes of conduct in the supreme audit institutions and to consider aligning, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, these codes of conduct with the Code of Ethics promulgated by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, where appropriate, to promote compliance with the highest standards of professional ethics and to prevent conflicts of interest;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of developing and implementing or maintaining effective anti-corruption policies, that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability within their jurisdiction, and notes that increasing trust in supreme audit institutions, anti-corruption bodies and governmental and public institutions as a whole plays an important role in those efforts;

7. *Encourages* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems and with due respect for the independence of both national legislatures and supreme audit institutions, to build and strengthen relations between national legislatures and supreme audit institutions, and to encourage national legislatures to be aware of the findings of supreme audit institutions so that they may be taken into account when exercising parliamentary functions, in order to ensure the proper management of public affairs and public property, for the benefit of the society;

8. *Calls upon* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to strengthen the national, regional and international coordination and cooperation among the bodies involved in the prevention of and fight against corruption, to afford one another, without delay, effective mutual legal assistance, and to take meaningful steps to facilitate effective cooperation and remove barriers, consistent with article 46 of the Convention;

9. *Encourages* States parties, where applicable, in accordance with their legal systems and where appropriate, to improve the exchange of information between anti-corruption bodies, supreme audit institutions and other governmental bodies operating in the field of combating corruption, including for consultative purposes, and to consider publishing periodic reports on the risks of corruption in public administration, taking into account the findings of both the anti-corruption bodies and the supreme audit institutions;

10. *Invites* States parties to further share their experience in ensuring proper management of public finances and public property, and exchange information on the role of their supreme audit institutions in this regard, also utilizing the meetings of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption;

11. *Encourages* States parties, where appropriate and consistent with their domestic legal frameworks, and mindful of the need to protect the rights or reputations of others, national security or *ordre public*, to seek to utilize information and communications technologies to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, to strengthen public awareness and to promote transparency and public reporting in areas such as public procurement, the management of public finances, and asset and interest disclosure, with a view to facilitating the reporting and detecting of acts of corruption and to supporting the criminal prosecution of corruption related offences;

12. *Also encourages* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, and consistent with article 13 of the Convention, to continue their efforts to raise awareness of the dangers associated with corruption, including through educational and training programmes for young people and by engaging with relevant individuals and groups outside the public sector such as civil society, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and academia;

13. *Further encourages* States parties to continue their efforts, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to engage society in the development of policies, strategies, tools and programmes to prevent and combat corruption;

14. *Requests* the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption to include, as a topic for discussion at its future meetings, strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with bilateral and multilateral technical assistance providers, to continue to provide technical assistance to States parties, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, in implementing the relevant provisions of the present resolution;

16. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes specified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

Resolution 8/14

Promoting good practices in relation to the role of national parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and combating corruption in all its forms

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

Recognizing that corruption is a major challenge affecting all humankind, and that preventing and combating corruption in all its forms and manifestations is a priority for the international community,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁴⁴ which is aimed at, inter alia, promoting and strengthening measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively,

Recalling previous resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties in which the Conference emphasized that the fight against all forms of corruption requires a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, including regulatory frameworks and strong, independent institutions with the competence and capacity to prevent and combat corruption at all levels,

Stressing that corruption seriously jeopardizes the efforts of States to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴⁵ including Sustainable Development Goal 16, to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Expressing appreciation for the crucial role played by parliaments and other legislative bodies in supporting the implementation of the Convention, including by enacting appropriate legislation on, inter alia, preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, technical assistance and information exchange among States, as well as ensuring effective review or oversight, where appropriate, to prevent and combat corruption at all levels,

Noting that the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in the fight against corruption may be expressed by various means beyond legislation, such as the development of internal procedures for the work of the parliaments and other legislative bodies and the activities of legislators in the public sphere,

Emphasizing the importance of the exchange of information and good practices among parliaments and other legislative bodies for strengthening capacity and mutual cooperation to effectively fight corruption,

1. *Urges* States parties to take effective measures, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems and the relevant obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁴⁴ to support the role and strengthen the capacity of parliaments and other legislative bodies to prevent and combat corruption, including in areas where they have a mandate for review or oversight;

2. *Encourages* States parties to identify and implement any legislative or other measures that may be necessary to implement the Convention and address relevant recommendations emerging from the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

⁴⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

⁴⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

3. *Also encourages* States parties to strengthen interparliamentary dialogue and cooperation, including in coordination with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and similar organizations, as appropriate, to promote the exchange of good practices relating to legislation, review and oversight controls in the fight against corruption, and to consider implementing those good practices in domestic law;

4. *Further encourages* States parties to recognize the important role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in strengthening the implementation of the Convention, with a view to effectively preventing and combating corruption in all its forms and preventing money-laundering related to corruption by, inter alia, promoting transparency and accountability in the management of public finances, exercising budget oversight, criminalizing corruption offences and facilitating the asset recovery process, in accordance with chapter V of the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption to include the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in strengthening the implementation of the Convention as a topic on the agenda for its twelfth meeting, and to invite the Inter-Parliamentary Union and similar organizations to participate in a thematic panel discussion on the topic;

6. *Encourages* States parties, in the framework of their preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in 2021, to address the strengthening of the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and combating corruption in all its forms, while duly respecting the independence of the legislative authorities;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, on the basis of information provided by States parties and relevant organizations, a compendium of good practices in relation to the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and combating corruption, in order to promote the exchange of good practices and national experiences among parliamentary institutions;

8. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present resolution at its ninth session, in 2021.

C. Decision

4. At its eighth session, the Conference adopted the following decision:

Decision 8/1

Extension of the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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

Reaffirming its resolution 3/1 of 13 November 2009, which constitutes the basic foundation document for the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Reaffirming also the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism, and in particular the guiding principles and characteristics of the Mechanism, as enshrined in chapter II of the terms of reference,

Taking note of the delays incurred during the second cycle and the estimated time required for its completion,

Noting that, pursuant to paragraphs 13 and 47 of the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism and consistent with Conference resolution 3/1 and resolution 6/1 of 6 November 2015, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption shall establish the phases and cycles of the review and determine the duration of each cycle:

(a) Decides to extend the duration of the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by three years, that is, until June 2024, to allow for the completion of country reviews under that cycle;

(b) Calls upon the States parties to accelerate the completion of the second cycle.

II. Introduction

5. In its resolution 58/4, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Convention entered into force on 14 December 2005. In article 63, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was established, to improve the capacity of and cooperation between States parties to achieve the objectives set forth in the Convention and to promote and review its implementation.

III. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

6. The Conference held its eighth session in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019. The Conference had resources at its disposal to provide for 20 meetings with interpretation into the official languages of the United Nations.

7. An opening ceremony was held before the formal opening of the Conference, with the participation of the Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the President of the State Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates, Harib Saeed al-Amimi, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

8. The Executive Director of UNODC conveyed a message to the Conference on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in which the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, referred to the need for the international community to unite against corruption in order to stop the drain of resources caused by illicit financial flows, as the international community was entering the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretary-General referred to the first-ever special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in 2021, and urged the Conference to take decisive action to make the fight against corruption a priority. He noted that large-scale corruption was only possible because of enablers in the global financial system and loopholes that allowed assets to be moved across borders and public funds to be laundered, and that international cooperation to address this issue was fundamental.

9. The President of the State Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates welcomed delegations to the eighth session of the Conference and said that his Government was keen to cooperate with the international community in preventing and combating corruption and recovering stolen assets, and to enforce national legislation against corruption offences. He emphasized the importance of preventing the negative impact of corruption on development, stability and security and, in that

regard, also referred to corruption in the public sector, which affected the level of services provided to citizens. He noted that corruption was a transnational crime, which disrupted stability, peace and political and social infrastructures. He emphasized the importance of the Convention as an international legal and strategic framework aimed at preventing and combating corruption and strengthening cooperation and coordination among States. He noted that the Conference provided a forum that allowed States to undertake joint efforts in tackling and preventing corruption and referred to the forthcoming preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption. He also noted the need to improve cooperation between State audit institutions and anti-corruption authorities and, in that regard, referred to the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions and UNODC.

10. During the formal opening, the outgoing President of the Conference, María Consuelo Porrás Argueta (Guatemala), made an opening statement.

11. The President of the Conference at its eighth session, Harib Saeed al-Amimi (United Arab Emirates), also made an opening statement.

12. The Executive Director of UNODC emphasized that combating corruption offered a key to unlocking progress towards ending poverty and inequality, protecting health and the planet and strengthening justice and the rule of law, and he noted the role of the Conference in advancing efforts to achieve those global goals. He noted that the Convention represented a primary weapon in fighting corruption, including through its Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which had contributed to strengthening cooperation and coordination among countries. The Executive Director stressed that the Conference would further strengthen anti-corruption efforts in areas ranging from prevention and asset recovery to measuring corruption, harnessing technology and engaging stakeholders. He referred to the forthcoming preparations for the first special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in 2021, and noted that the special session would provide the opportunity to agree on new approaches and seek innovative solutions in addressing threats posed by corruption to States. Moreover, the Executive Director noted that UNODC would contribute to further advancing the global action against corruption during the period leading up to the special session, including through the United Nations system-wide task force established by the Secretary-General. The Executive Director also paid special tribute to Dimitri Vlassis, who had led the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC for many years.

B. Election of officers

13. At its 1st meeting, on 16 December 2019, the Conference elected by acclamation Harib Saeed al Amimi (United Arab Emirates) as President of the Conference.

14. At the 1st and 8th meetings, on 16 and 19 December, the following Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur were elected by acclamation:

<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Vivian N.R. Okeke (Nigeria)
	Ondrej Gavalec (Slovakia)
	Christine M. Cline (United States of America)
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Germán Andrés Calderón Velásquez (Colombia)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

15. Also at its 1st meeting, the Conference adopted the following agenda for its eighth session:

1. Organizational matters:

- (a) Opening of the eighth session of the Conference;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
 - (d) Participation of observers;
 - (e) Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials;
 - (f) General discussion.
2. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
 3. Technical assistance.
 4. Prevention.
 5. Asset recovery.
 6. International cooperation.
 7. Special session of the General Assembly against corruption.
 8. Other matters:
 - (a) Implementation of article 63, subparagraphs 4 (c) and (d), concerning cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations and appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for combating and preventing corruption, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work;
 - (b) Status of ratification of and notification requirements under the Convention.
 - (c) Any other matters, including consideration of the venue for the tenth session of the Conference.
 9. Provisional agenda for the ninth session.
 10. Adoption of the report.

D. Attendance

16. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the eighth session of the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand,

Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

17. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, was represented at the session.

18. The following observer State was also represented: Tonga.

19. The following Secretariat units, United Nations entities, funds and programmes, institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented by observers: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (United Arab Emirates), Basel Institute on Governance, International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

20. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: African Development Bank Group, African Union, Asian Development Bank, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Council of Europe International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and World Customs Organization.

21. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented by observers: African Network for Environment and Economic Justice, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Centre for Civil and Political Rights, Centre for Democracy and Development, Empathetic Activism Related to Humanity (EARTH), Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption, HEDA Resource Centre, International Bar Association, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Peace Worldwide, Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific, Social Watch/Contrôle citoyen au Bénin, Transparency International, World Justice Project and World Wide Fund for Nature International.

22. In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the Secretariat circulated a list of relevant non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that had applied for observer status. Invitations were subsequently sent by the Secretariat to relevant non-governmental organizations. The following other relevant non-governmental organizations were represented by observers at the eighth session of the Conference: Advance South Sudan, African Institute of Corporate Citizenship, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Centro de Estudos em Administração Pública e Governo, Coalition contre la corruption en Mauritanie, Construisons ensemble le monde, Endale Edith Foundation, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, International Fishermen Development Trust, International Forum on Crime and Criminal Law in the Global Era, Libyan Transparency Association, Local Community Development Association, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Society for Human Rights and Prisoners' Aid, The Bulletin of Anti-Corruption Expert Review, Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan, Transparency International Zimbabwe, UNCAC Coalition and World Economic Forum Partnering against Corruption Initiative.

23. On 20 December 2019, when the Conference continued its consideration of item 1 (d), entitled "Participation of observers", the President referred to the Conference a recommendation by the Bureau (a) to uphold the objection to the participation of a non-governmental organization based on the reason provided, namely that the non-governmental organization was not in compliance with domestic legislation; and (b) not to uphold the objections received to the participation of

four non-governmental organizations.⁴⁶ That recommendation was based on the fact that those four non-governmental organizations were not based on the territory of the objecting State and that the States parties where those non-governmental organizations were located had raised no objections to their participation. Moreover, the President referred to the recommendation by the Bureau that a process commence, under the guidance of the extended Bureau of the Conference, to develop further guidance on this matter to the Conference at its future sessions. The President asked whether the Conference was in line with the recommendation by the Bureau and no objections were raised.

24. When the Conference considered item 10, entitled “Adoption of the report”, on 20 December 2019, one speaker noted that the contribution of relevant non-governmental organizations, including those with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and those organizations whose activities were relevant and were conducted in line with the principles of the United Nations, was beneficial. He also noted that, at the same time, the review of implementation of the Convention was conducted by States parties and that the objectives set forth in the Convention could be achieved only through effective cooperation among States, through such conferences. He added that States parties should therefore exercise utmost care to ensure that they did not set a precedent that would impair much-needed solidarity and cooperation among them, in particular on the matter of the participation of non-governmental organizations whose activities were considered by States parties not to be fully in compliance with the principles of the United Nations, since such a precedent would make future conferences unworkable.

25. Another speaker expressed concern about the process used by the Bureau to make the recommendation and also the grounds used to reject the objections to the participation of the four non-governmental organizations. He asked for an explanation and clarification on why the recommendation was made so late on Friday and questioned the logic of the grounds used by the Bureau to overrule the objection of States parties, which in fact created a situation in which States parties could not object to any non-governmental organization not based in their own territories. He also referred to the rules of procedure of the Conference and, in reference to the process for developing, under the guidance of the extended Bureau, further guidance on this matter, emphasized, *inter alia*, that his delegation would closely monitor developments in that regard. He also emphasized that States parties should play the main role in such matters and that their opinions should be fully respected. Moreover, he noted that there were significant differences between the way the General Assembly (where a process based on non-objection was in place) and the Conference dealt with such matters and that the practice established by the General Assembly was the appropriate way forward.

26. Another speaker requested an explanation from the secretariat on the past practice referenced in paragraph 23, above, and stressed that the rules of procedure of the Conference did not cover reasons such as the ones given by the extended Bureau for its recommendation to reject the objections to the four above-mentioned non-governmental organizations. He also noted that the rules of procedure were satisfactory as they stood and that they should not be revised at the present stage. The speaker, noting that the meetings and recommendations of the extended Bureau were carried out without sufficient transparency, suggested that States parties did not have the full information in that regard.

27. One speaker expressed the view that Governments needed to involve civil society, the private sector and academia in anti-corruption efforts, as provided for in

⁴⁶ The following non-governmental organizations were subsequently issued invitations to participate in the session of the Conference: the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, the International State Crime Initiative of Queen Mary University of London, the Expert Forum Association (Romania) and the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency.

the rules of procedure and as recognized in the Convention. In this respect, several speakers expressed support for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the sessions of the Conference in the future and increased transparency on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference.

28. A number of other speakers requested clarifications on the above-mentioned process underlying the guidance of the extended Bureau as well as on the matter of past practice.

29. The States parties in which the non-governmental organizations were based noted that they had not objected to the participation of those non-governmental organizations and that it was not clear what the grounds for objections to the participation of those non-governmental organizations were and requested additional information on the matter. In that regard, one speaker noted that clear guidelines on the participation of non-governmental organizations should be developed for the next session of the Conference.

30. Several speakers emphasized that paragraph 23 reflected both the discussion that had taken place under the appropriate agenda item on 19 December, and the decision taken by the Conference, to which no objection had been made at the time of adoption. They stressed that the decision had been made by the Conference to be in line with the recommendation made by the Bureau and welcomed the decision of the Conference.

31. Some speakers emphasized that the recommendation made by the Bureau was not transparent and interested States parties had not been involved. They expressed regret that States parties had not received the necessary information regarding the discussion of the Bureau.

32. Some speakers noted that they had never received the outcome of the meeting of the extended Bureau and that paragraph 23 should be deleted in its entirety, given the lack of transparency.

33. Some speakers noted that the outcome of the meeting of the extended Bureau, containing its recommendation on this matter, had been circulated by the Secretariat to the members of the extended Bureau and the chairs of the regional groups prior to the matter being taken up in the plenary.

34. One speaker noted that the rules of procedure allowed for the reconsideration of decisions taken at the same session but that no speaker had submitted a motion to reconsider.

35. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC referred to the rules of procedure of the Conference and noted that in the past, in similar situations, the matter had been referred by the Bureau to the Conference. He recalled that on the first day of the Conference, the President had informed the Conference that the matter of the objections would be further discussed by the extended Bureau at its meeting on 16 December 2019. At that meeting, the extended Bureau had decided that it required more information, which was provided to it at its meeting on 19 December 2019 and which served as the basis for its recommendation. At that meeting, the extended Bureau had also recognized that clarity was needed on how to deal with objections submitted by States. He also commented that the rules of procedure were quite simple, and the only guidance given in them was to refer the objection to the Conference for a decision.

36. The Secretary of the Conference clarified that information on the recommendation made by the extended Bureau of the Conference had been included in the outcome of the meeting of the extended Bureau, which had been circulated by the Secretariat to the members of the extended Bureau and the chairs of the regional groups on 19 December 2019.

37. The President of the Conference recalled, *inter alia*, the recommendation made by the Bureau, and that the views expressed during the adoption of the report would be reflected in the report on the session of the Conference.

38. Subsequently, the Conference acknowledged that no consensus could be reached on the part of the report reflecting this discussion and expressed regret at the lack of agreement.

E. Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials

39. Rule 19 of the rules of procedure provides that the Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials of representatives and submit its report to the Conference. Rule 20 provides that, pending a decision of the Bureau upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session. Any representative of a State party to whose admission another State party has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives of States parties until the Bureau has reported and the Conference has taken its decision.

40. The Bureau informed the Conference that, of the 156 States parties represented at the eighth session, 152 States were in compliance with the credentials requirements. Four States parties, namely, Chad, Malawi, Rwanda and South Sudan, were not in compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure. The Bureau emphasized that it was the obligation of each State party to submit the credentials of representatives, in accordance with rule 18, and called on those States parties that had not yet done so to provide the Secretariat with original credentials as soon as possible but not later than 13 January 2020.

41. The Bureau reported to the Conference that it had examined the written communications received and found them to be in order.

42. The Conference adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials at its 11th meeting, on 20 December 2019.

43. Upon the adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials, the representative of Peru, speaking also on behalf of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and Paraguay, which were members of the Lima Group, noted that the approval of the report on credentials did not imply and should not be interpreted as a tacit recognition by those States of either the regime of Nicolás Maduro or of its representatives present at the session of the Conference. The representative noted that the above-mentioned delegations, together with more than 50 States around the world, recognized and supported Juan Guaidó as the acting President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and reiterated their commitment to promoting the re-establishment of democracy and the rule of law in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

44. The representative of Cuba noted that the Government of Nicolás Maduro had been recognized by the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement and that the Conference should not be politicized.

F. Documentation

45. At its eighth session, the Conference had before it documents prepared by the Secretariat. A list of documents and conference room papers is contained in annex I to the present report.

G. General discussion

46. At the 1st to 5th meetings, on 16 and 17 December 2019, the Conference of the States Parties considered agenda item 1 (f), entitled “General discussion”. The

President of the Conference and Ms. Okeke, in her capacity as Vice-President of the Conference, chaired the discussion.

47. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, emphasized that corruption continued to be one of the major challenges to security, stability, the rule of law and the sustainable socioeconomic development of societies, reiterated the need to prevent and eradicate corruption more effectively by further promoting the full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and underlined the critical role of the Conference of the States Parties in that regard. He noted that the Group of 77 and China was looking forward to the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in April 2020, and the special session of the General Assembly against corruption to be held in 2021. In that regard, he expressed the Group's appreciation for the outcome of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and efforts to implement the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation. He reiterated the importance of developing and promoting effective policies and practices aimed at preventing corruption in accordance with chapter II of the Convention and underlined the importance of Conference resolution 4/3. He expressed regret that barriers and challenges to asset recovery processes appeared to be increasing and underscored that the return of assets was a fundamental principle of the Convention and outlined multiple factors that continued to impede effective international cooperation in the area of asset recovery. Moreover, he underlined the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building activities as cross-cutting issues and called for sufficient and stable funding for those purposes.

48. The representative of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States, emphasized the utmost importance of preventing and combating corruption and the devastating effects that corruption had on society, good governance, the rule of law, peace and security. He highlighted the transnational nature of corruption and the need to employ multilateral approaches to counter corruption. In that regard, the steady strides by Member States towards universal adoption of the Convention was positively noted. He noted that corruption undermined the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, Goal 16. He stressed the importance of the follow-up to the Doha Declaration and the upcoming special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in 2021. On behalf of the Group, he acknowledged the important role of the Implementation Review Mechanism and welcomed the progress made in the second review cycle. He emphasized that asset recovery was a fundamental principle of the Convention and highlighted the need to more effectively counter illicit financial flows and facilitate the return of stolen assets to countries of origin. He called upon States parties to take concrete measures to strengthen international cooperation, to hold persons who committed corruption offences accountable and to deny safe havens to persons engaged in corruption and the proceeds of crime.

49. The representative of the European Union noted that corruption was a threat to democracy and undermined fundamental values on which societies were based. He emphasized that preventing and fighting corruption was a precondition for upholding the rule of law, peace and security, achieving sustainable development and respect for human rights and respecting fundamental freedoms. He observed that countering corruption occupied a central place in the internal and external policies of the European Union and that the European Union was constantly striving to ensure the highest possible standards in the fight against corruption. He noted, among other developments, the adoption of European Union-wide standards for protecting whistle-blowers and legislation to promote the transparency of beneficial ownership information and facilitate access to and the exchange of financial and other information among States members. He stressed the importance of multilateralism

and international cooperation in the fight against corruption. He welcomed the progress made in the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism and reaffirmed the commitment of the European Union to the Mechanism. He noted that discussions had started with UNODC on how to organize the future review of implementation of the Convention by the European Union. He also reiterated the European Union's call for more effective involvement of civil society in the review process and in the Conference and its subsidiary bodies. He welcomed the decision to convene a special session of the General Assembly against corruption in 2021 and emphasized the need to take a firm political stance and renew global commitments in the collective fight against corruption. He commended the efforts of UNODC in facilitating the implementation review process and recognized the work of UNODC in technical assistance and capacity-building, including with the support of the European Union.

50. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, noted that the Group associated itself with the remarks made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. On behalf of the Group of African States, he stressed the negative impact of corruption on sustainable economic development, in particular in developing countries. He considered asset recovery to be a fundamental principle of the Convention and encouraged States parties to comprehensively implement the provisions of chapters IV and V of the Convention. He welcomed the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in 2021, and stressed the need to address, *inter alia*, corruption involving large quantities of assets and foreign bribery. He noted the need for adequate and effective technical assistance for requesting States but noted with concern the lack of adequate resources for such technical assistance, and called on donor States to provide additional extrabudgetary contributions to UNODC and other assistance providers to meet the identified needs. He welcomed the focus on combating illicit financial flows at the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be convened by the General Assembly in September 2019, building on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. He noted that there was a need to address illicit financial flows, asset recovery and the full, effective and unconditional return of stolen assets. The Group called upon States parties to reaffirm commitments in areas covered in chapter V of the Convention in order to better facilitate the recovery and return of stolen assets by overcoming legal and procedural challenges. The Group welcomed the work of the Conference's subsidiary bodies related to asset recovery and prevention, along with the work of the UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative.

51. The representative of Azerbaijan, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, stressed the negative impact that corruption had on peace and security, the rule of law and sustainable development. He welcomed the ratifications of the Convention by States parties that had been made since the last session of the Conference, and urged Member States that had not yet done so to ratify the Convention. He underlined the importance of asset recovery and the identification, tracing, seizure and return of stolen assets. He condemned the unilateral sanctions imposed on members of the Non-Aligned Movement, in violation of United Nations procedures, and urged that such measures be ended. He stressed that preventive measures were one of the most important means of countering corruption and urged States parties to effectively implement the requirements of chapter II of the Convention, in line with Conference resolution 4/3. He encouraged States parties to share good practices in countering corruption and welcomed the technical assistance provided to States in effectively implementing the Convention. He noted that, while implementation of the Convention was the obligation of States parties, the obligation to fight corruption must be shared by all parts of society and that technology can play a role in increasing access to information and strengthening transparency.

52. Speakers stressed the transnational nature of corruption and its devastating effects on political, economic and social development, as well as on democratic

governance, the rule of law, human rights, equality (including gender equality) and security. Speakers noted that corruption impeded sustainable economic and social development, drained necessary resources from an array of public services, distorted markets, increased political instability, undermined democratic institutions and values, eroded public trust in government institutions, violated human rights principles and norms, fostered injustice and inequality, contributed to conflict, facilitated environmental damage and impeded the ability of States to deliver public services and to address climate change and poverty. Speakers also highlighted the negative effects that corruption has on sectors such as education, health and access to justice. Speakers emphasized the linkages between corruption and organized crime, terrorism, smuggling and other serious criminal activity, and noted that the response of the international community was too often slow and weak. It was emphasized that States parties should seek to resist and counter corruption in all of its many forms. One speaker stressed the importance of adhering to zero tolerance against corruption and ensuring zero loopholes in the Mechanism and zero barriers in cooperation. Moreover, speakers stressed that there should be no safe haven for corrupt officials or the proceeds of corruption.

53. Speakers welcomed the recent ratifications of and accessions to the Convention by States and emphasized that the Convention remained the only comprehensive global legally binding framework for the prevention of and the fight against corruption. They considered the Conference and its subsidiary bodies to be important forums for exchanging experiences and good practices, strengthening their shared commitment and reaching decisions for the future by consensus. One speaker called upon States parties to work together following the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. Several speakers referred to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal 16, which provided a welcome impetus in the fight against corruption by linking anti-corruption efforts with the broader, cross-cutting objectives of sustainable development. Some speakers emphasized the importance of gender equality and empowering women and girls as fundamental for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the prevention of corruption.

54. Speakers welcomed the preparations for the upcoming special session of the General Assembly against corruption to be held in 2021. Some speakers called for innovative ways to end impunity, including by establishing a dedicated international anti-corruption court to address multinational, complex, large-scale corruption investigations and prosecutions, and identify and facilitate the return of what were often vast quantities of stolen assets. Another speaker mentioned that the political declaration to be adopted at the special session should contain three key elements: a call for the full implementation of the existing international framework, a holistic and balanced approach to implementation of the Convention, and an acknowledgement that the prevention of and the fight against corruption is a common and shared responsibility. One speaker emphasized that anti-corruption efforts should not be used as an excuse for infringing on the sovereignty of States parties. Another speaker called for measures to strengthen IACA. Another speaker called for the Convention to be added to and updated in order to reflect current challenges. Other speakers called for a strengthened international, shared, holistic and coordinated effort to detect, investigate and prosecute complex multilateral corruption cases, including by means of the effective implementation of existing Convention obligations.

55. A number of speakers reported on positive outcomes from undergoing and participating in country reviews in both review cycles and expressed strong support for the Convention's Implementation Review Mechanism and its core principles. One speaker raised the issue of the future of the Mechanism beyond the second cycle, an issue to be addressed so that the Mechanism could continue to fulfil its pivotal role in the full and effective implementation of the Convention. One speaker cautioned that care should be taken to safeguard the non-political nature of the Mechanism. Some speakers called for the Implementation Review Mechanism to be funded from

the regular budget of UNODC. Some speakers encouraged States parties to involve civil society in the review process and called on States parties to implement the recommendations identified.

56. Many speakers reported on the positive reforms that their countries had implemented as a result of recommendations emerging from the first review cycle, including the adoption or amendment of relevant criminal legislation, efforts to strengthen the rule of law, the establishment of specialized anti-corruption courts, the strengthening of witness and whistle-blower protection programmes, the adoption of legislation to authorize the use of special investigative techniques and the adoption of measures to facilitate access to justice and increase transparency in the criminal justice sector. Speakers also described measures that had been taken since the first review cycle to strengthen international cooperation, including the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral treaties and arrangements to facilitate mutual legal assistance and extradition.

57. Some speakers referred to measures taken to strengthen the administrative and financial independence of anti-corruption agencies. In that context, reference was made to the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies. Furthermore, some speakers reported on results of measures taken, such as an increased numbers of prosecutions and larger amounts of confiscated and recovered assets. One speaker described the establishment in his country of a committee of international experts to address corruption at the country level.

58. Many speakers welcomed the progress made in completing the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, called on States parties to fully participate in the second cycle, and reported on activities and proactive measures to support the self-assessment process in advance of the review, including efforts to identify challenges and gaps.

59. One speaker noted the value and potential of creating synergies with other review mechanisms, which could maximize the impact of the Convention's Implementation Review Mechanism and its outcomes. Speakers mentioned the important role of the peer review processes of the Financial Action Task Force, the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, the OECD Istanbul Anti-corruption Action Plan for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) of the Council of Europe.

60. Speakers described the work of national bodies, committees and specialized, independent agencies and commissions to develop, launch and implement national policies and strategies aimed at strengthening integrity, promoting good governance and countering corruption. Speakers noted the importance of providing such bodies with adequate financial and human resources to carry out their mandates. Some speakers noted the importance of ensuring that policies and strategies to counter corruption were inclusive and fostered citizen participation in both the development and the implementation processes. Such participation should include a broad range of stakeholders such as civil society, youth, academia, media and women's groups. Some speakers described sector-based anti-corruption strategies that targeted specific challenges that existed in high-risk sectors.

61. Many speakers highlighted that their Governments required technical assistance in order to be able to effectively implement the Convention. Tailored, country-led, integrated and coordinated approaches to technical assistance, based on the sharing of information and international good practices, were also welcomed. Many speakers noted with appreciation the tools developed and the technical assistance provided by UNODC and other bilateral donors and assistance providers, including the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), IACA, UNDP, OECD, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, the World Bank and the StAR Initiative, and called upon UNODC to continue to support such efforts, in

particular in developing countries. Several speakers praised the initiative of establishing regional platforms across the world and highlighted their importance for fast-tracking the implementation of the Convention. Speakers highlighted the need for technical assistance in relation to legislative reform, capacity-building, conducting financial investigations, and establishing and strengthening systems on declarations of assets and interests, asset recovery and the management of seized assets. Several speakers called on States to provide additional extrabudgetary resources to UNODC and other assistance providers to ensure that technical assistance needs were met, in particular in developing countries and least developed countries.

62. Speakers concurred that all sectors of society had to work together in order for the fight against corruption to be successful. A number of speakers commended the participation of non-governmental organizations, including members of civil society and the media, in preventing and combating corruption. Several speakers acknowledged the importance of involving different sectors of society in preventing and raising awareness of corruption, and highlighted the role of youth, academia, parliamentarians and the media. In that context, several speakers reported on legislative reforms to facilitate the participation of civil society in the fight against corruption, including in the area of budget transparency. One speaker mentioned an initiative with an academic network, as well as the establishment of an anti-corruption index to monitor corruption at the national level. Speakers also described public outreach campaigns to strengthen public participation in anti-corruption activities.

63. Speakers highlighted the importance of education for the prevention of corruption, as well as the inculcation of moral values in young people, in order to strengthen integrity and accountability and establish a culture of lawfulness. Speakers described the development and implementation of educational curricula and the establishment of integrity units in educational institutions, and some speakers commended the curricula modules developed by UNODC. One speaker emphasized ongoing measures taken at the regional and international levels for the prevention of corruption in sport, with the technical support of UNODC. One speaker praised the work of UNODC to identify how corruption affected the most vulnerable populations, in particular women.

64. Some speakers noted the collaboration of their Governments with the private sector, including in the form of public-private partnerships. Some speakers noted how, through cooperation with the private sector entities specializing in, inter alia, technology, science and communications, Governments could strengthen their capacities to prevent and counter corruption. In that context, the development and implementation of codes of conduct and business ethics for private sector entities were noted. Speakers emphasized the importance of preventing corruption in the private sector as a way of advancing economic development. One speaker described the development of a business integrity list to recognize private sector entities that had taken measures to prevent corruption. Another speaker called on multinational companies to refrain from looting public funds and soliciting bribes.

65. The importance of comprehensive codes of conduct for public servants, including for political leaders and politically exposed persons, was noted, as was the need to ensure adequate anti-corruption training for all public officials. Speakers noted the need for effective oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure the appropriate addressing of misconduct and ethics violations by public officials. One speaker described the establishment of corruption prevention units within each government ministry. Several speakers emphasized that States should establish transparent, fair and merit-based recruitment practices throughout the public service. Some speakers emphasized that such measures were intended to establish a culture of zero tolerance of corruption throughout the public service. Speakers highlighted the importance of involving local governmental institutions in the prevention of corruption.

66. Some speakers noted measures taken to implement asset-disclosure and declaration systems, conduct lifestyle audits of senior public officials, prevent corruption and conflicts of interest, including in public procurement, and increase transparency and accountability in the management of public finances. Measures and challenges in the verification of asset disclosure submissions and the oversight of public expenditures were also described. Speakers noted the valuable role of supreme audit institutions, including courts of audit, in that regard. One speaker emphasized the importance of strengthening revenue collection efforts as a means of generating necessary resources to prevent and counter corruption. One speaker noted, however, that unilateral coercive measures which infringed the fundamental principles of international law and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations had impaired the ability of States parties to allocate sufficient resources to the fight against corruption.

67. Multiple speakers referred to measures promoting transparency of beneficial ownership, including by establishing public registries online, along with other measures to prevent money-laundering and regulate and monitor financial institutions and transactions, including transactions conducted through intermediaries and facilitators and through the use of cryptocurrencies. The important role of financial intelligence units was mentioned in that regard. The importance of the Open Government Partnership to strengthen transparency and access to information was also noted by some speakers. Some speakers also described measures to strengthen the transparency of the funding of elections and political parties. Others described measures to streamline administrative and bureaucratic procedures of public institutions and the delivery of public services, and the effectiveness that such measures had had in reducing opportunities for corruption, including in open-data procedures, online portals and e-government. It was noted that the use of information and communication technology could prove effective in that regard.

68. Speakers noted the importance of establishing mechanisms, in particular hotlines and online portals, for reporting instances of corruption. In that context, several speakers referred to measures taken to protect whistle-blowers and reporting persons, including protection of the identity of reporting persons and protection from retaliation. Several speakers announced the recent adoption of legislation or consideration of pending legislation regarding the protection of whistle-blowers.

69. Several speakers described the development and implementation of comprehensive corruption risk assessments for public and private sector institutions, which often led to targeted anti-corruption and integrity plans for particular ministries and public institutions. Speakers also presented measures to conduct research and studies on corruption and its causes and manifestations, which helped in choosing the priorities and effective interventions for the challenges identified. One speaker called for a global study on the effectiveness of anti-corruption systems that could provide recommendations and good practices to States.

70. Ending impunity was considered to be one of the most important aims of the fight against corruption. Speakers described measures to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases, and noted that the challenge of achieving sufficient capacity in that regard was still in the process of being addressed, in particular in financial investigations and forensic accounting. Speakers highlighted the need for investigators, prosecutors and the judiciary to have the necessary resources, independence and capacity to address corruption cases, notably, in the light of the emerging trends and increased use of new technologies by criminals. One speaker noted the need to ensure that victims of corruption had adequate recourse and appropriate restitution and compensation for losses suffered. Speakers also reported the use of technology in court proceedings, including case management and e-court mechanisms, as a means of strengthening transparency and the effectiveness of judicial proceedings. Speakers also described measures taken to strengthen the integrity and professionalism of the judiciary. One speaker called for a recommitment to judicial integrity and independence, and for reinforcing the centrality of the

Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct. One speaker described measures taken to address and prevent state capture.

71. Some speakers shared experiences of successful asset recovery cases, but also challenges in the identification, seizure and return of stolen assets. Speakers noted that not enough was being done to ensure the effective and efficient recovery and return of stolen assets, emphasized the need for additional technical assistance in this area and called on States parties to continue to take measures to strengthen international cooperation, including through spontaneous information-sharing, as well as use of both formal and informal channels, to more effectively and efficiently identify and return stolen assets to the country of origin. In that regard, the importance of bilateral and multilateral agreements was highlighted, as were the benefits achieved by expressions of good will among States parties. Speakers emphasized that the Convention itself could be used as a basis for international cooperation in the absence of such agreements. Some speakers noted measures taken to clarify and streamline national legislation and mechanisms established to facilitate the recovery and return of assets, and some speakers stressed the importance of considering non-conviction-based forfeiture mechanisms and of having dedicated offices in the prosecution service to give effect to those measures. The value of peer-to-peer learning, joint investigations and law enforcement networks in facilitating international cooperation was also noted. One speaker referred to his country's membership in the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre, based in London, which could assist countries that experienced grand corruption and bring persons responsible to justice through accelerated intelligence-sharing. One speaker called for an additional protocol to the Convention on asset return. Speakers noted their contributions to, and benefits derived from, the StAR Initiative.

72. Many speakers referred to the importance of sharing experiences, information and good practices, including through regional organizations, initiatives and networks and of multi-stakeholder approaches. Regional bodies or forums were identified as playing an important role in building consensus and fostering strong political will in the fight against corruption. Such bodies noted included the African Union, the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Group of 20, the South-East Asian Parties against Corruption, the European Partners against Corruption, the European contact-point network against corruption, the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, GRECO, the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, the Financial Action Task Force, the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption and the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network. One speaker noted that the upcoming Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would provide an opportunity to continue to share good practices to prevent and counter corruption.

73. The representative of UNDP highlighted that the Convention against Corruption was a foundation of the global action against corruption and noted the partnership of UNDP with UNODC to provide technical assistance and support to States to implement the Convention and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The representative of the World Bank described the Bank's approach to technical assistance in corruption prevention and asset recovery, including the StAR Initiative, and highlighted the role that facilitating agents and institutions played in corruption and money-laundering. The representative of the International Monetary Fund described its methodology for assessing governance vulnerabilities in a series of priority areas, conducted in accordance with the standards of the Convention. The representative of IACA described the breadth of curricula and degrees offered in the areas of the prevention of corruption and the promotion of integrity, and reported on recent activities of the Academy. The representative of GRECO emphasized the role of GRECO in monitoring and following up on the development and implementation of policies to counter corruption and stressed that essential tools to fight corruption successfully, such as multidisciplinary approaches, legislation and law enforcement,

the involvement of civil society and strong political will. The representative of the World Customs Organization emphasized the relevance of integrity and good governance standards in customs administration for ensuring sustainable economic development and secure communities and the Organization's efforts to promote them further. The representative of the European Public Law Organization informed the Conference about the recently launched academic programme on anti-corruption for South-Eastern Europe, which was aimed at enhancing the capacity for regional cooperation. The representative of the UNCAC Coalition reiterated the important role of civil society in the prevention and fight against corruption and expressed concern at the lack of clarity with respect to the future of the Convention's Implementation Review Mechanism, and stressed the need for stronger partnership with civil society in the process. The representative of Transparency International stressed the need to focus on grand corruption, impunity, gender-related issues and the empowerment of women in further actions and to involve civil society, notably in the light of the upcoming special session of the General Assembly against corruption. The representative of the International Fishermen Development Trust highlighted particular challenges that corruption posed to fishermen and called for more effective preventive measures in that regard.

IV. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and technical assistance

74. At its 8th meeting, on 19 December 2019, the Conference considered agenda item 2, entitled "Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption", and agenda item 3, entitled "Technical assistance".

75. In his introductory remarks, the President of the Conference recalled article 63 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as Conference resolution 3/1, which marked the historic adoption of the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, and resolution 4/1, in which the Conference had endorsed the work of the Implementation Review Group. He reiterated that one of the purposes of the Mechanism was to help States parties to identify and substantiate specific technical assistance needs and to promote and facilitate the provision of such assistance. He recalled decision 5/1, in which the Conference had tasked the Group with collecting and discussing relevant information on the assessment of the performance of the Mechanism, following the completion of the first review cycle. He also referred to resolution 6/1, in which the Conference had launched the second cycle of the Mechanism, had encouraged States parties to continue to share information on good practices, experiences and relevant measures taken after the completion of their country reviews, including information related to technical assistance, and had requested the Group to analyse that information and submit to the Conference, for consideration and approval at its seventh session, a set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned from the country reviews of the first review cycle. Moreover, he noted that, in its decision 7/1, the Conference had taken note of the set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions, as reviewed by the Group at its resumed eighth session, second resumed ninth session and tenth session.

76. A representative of the Secretariat briefed the Conference on the outcome of the second resumed tenth session of the Implementation Review Group, held on 17 and 18 December 2019, referring to the note by the Secretariat on the activities and working methods of the Group (CAC/COSP/2019/4), and provided an update on progress made in the conduct of the first and second cycle reviews. She also introduced a document on the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, in particular its second review cycle and the measures required for its completion (CAC/COSP/2019/12). That document contained an analysis of the performance of the Mechanism, in particular of progress made during the second cycle, and a number of recommendations on measures required for completing the

country reviews under the second cycle, including the possibility of an extension of the cycle.

77. The representative provided an overview of the key thematic findings emerging from the first review cycle, as presented in the note by the Secretariat containing a set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention (CAC/COSP/2019/3). She also provided an overview of the key thematic findings emerging from the second cycle, as presented in the thematic reports of the Secretariat on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) and chapter V (Asset recovery) (CAC/COSP/2019/9 and CAC/COSP/2019/10, respectively). Moreover, she introduced the report of the Secretariat on good practices and experiences of, and relevant measures taken by, States parties after the completion of the country reviews, including information related to technical assistance (CAC/COSP/2019/11), noting that the report provided an overview of progress made in the first cycle reviews and included information related to 145 States parties that had finalized their first cycle reviews.

78. The representative of the Secretariat provided the Conference with an overview of the budgetary information related to the first and second cycles of the Implementation Review Mechanism (CAC/COSP/2019/15).

79. During the ensuing discussion, several speakers emphasized the importance of the Implementation Review Mechanism in promoting the effective implementation of the Convention and expressed the continued support of their Governments for the Mechanism. Reference was made to the added value and proven record of the Mechanism, as well as to the substantial progress made and best practices identified and to the role of the Mechanism in assisting States with implementing the Convention and overcoming challenges encountered in that implementation. One speaker noted that the Mechanism fostered cooperation by bringing together law enforcement, civil society, the private sector and experts.

80. Several speakers provided detailed information on the participation of their countries in the Implementation Review Mechanism, both as States parties under review and as reviewing States parties.

81. It was noted that the review process under the Implementation Review Mechanism was necessary and useful, as it provided States with the opportunity to measure successes and challenges. The Mechanism allowed for the identification of weaknesses in national legal systems and institutional frameworks, as well as the identification of technical assistance needs and the promotion and facilitation of such assistance.

82. Several speakers emphasized the need for the Implementation Review Mechanism to function within its terms of reference and underlined its intergovernmental, impartial, non-adversarial, non-intrusive and non-punitive nature. One speaker referred to the different levels of development of States participating in the Mechanism, stating that, accordingly, the standard levels of the review should not be applied to all States. One speaker underlined the importance of article 4 (1) of the Convention, which provided that States parties were to carry out their obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States. His Government was of the view that this provision reaffirmed that reviewing States parties should pursue review processes with due respect for the fundamental principles of international law.

83. Several speakers expressed support for the participation of civil society, including in the review process. One speaker said that the role of non-governmental organizations should be acknowledged, noting the positive part that they played in supporting anti-corruption work. At the same time, the speaker referred to Conference resolution 4/6, entitled “Non-governmental organizations and the Mechanism for the

Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, and expressed hope that all parties involved would strictly follow the principles contained therein. One speaker encouraged States parties to publish their full review reports in order to promote transparency and identify technical assistance needs for donors and other technical assistance providers.

84. Speakers also referred to the need to enhance the functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism by streamlining processes and making efforts to reduce the duration of country reviews. Mention was made of continued delays in reviews under the Mechanism and, in this regard, a number of speakers expressed support for the extension of the second review cycle. One speaker conveyed the support of her Government for the extension of the second cycle, provided that the extension did not have implications for the regular budget. She also noted that the Conference should consider establishing criteria and a threshold to facilitate the determination of when a review cycle was completed, in particular the first cycle. In this regard, she suggested that the Conference consider the model established under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, whereby advancement to a new phase was conditional upon the completion of 70 per cent of the reviews planned for at the beginning of the previous phase. Her Government was of the view that this would ensure that there be no negative impact on the review cycles of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

85. Several speakers expressed appreciation to UNODC for the support provided to States parties in the context of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

86. Speakers reiterated their continued support for and appreciation of the critical role of the Implementation Review Mechanism in the exchange of good practices and challenges among States parties in their efforts to implement the Convention fully and effectively and in facilitating and fostering international cooperation. Several speakers acknowledged the positive impact that the Mechanism had in improvements to their national anti-corruption systems. Speakers noted that the steps taken by their countries in the preparation for reviews had led to improved dialogue and cooperation among relevant national agencies, which continued even after the reviews had been finalized.

87. Speakers shared the experiences gained, challenges faced and good practices identified by their countries in the course of the reviews conducted under the first cycle, as well as progress in addressing the outcomes and recommendations emerging from the reviews. Speakers listed a number of specific measures taken to enhance legislative and administrative frameworks to prevent and combat corruption, such as the introduction of the liability of legal persons, the criminalization of illicit enrichment and strengthening legislative measures to prevent and combat money-laundering. Speakers also reported the establishment or strengthening of coordinating bodies and arrangements to address gaps and challenges identified as a result of the reviews, to enhance inter-agency cooperation and increase the impact of anti-corruption activities.

88. Building upon experiences from the reviews conducted under the first cycle, speakers further highlighted measures taken to prepare for the reviews under the second cycle or to address the outcomes of those reviews that had already been concluded. One speaker mentioned that national coordinating bodies had been established to develop comprehensive responses to the self-assessment checklists. Speakers also highlighted that, as part of action plans adopted to implement the first cycle reviews, a number of measures had been taken to strengthen areas that were under review in the second cycle, such as the development and adoption of codes of conducts for public officials, asset declaration systems, electronic procurements, audit systems and asset recovery frameworks. Several speakers mentioned the adoption of new national anti-corruption strategies that included measures to improve

the prevention of corruption and to detect, freeze, seize and recover the proceeds of corruption in line with the provisions of the Convention under review in the second cycle. Several speakers also noted the success that their countries had had in bringing together all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and private sector representatives, to prepare for and conduct country visits, and they urged other States to follow a similar transparent and inclusive process. One speaker expressed concerns over the misappropriation of assets through unilateral action.

89. Under agenda item 3, two documents were presented by the representative of the Secretariat. In relation to the first report, on strengthening the implementation of the Convention in small island developing States (CAC/COSP/2019/8), and referring to resolution 7/7 on strengthening the implementation of the Convention in small island developing States, he highlighted the experiences of reviewing and reviewed States parties in the Implementation Review Mechanism. In particular, several small island developing States had noted the importance of adopting an inclusive whole-of-society approach to addressing corruption, while others had reported on steps taken to address corruption in both the public and private sectors. Peer learning and South-South exchange were considered important to ensure the success of anti-corruption efforts in those States, and there was a continuous need for support by UNODC and other technical assistance providers. The representative explained that most technical assistance to small island developing States in the Pacific region had been delivered under the Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, a joint project of UNODC and UNDP. The project had provided, inter alia, capacity-building on investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating corruption offences, access to information policies and measures, and ways to involve young people in the fight against corruption.

90. The representative of the Secretariat then introduced the note by the Secretariat on an analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews and assistance delivered by UNODC in support of the implementation of the Convention (CAC/COSP/2019/14). In relation to the latest analysis of technical assistance needs stemming from the first cycle reviews, it was noted that the overall substantive analysis had remained unchanged since the previous update to the Conference, in 2017. Nevertheless, the largest increase in identified needs related to legislative assistance, capacity-building and the visit of on-site experts. With regard to the second review cycle, capacity-building, legislative assistance and institution-building were the categories of needs most commonly identified by States. In presenting the delivery of technical assistance in support of the implementation of the Convention, the representative outlined the development of regional platforms, the strengthening of institutional and policy frameworks and capacities related to prevention and asset recovery, the publication of knowledge tools and other educational initiatives.

91. Increased contributions to the UNODC global programme to prevent and combat corruption through the effective implementation of the Convention in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (2016–2020) (GLO/Z99) had enabled UNODC to continue its provision of technical assistance for the accelerated implementation of the Convention in a wide range of areas, including the completion of self-assessment checklists, the development of anti-corruption legislation, measures to strengthen asset declaration systems, the implementation of institutional risk management strategies, support for the development of a judicial code of conduct, private sector ethics training, the development and provision of training modules on anti-corruption efforts, including on investigating corruption and money-laundering offences, the use of open data sources and international cooperation in complex cases, training for investigative journalists, community-based strengthening of police integrity to prevent violent extremism, awareness-raising with regard to corruption risks in the fishery sector and pre-ratification assistance. UNODC also supported the development of the commentary adopted in Colombo on the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies, to be published shortly, and organized two expert group meetings on corruption involving vast quantities of assets and one expert

group meeting on transparency in political finance, as well as a number of activities in the areas of asset recovery and asset management. The representative of the Secretariat underlined that, without the support of donors, UNODC would not be able to render this broad range of technical assistance, and he underlined that continued support was essential to respond to the high level of demand for support in preventing and combating corruption.

92. Speakers highlighted the important role of the Convention and the usefulness of the Implementation Review Mechanism as a tool for identifying technical assistance needs and providing a valuable entry point and platform for peer learning and the sharing of experiences. One speaker encouraged States to continue to share details about the challenges that they faced, but also about good practices and practical advice. Many speakers mentioned legislative and other reforms that their countries had undertaken in response to recommendations received in the country reviews, and they highlighted follow-up measures such as the development of strategies or the establishment of specific working groups. In this regard, many speakers also referred to steps for which their countries had received technical assistance.

93. Speakers underlined the important role of technical assistance in preventing and countering corruption. Numerous speakers expressed their utmost appreciation for the technical assistance provided by UNODC in support of anti-corruption efforts at the global, regional and national levels, including before, during and in follow-up to the country reviews conducted under the first and second cycles, and they emphasized the continued importance of such technical assistance. In this regard, several speakers outlined specific examples of UNODC technical assistance efforts that had proved to be beneficial and impactful, such as the development of an e-learning platform, institutional capacity assessments and capacity-building, support for collaboration with the private sector to promote integrity measures and the deployment of a mentor who supported institutions on a day-to-day basis.

94. Several speakers also expressed their appreciation to other technical assistance providers and for the donors that had enabled support by UNODC, and they underscored the importance of multilateral and bilateral technical assistance provided in various forms.

95. Several speakers emphasized that technical assistance was an integral part of the Convention and that there was indeed a high level of demand for follow-up support on both cycles. Some speakers urged donors to continue to provide sufficient financial support for the provision of technical assistance by UNODC and other technical assistance providers.

96. In reference to assistance provided by States parties to neighbouring or other States parties, a few speakers mentioned, among other examples, the holding of anti-corruption workshops for governmental experts from the region, a joint training course with IACA and trainings organized in cooperation with the UNODC regional office for States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Another speaker mentioned examples of training workshops provided to experts from approximately 70 countries over the past few years.

97. Several speakers mentioned that more support was needed in specific areas, including the investigation of money-laundering and corruption offences, asset tracing and the use of special investigative techniques, through the collection of case studies and on-site assistance. Speakers noted that relevant assistance should be made available to all important actors, such as law enforcement officers, but also to prosecutors and judges. Other areas that speakers mentioned included advice on the coordination between financial sector entities, case examples, good practices and model legislations in the area of asset recovery.

98. One speaker mentioned that such support had enabled his country to host a global expert meeting on the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies.

99. Echoing the remarks of the representative of the Secretariat, one speaker underlined that technical assistance should be country-led and country-based. He also underlined the importance of integrating and coordinating technical assistance, in particular at the country level, between national authorities and stakeholders.

100. One speaker expressed concern about the increased relationship between corruption and other forms of transnational crime, such as cybercrime, identity fraud and crimes related to fisheries. He suggested to address those cross-cutting issues with greater attention in a coordinated and integrated manner and encouraged all States parties to engage more actively when formulating technical assistance programmes related to UNODC.

Action taken by the Conference

101. At its 8th meeting, the Conference endorsed the set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention ([CAC/COSP/2019/3](#)).

102. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted a workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference (see annex III).

V. Prevention

103. At its 6th meeting, on 18 December 2019, the Conference considered agenda item 4, entitled “Prevention”.

104. The President of the Conference chaired the debate. In his introductory remarks, he recalled resolutions 7/5 and 7/6, which had been adopted by the Conference at its seventh session. He acknowledged the efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, which, in its meetings in 2018 and 2019, had addressed the following topics: conflicts of interest, use and effectiveness of asset declaration systems and lessons learned on the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies. He also mentioned the necessity to provide sufficient financial resources to meet the needs for technical assistance in relation to the implementation of measures for the prevention of corruption.

105. A representative of the Secretariat updated the Conference on progress made in the implementation of resolution 7/5, entitled “Promoting preventive measures against corruption”, and resolution 7/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”. He reported on the analysis of information on the implementation of chapter II of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as contained in the thematic report on the implementation of that chapter ([CAC/COSP/2019/9](#)), and on the technical assistance initiatives of UNODC at the national, regional and global levels to support States parties in the prevention of corruption, including support for the development of national anti-corruption strategies, capacity-building for anti-corruption bodies and other practitioners, targeted legislative assistance, support for the strengthening of integrity in the justice sector and the promotion of anti-corruption education ([CAC/COSP/2019/2](#)). He highlighted the work done by the Office on education and efforts to raise public awareness of corruption. In addition, he underlined the role of UNODC as an international observatory for good practices in the prevention of corruption and briefed the Conference on the activities of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption.

106. The representative of the Secretariat also updated the Conference on progress made in the implementation of resolution 7/2, entitled “Preventing and combating corruption in all its forms more effectively, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets, based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, referring to

the related note by the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/2019/13). He underlined the importance of the Oslo statement on corruption involving vast quantities of assets, which contained concrete recommendations for decision makers.

107. Most speakers reported on actions taken, good practices and progress made in the prevention of corruption in recent years, including the enactment, revision and updating of anti-corruption measures and legislation on transparency, access to information, public procurement, anti-money-laundering, whistle-blowers, beneficial ownership, conflicts of interest, by-laws and directives. Some speakers also reported the adoption of legislation creating new anti-corruption bodies or strengthening and expanding the mandate of existing ones.

108. Many speakers highlighted initiatives to draft and implement comprehensive national anti-corruption policies, strategies and open government initiatives that included wide-ranging measures to prevent corruption. The strategies ranged from national comprehensive strategies to sector-specific strategies focused on such issues as wildlife, extractive industries and the management of public finances. They noted the inclusion of risk assessments, indicators for measuring progress and impact, and transparency measures to provide citizens with information on the status of implementation of various programmes. With regard to coordination and transparency, one speaker mentioned a multi-stakeholder working group comprising government, private sector and civil society representatives established to join forces in the implementation of measures for preventing and combating corruption.

109. Some speakers highlighted the need to facilitate the reporting of corruption cases and promote a speak-up culture in ministerial departments, public and private institutions and beyond, with the aim of improving the detection of corruption. In this regard, specific reference was made by a few speakers to protected disclosure regimes and the protection of whistle-blowers in both the public and private sectors, including for non-permanent staff. Other speakers referred to reporting mechanisms to increase the participation of citizens in public life. Some speakers highlighted the importance of mainstreaming integrity measures.

110. Many speakers referred to measures aimed at strengthening the integrity of public officials, including parliamentarians and other elected public officials. Those ranged from training and education initiatives and the creation of a network of integrity officers and advisors, to codes of ethics and the adoption of electronic systems for the declaration of assets, land registration, national identifications, mobile money, vehicle registration, driving licences, income, expenditure and interests. One speaker noted the important role that high-level officials and the managers of institutions played with regard to such measures. Another speaker underlined the importance of according sufficient funding to corruption prevention bodies and initiatives and of prioritizing the prevention of corruption to avoid the embezzlement of public resources and the misappropriation of vast quantities of assets. A few speakers underlined the usefulness of corruption risk assessments in the public administration, including as a periodic prerequisite for updating integrity plans and other measures.

111. Several speakers mentioned measures to enhance financial management and public procurement, including ex ante checks to detect conflicts of interest at an early stage, or expenditure transparency and oversight and registries for identifying and excluding individuals who had previously violated public procurement laws and regulations. One speaker referred to the important role of audit institutions to improve reporting on the use and management of government funds.

112. With regard to the promotion of integrity in the law enforcement and justice sector institutions, in particular in the judiciary, some speakers mentioned important steps that had been taken, such as the establishment of e-case management systems, codes of conducts for the judiciary, specific systems for reporting judges suspected of corruption and citizen oversight initiatives.

113. Several speakers underscored the role of the private sector in preventing corruption and the need to promote coordinated action. One speaker mentioned support for anti-bribery management systems in the private sector. The use of the International Anti-Corruption Day, on 9 December, was noted as an opportunity for joint initiatives and outreach activities.

114. Several speakers emphasized the need for including stakeholders outside the public sector, such as civil society organizations, young people and the media, in the wide range of initiatives and mechanisms necessary for the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, and described how those had been involved, for example through their participation in oversight mechanisms or working groups. A few speakers described reforms and steps taken to promote access to information, for example through the adoption of specific laws on access to information and online transparency portals.

115. Several speakers emphasized the importance of education at all levels for the prevention of corruption and described efforts to develop material for different age groups ranging from preschool children to university students, and the integration of such curriculum into the education system.

116. Some speakers also highlighted the implementation of awareness-raising and public outreach campaigns by social media and various other means and mentioned the use and promotion of information and communications technology to prevent corruption, including mobile telephone applications and geotagging.

117. A few speakers mentioned the interlinkage with sustainable development and reporting on progress in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

118. Multiple speakers mentioned the role and importance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in assisting States parties with identifying recommendations, priority areas and good practices in relation to the implementation of chapter II of the Convention. Numerous speakers thanked UNODC for the provision of technical assistance and described projects and activities being implemented with support from the Office. They also highlighted the usefulness of support from other organizations, such as the World Bank, as well as the appreciation for regional or bilateral cooperation, assistance and peer-learning. Several speakers underlined the importance of continued technical assistance and sufficient financial resources. One speaker drew specific attention to the fact that the vast majority of States parties had received numerous recommendations on the implementation of chapter II and that this trend could be expected to continue. She underlined the important role that the Conference played in drawing attention to chapter II so that corruption might be prevented in the first place.

119. A representative of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice stated its ongoing support for involving civil society in the development and monitoring of anti-corruption efforts, including with regard to human rights aspects and respect for the rights of women and children. The representative of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption encouraged the continued inclusion of civil society, emphasized the role of parliamentarians in promoting best practices and prevention policies and welcomed Samoa as its newest member. The representative of Transparency International decried the detention and expulsion from the United Arab Emirates of a journalist who had been invited to the Conference. She highlighted the crucial role that journalists played in raising public awareness and stated that their work should be supported, suggesting that the protection of journalists should be included in the agenda of the special session of the General Assembly. She also referred to two submissions, on beneficial ownership and a gender inclusive approach to corruption.

VI. Asset recovery and international cooperation

120. At its 7th meeting, on 18 December 2019, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption considered agenda items 5, entitled “Asset recovery”, and 6, entitled “International cooperation”.

121. The President of the Conference chaired the debate. In his introductory remarks, he recalled Conference resolutions 4/2, entitled “Convening of open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation”, 6/2, entitled “Facilitating international cooperation in asset recovery and the return of proceeds of crime”, 6/3, entitled “Fostering effective asset recovery”, and 7/1, entitled “Strengthening mutual legal assistance for international cooperation and asset recovery”.

122. A representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the activities carried out in the area of asset recovery. He made reference to the thematic report on the implementation of chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/2019/10) and introduced a note on best practices for the identification and compensation of all different types of victims in accordance with the Convention, and third-party challenges and their impact on asset recovery under chapter V (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2019/5). Reference was also made to the draft non-binding guidelines on the timely sharing of information in accordance with article 56 of the Convention and improving communication and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2019/4) and to a background document on the same topic (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2018/5). In addition, the representative provided information on the successive iterations of the draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets (CAC/COSP/WG.2/2018/3, CAC/COSP/WG.2/2019/3 and CAC/COSP/2019/16). He further updated the Conference on the work related to the identification of good practices on the management and disposal of recovered and returned stolen assets in support of sustainable development (CAC/COSP/2019/CRP.3) and the activities of two expert group meetings on corruption involving vast quantities of assets (CAC/COSP/2019/13). In addition, he referred to the study of issues related to beneficial ownership identification and highlighted the importance of collecting information on the volume of assets seized, confiscated and returned or disposed of by States.

123. A representative of the StAR Initiative reported that the Initiative continued to support international efforts on asset recovery through a combination of country engagements, policy influence and support for partnerships among practitioners at the regional and global levels, and by advancing knowledge and innovation on asset recovery. In addition to holding the first meeting of the Global Forum on Asset Recovery, which had taken place after the previous session of the Conference and focused on Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Ukraine, the StAR Initiative responded annually to the needs of some 20 countries across five continents, including by means of several new country engagements each year. These engagements included training law enforcement and prosecutors in financial investigations, helping countries to introduce new legislation in order to ensure that relevant officials declared their assets and, most importantly, forging new relationships between requesting and requested States. The StAR Initiative had also developed new knowledge products, including a publication on financial intelligence units working with law enforcement authorities and prosecutors, an overview and global directory of asset recovery networks, a short overview of electronic filing of asset declarations and, most recently, a report entitled *Going for Broke: Insolvency Tools to Support Cross-Border Asset Recovery in Corruption Cases*. The representative also referred to a forthcoming study on international asset recovery efforts in corruption cases, the aim of which was to collect data on global progress in international efforts to recover and return proceeds of corruption in a systematic and internationally comparable way. A questionnaire designed to solicit such data was distributed to the States parties. The representative

called upon States parties to assist in completing the study. Finally, he referred to a recent external review of the StAR Initiative, which had confirmed the relevance of the Initiative mission and recommended its extension until 2030, to coincide with the target date for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

124. A representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of the recommendations related to international cooperation contained in resolution 7/1, as well as the outcomes of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the Convention held at the sixth and seventh sessions. She introduced the note by the Secretariat on progress on the activities of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention ([CAC/COSP/2019/7](#)), and referred to the note by the Secretariat on international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings for the detection of offences established in accordance with the Convention ([CAC/COSP/2019/7/Add.1](#)). She also provided an update on the online directory of competent national authorities under the Convention and its data migration to the online knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC). With regard to the analysis of technical assistance needs in the area of international cooperation, the speaker made reference to the note by the Secretariat issued under agenda item 3 on the analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from country reviews and assistance delivered during the first review cycle ([CAC/COSP/2019/14](#)).

125. In the ensuing discussion, several speakers noted the important role of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery in providing a unique platform for engaging in a constructive dialogue to achieve the aims of chapter V of the Convention. Speakers highlighted that asset recovery was a fundamental principle of the Convention and called upon States parties to implement chapter V effectively and strengthen international cooperation in that area.

126. Several speakers stressed the need to continue to share good practices, knowledge and experiences. Several speakers also emphasized the importance of building trust and confidence, developing cumulative knowledge, maintaining dialogue and overcoming differences among legal systems. The second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was praised as an opportunity for facilitating the exchange of relevant information and identifying good practices and existing challenges, and as a catalyst for taking further action to improve asset recovery frameworks.

127. Speakers informed the Conference about recent national reforms aimed at strengthening the legislative and institutional framework in their countries to improve the national capacity to recover the proceeds of crime and provide effective and timely assistance to other States in asset recovery. Such reforms included the adoption of new laws or amendments to existing laws, the establishment of dedicated asset recovery bodies, the development of handbooks and manuals for national and foreign practitioners, and the introduction of value-based, extended and non-conviction-based confiscation systems. Several speakers reported on instances in which their countries had used the Convention as the legal basis for requesting and providing mutual legal assistance in the context of investigations, prosecutions and extraditions.

128. Several speakers noted the importance of implementing comprehensive national reforms to limit opportunities for criminals to conceal the proceeds of acts of corruption committed in a different country.

129. Speakers highlighted common obstacles to asset recovery, including differences in the legal systems of requesting and requested countries, as well as practical difficulties relating to the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation of assets, dual criminality and statutes of limitation. Limited resources, limited capacity of practitioners and a lack of political will and financial resources were also noted as challenges. Speakers also gave examples of specific cases when international cooperation had successfully led to the return of proceeds, including under the

framework of the Convention. Other international initiatives in that area were mentioned as having contributed to successful cooperation in some cases.

130. Some speakers noted the importance of technical assistance provided by UNODC, including through the StAR Initiative and individual donor countries, in strengthening the capacity of States in the field of asset recovery.

131. Several speakers highlighted that the final disposal of proceeds in the country of origin was a sovereign right of that country and that no conditions should be attached by the requested States to the return of assets.

132. One speaker, while emphasizing the importance of promoting transparency and accountability in asset return, noted the side event organized on the margins of a meeting of the Group of 20 anti-corruption working group, held in October 2019, on best practices in promoting transparency and accountability in asset return. The speaker also supported the collection of information and data on the volume of assets recovered through the StAR Initiative.

133. Another speaker highlighted the support of his country for the work and recommendations of the Working Group on Asset Recovery. He also outlined the importance of the draft non-binding guidelines on the timely sharing of information in accordance with article 56 of the Convention and of improving communication and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks. The speaker supported the continued collection of information on the volume of recovered assets based on the questionnaire prepared by the StAR Initiative and highlighted the importance of collecting information in the course of the review of the implementation of chapter V of the Convention. He stated that the information thus collected could be used to further develop the draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets.

134. The representative of INTERPOL briefed the Conference on a number of regional and global activities undertaken by his organization to increase the capacity and skills of practitioners engaged in asset recovery, such as the Global Focal Point Platform, which was aimed at supporting the capacities of law enforcement agencies in the area of money-laundering, financial crimes and asset recovery.

135. With regard to international cooperation, several speakers reported on recent national reforms aimed at implementing the provisions of the Convention relating to international cooperation, including the adoption or amendment of relevant laws, the establishment of dedicated offices for international cooperation and the strengthening of authorities with mandates relevant to international cooperation. The importance of the country reviews undertaken under the Implementation Review Mechanism in the development of those reforms was underlined.

136. Several speakers referred to measures taken to enhance international cooperation and strengthen cooperation in practice, including measures to avoid requests being returned owing to non-material or technical deficiencies, increasing formal and informal consultations and information exchange among competent authorities, enhancing human and material resources and executing requests on the basis of the Convention. Other measures included relaxing strict dual criminality requirements, publishing information on refusals, making efforts to conclude additional treaties and cooperation agreements, establishing dedicated authorities for international cooperation and enhancing inter-agency coordination at the national level. Speakers encouraged UNODC to help institutionalize and activate the anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners' networks and facilitate effective and efficient communication and cooperation among them by using modern technology.

137. It was noted that some countries had relied on the Convention to facilitate mutual legal assistance and extradition, either as the sole legal basis or in conjunction with regional or bilateral treaties.

138. Speakers underlined the importance of, and challenges to, international cooperation in criminal matters and encouraged States parties to continue to implement chapter IV of the Convention and grant one another the widest measure of assistance. Speakers referred to the value of the provisions of the Convention relating to international cooperation in furthering national anti-corruption efforts and establishing a mechanism for overcoming differences among legal systems. The need to ensure the timeliness of responses and consider deadlines proposed by requesting States parties, in accordance with the Convention, was highlighted.

139. In this context, some speakers noted the importance of sharing experiences and specialized knowledge, building capacity and providing technical assistance, including for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

140. The important role of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention was referred to as a platform for the exchange of experiences, information and best practices and for establishing direct links among national competent authorities.

141. One speaker noted that the thematic focus of the expert meeting was substantially similar to that of the Working Group on International Cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and that efforts should continue to enhance coordination in the work of the two bodies. This could be done by having the two bodies take note of their respective activities, with the primary mechanism for developing policies on international cooperation in criminal matters falling under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, while allowing the expert meeting to focus on areas of its specialized competences under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, such as asset recovery.

142. One speaker noted with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat to merge the online directory of competent national authorities under the United Nations Convention against Corruption under the UNODC SHERLOC portal, as this provided to practitioners a single access point to information. States parties were encouraged to provide and regularly update the information in the directory.

VII. Special session of the General Assembly against corruption

143. At its 8th meeting, in the afternoon of 19 December 2019, the Conference considered agenda item 7, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”. The Conference also held a meeting on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on 16 December, in parallel to the plenary meeting.

144. In his introductory statement, the President of the Conference recalled that, in its resolution [73/191](#) entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, the Assembly had decided to convene in the first half of 2021 a special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation. The Assembly had also decided that, at that special session, it would adopt a concise, action-oriented political declaration, agreed upon in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations under the auspices of the Conference and invited the Conference to lead the preparatory process for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner. Further, the Assembly requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide substantive expertise and technical support and decided to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing resources. He also informed the Conference that, in furtherance of General Assembly resolution [73/191](#), the Bureau of the Conference had started preparations for the special session by agreeing on a number of steps, including a call for contributions from Member States and the establishment of a reference website for the special session. Further, the President of the Conference had

submitted a draft resolution, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, which dealt with the modalities of the special session.

145. In his introductory remarks, the Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC noted, inter alia, that there had been only a few special sessions in the history of the General Assembly and that none to date had focused on corruption. He noted that the Bureau of the Conference at its seventh session had started preparations for the special session by issuing on 1 November 2019 a call for contributions by Member States. He further noted the subsequent issuance of a call for contributions from other stakeholders and the approval of the establishment of a reference website for the special session (www.ungass2021.org). He encouraged Member States and other stakeholders to continue to submit contributions. The Director referred to the United Nations system-wide Task Force on Corruption, established by the Secretary-General and chaired by UNODC, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and UNDP, which had undertaken internal coordination and the conceptualization of the United Nations work on corruption, in particular in view of preparations for the special session.

146. All speakers welcomed the convening of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption in 2021, as it represented a unique opportunity to renew political commitment to the fight against corruption at a sustainable and global level. Speakers noted that the Convention against Corruption was the cornerstone, and the most important international legal framework, for combating corruption and that implementation of the Convention, and the Implementation Review Mechanism, should be at the heart of the political declaration of the special session against corruption. The technical tools provided by the balanced and comprehensive framework of the Convention were useful instruments for all stakeholders in the fight against corruption, and the Convention and the implementation reviews had had real impact and significant results in many countries, such as by identifying gaps in domestic systems, bringing together stakeholders, mobilizing society and political will and bringing ample political discussion. Speakers also highlighted the importance of technical work and capacity-building carried out by UNODC and suggested that UNODC advocate for those activities more strongly in order to raise visibility of that work.

147. With regard to the structure of the political declaration, speakers noted that it should be concise and action-oriented, containing both high-level political commitments, as well as tangible and verifiable commitments, and tools for their review and monitoring. The declaration should add value rather than duplicate or repeat existing political statements.

148. Several speakers highlighted the importance of the special session and the political declaration for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, and noted that the political declaration should contain commitments regarding respect for the rule of law, fundamental freedoms, human rights and sustainable economic development. One speaker suggested that the political declaration should create greater synergies between the Convention and the 2030 Agenda.

149. Many speakers highlighted that the content should include a call for stronger international cooperation in the fight against corruption. Several speakers also stressed the need for the inclusion of comprehensive and effective prevention strategies to increase transparency, integrity and accountability, and the need for impartial and independent judiciaries to effectively enforce anti-corruption legislation. Among other topics suggested for the content of the political declaration were an increased focus on advocacy and raising public awareness of corruption and its consequences. In addition, one speaker suggested education as one priority, including the development of school curricula and training courses for the public and private sectors, in order to create a lasting foundation for a culture of transparency and the rejection of corruption at all levels of society, including by working with

youth. One speaker suggested that the political declaration should address the links between the issues of corruption and gender.

150. Several speakers noted that the joint fight against corruption must keep pace with the evolving methods of criminals and therefore suggested that the political declaration should include innovative approaches to combating corruption, including measures addressing the global financial sector and the use of new technologies. One speaker expressed his concern about the issue of reigning impunity and suggested that the political declaration should lay the groundwork for the establishment of an international court, to be subsidiary and complementary to national jurisdictions and with the possibility of independent prosecution, for cases of corruption involving vast quantities of assets.

151. Several speakers requested that the special session and its preparatory process be conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner and that a broad range of other stakeholders, such as civil society, academia and the media be included. One speaker suggested that the rules of procedure of the Conference and the General Assembly should be applied to the process.

152. The representative of the UNCAC Coalition welcomed the convening of the special session and asked for the process to be open and transparent and for all submissions to be made public. The representative of Transparency International suggested that cross-cutting issues such as the link between corruption and human rights be addressed in the political declaration, as well as the topics of beneficial ownership transparency and ways to combat corruption involving vast quantities of assets.

VIII. Other matters

A. **Implementation of article 63, paragraph 4 (c) and (d), concerning cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations; as well as appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for combating and preventing corruption, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work**

153. At its 9th meeting, on 19 December 2019, the Conference considered agenda item 8, entitled “Other matters”.

154. In his introductory remarks, the President of the Conference noted that, under agenda item 8 (a), the Conference might wish to continue its deliberations on the full implementation of paragraph 4 (c) of article 63 of the Convention, in which it is stated that the Conference shall agree upon activities, procedures and methods of work to achieve the objectives set forth in paragraph 1 of that article, including by cooperating with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations. He also noted that the Conference may wish to review progress made in enhancing synergies with respect to the appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for combating and preventing corruption, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work, in line with article 63, paragraph 4 (d), of the Convention. In that regard, the President mentioned the relevant provisions of Conference resolution 7/4, entitled “Enhancing synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption”, and referred to a report by the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of that resolution,⁴⁷ which had been considered by the Implementation Review Group at its second resumed tenth session.

⁴⁷ [CAC/COSP/IRG/2019/11](#).

155. A number of speakers emphasized the key role of civil society in the fight against corruption, as recognized by the Conference, including in the framework of the Implementation Review Mechanism under the Convention, and shared experiences of the involvement of civil society in anti-corruption efforts and the review process, in accordance with article 63 of the Convention. It was noted that similar guidelines for the participation of non-governmental stakeholders were followed in other forums, such as the Group of 20, the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe and OECD.

156. The need to ensure the participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption was emphasized by some speakers, as was the need for all stakeholders to work together in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

157. Some speakers emphasized the need to maintain the intergovernmental character of the Implementation Review Mechanism and of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption. In this regard, these speakers also referred to the compromise reached at the fourth session of the Conference, as reflected in Conference resolution 4/6. The value of the briefings for non-governmental organizations held on the margins of the sessions of the Implementation Review Group, in accordance with resolution 4/6, was noted. One speaker suggested extending the briefings to other subsidiary bodies.

158. One speaker noted that the implementation of article 63 involved cooperation with intergovernmental organizations rather than non-governmental organizations and that her Government supported UNODC in enhancing its cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations.

159. One speaker noted that, in view of article 63, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the efforts of all intergovernmental organizations should be in line with, rather than replace, United Nations mechanisms, and he stressed in this regard the essential role of United Nations organizations and of the Convention. He called upon States parties to work with IACA.

160. One speaker emphasized that the Conference should promote information-sharing and collaboration with other multilateral review mechanisms.

B. Status of ratification of and notification requirements under the Convention

161. At the same meeting, the Conference considered agenda item 8 (b), on the status of ratification of and notification requirements under the Convention.⁴⁸

162. The President of the Conference noted that, with regard to notification requirements under the Convention, the Conference might wish to consider how best to ensure the availability of the up-to-date information required in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 6, paragraph 2 (d) of article 23, paragraph 6 (a) of article 44, paragraphs 13 and 14 of article 46, paragraph 5 of article 55 and paragraph 4 of article 66 of the Convention.

163. Moreover, the President informed the Conference that, with a view to providing a single-entry point for practitioners to access information regarding various types of competent authorities under different conventions, the secretariat had migrated data from the directory of competent national authorities under the Convention against Corruption to the SHERLOC portal. The President also informed the Conference that UNODC was in the process of redesigning the legal library, which was part of the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) web-based platform

⁴⁸ See CAC/COSP/2019/CRP.1.

and through which UNODC collected and disseminated indexed and searchable legal information organized according to each provision of the Convention.

C. Any other matters, including consideration of the venue for the tenth session of the Conference

164. No issues were raised under agenda item 8 (c).

IX. Action taken by the Conference

165. At its 10th meeting, on 19 December 2019, the Conference adopted the revised draft resolution entitled “Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption” (CAC/COSP/2019/L.16/Rev.1), sponsored by Algeria, Austria, Brazil, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, Kuwait, Mozambique, Oman, Peru, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Zambia. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/13.) Following the adoption, the representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Brazil made statements highlighting the importance of the resolution.

166. At its 11th meeting, on 20 December 2019, the Conference recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the revised draft resolution entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption (CAC/COSP/2019/L.9/Rev.1). (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution).

167. At its 11th meeting, on 20 December 2019, the Conference also adopted the following draft resolutions:

(a) “Strengthening of international cooperation on asset recovery and of administration of frozen, seized and confiscated assets” (CAC/COSP/2019/L.3/Rev.1), sponsored by Canada, the European Union (on its own behalf and on behalf of its member States), Peru, Ukraine and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/1.)

(b) “Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption” (CAC/COSP/2019/L.4/Rev.1), sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, European Union (on its own behalf and on behalf of its member States), Honduras, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/2.) Pursuant to rule 66, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, reaffirmed their full commitment to the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention and to ensuring that it was impartial and non-politicized. He noted that this resolution was an attempt to politicize the issue and that Israel was a force of occupation and did not respond to appeals to respect the Charter of the United Nations and the decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies. The representative also noted that the policies of Israel were not in line with legality and that this resolution dealt with the political objective of breaking Israel’s regional isolation. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted that his Government attached great importance to the Convention and the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and that an “anti-corruption campaign” should not become a mask for covering the ugly face of occupation and systematic apartheid and that the United Nations Convention against Corruption would be discredited if it became a propaganda tool for an occupying corrupt regime to whitewash its brutal face. The representative also noted that the Convention was a multilateral agreement premised on the rule of law, that a regime whose existence was based on the defiance of all principles of legality and the Charter of the United Nations lacked any moral grounds

to campaign for the Convention and that the adoption of this resolution would not be construed as any change whatsoever in the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the non-recognition of the regime of Israel. In the ensuing discussion, several speakers noted that all States parties had worked in a spirit of constructive collaboration during the Conference and that the Conference should not be politicized. They noted that the Convention was an important framework for international cooperation on asset recovery, technical assistance and other matters and highlighted the critical importance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, which steered technical work in enhancing anti-corruption systems, building on strengths and identifying areas for improvement. They encouraged States to focus on the Conference's purpose of improving capacity and cooperation with each other and to promote the review of the Convention through the Implementation Review Mechanism, which produced sound and objective evidence for taking decisions on anti-corruption measures. In exercise of the right to reply, the representative of Israel referred to the efforts of the international community to fight corruption and noted that there had been improper attempts to abuse this forum for irrelevant political reasons. She invited all States parties, including those that spoke politically against the resolution, to co-sponsor draft resolutions to be submitted by Israel in the future, noting that this would show the world that the fight against corruption had no political, cultural or geographic boundaries, a notion which her Government believed was shared by all States parties. She stressed the everlasting commitment of her Government to fighting corruption and noted that Israel would work with all States parties to achieve a universal environment that fights corruption and promotes human rights and security;

(c) "Promoting integrity in the public sector among States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption" (CAC/COSP/2019/L.5), sponsored by Argentina, Brazil, Bangladesh, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, the Russian Federation, the United States (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/3). Following the adoption, the representative of Brazil thanked all States parties for their cooperation, as well as engagement and comments, in the deliberations on the draft resolution, which enriched the text and showed the importance of continuing to promote integrity in the public sector among all States parties to the Convention;

(d) "Safeguarding sport from corruption" (CAC/COSP/2019/L.6/Rev.1), sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Morocco, Peru, the Russian Federation and Tunisia. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/4.) Following the adoption, the representative of the Russian Federation noted that his country intended to commit to actively continuing work on this issue and urged all States parties to do so as well;

(e) "Enhancing integrity by raising public awareness" (CAC/COSP/2019/L.7), sponsored by Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/5.) Following the adoption, the representative of Saudi Arabia noted the keenness of his Government to implement the Convention, strengthen the rule of law and combat corruption, including in the area of prevention, and expressed the hope that the resolutions adopted by the Conference would further enhance efforts to combat corruption;

(f) "Implementation of international obligations to prevent and combat bribery as defined under the United Nations Convention against Corruption" (CAC/COSP/2019/L.8), sponsored by Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, the European Union (on its own behalf and on behalf of its member States), Israel, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/6);

(g) "Enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies in fighting corruption" (CAC/COSP/2019/L.10/Rev.1), sponsored by China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union (on its own behalf and on behalf of its

member States), Indonesia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Norway, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uganda. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/7);

(h) “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” (CAC/COSP/2019/L.11), sponsored by Australia, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), the European Union (on its own behalf and on behalf of its member States), Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/8). Following the adoption, the representative of Morocco noted that the resolution clearly showed the importance of anti-corruption measures, regardless of the form of corruption. He expressed the hope that the political declaration to be adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption would contain a chapter on the important topic of prevention, that the special session would focus on strengthening technical cooperation based on requests from States and that it would strengthen national anti-corruption strategies;

(i) “Strengthening asset recovery to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (CAC/COSP/2019/L.12), sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tunisia and Uganda. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/9.) Following the adoption, the representative of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors that were members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as States members of the Group of African States, expressed appreciation to all States parties for demonstrating support, flexibility and constructive engagement in reaching consensus, which showed that solutions to challenges faced by States parties in asset recovery and return could be identified. He highlighted the effectiveness of the application of the Convention, especially as regards settlements and enhancing asset recovery efforts, including in support of achieving the 2030 Agenda;

(j) “Measurement of corruption” (CAC/COSP/2019/L.13/Rev.1), sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Colombia, European Union (also on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, Peru, the Russian Federation and the United States of America (for the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/10). Following the adoption, the representative of Italy noted that the resolution was an important step towards the development of objective and scientific methodology for the measurement of corruption and that it would contribute to enhancing the design of evidence-based anti-corruption policies;

(k) “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States” (CAC/COSP/2019/L.14/Rev.1), sponsored by Australia, Cook Islands, Japan, Kiribati, Mauritius, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/11);

(l) “Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment” (CAC/COSP/2019/L.15), sponsored by Australia, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the European Union (on its own behalf and on behalf of its member States), Mexico, Mozambique, Norway and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/12). Following the adoption, the representative of Belgium noted that, with the support of UNODC, the resolution would lead to a better understanding by the international community of this type of criminality and its impact on the environment and society. The representative of France noted that the adoption of the resolution demonstrated the relevance of the Convention for the topics of the day and the extent to which the Convention provided all the necessary tools and facilitated international cooperation between States and intergovernmental organizations in addressing this challenge;

(m) “Promoting good practices in relation to the role of national parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and combating corruption in all its forms” (CAC/COSP/2019/L.17/Rev.1), sponsored by Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, China, Indonesia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Switzerland and Uganda. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 8/14). Following the adoption, the representative of Azerbaijan noted that national legislative bodies had an important role in fighting corruption. The representative of Pakistan noted that while the executive, judiciary and specialized anti-corruption bodies all played an important role in fighting corruption, the primary aim of the resolution was to highlight the role of parliaments in fighting corruption, in particular with regard to enacting legislation and in oversight. He noted that the resolution emphasized enhanced parliamentary interaction for sharing good practices in the fight against corruption, while taking cognizance of the independence of legislature and respecting constitutional frameworks respective Member States.

168. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted a draft decision entitled “Extension of the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/2019/L.18/Rev.1), submitted by the Chair of the Implementation Review Group (for the text, see chap. I, sect. C, decision 8/1).

X. Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Conference

169. At its 11th meeting, on 20 December 2019, the Conference approved the draft provisional agenda for its ninth session (CAC/COSP/2019/L.2) on the understanding that the provisional agenda and proposed organization of work would be finalized by the Secretariat in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference. The provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Conference is contained in annex II to the present report.

XI. Adoption of the report of the Conference on its eighth session

170. At its 11th meeting, on 20 December 2019, the Conference adopted the report on its eighth session (CAC/COSP/2019/L.1 and CAC/COSP/2019/L.1/Add.1, CAC/COSP/2019/L.1/Add.2, CAC/COSP/2019/L.1/Add.3, CAC/COSP/2019/L.1/Add.4, CAC/COSP/2019/L.1/Add.5 and CAC/COSP/2019/L.1/Add.6), as orally amended. The relevant parts of the report, which reflect statements made at the time of adoption, were circulated to States parties on 17 July 2020, for adoption by silent procedure.

XII. Closure of the session

171. At its 11th meeting, on 20 December 2019, the Conference heard closing statements by the Executive Director of UNODC and the President of the Conference.

172. Closing statements were also made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, China and Saudi Arabia.

Annex I

List of documents before the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its eighth session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CAC/COSP/2019/1	Annotated provisional agenda
CAC/COSP/2019/2	Status of implementation of Conference resolutions 7/5 and 7/6 on the prevention of corruption: report of the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/3	Set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/4	Activities and working methods of the Implementation Review Group: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/5	Progress on the activities of the Working Group on Asset Recovery: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/6	Progress on the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/7	Progress on the activities of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/7/Add.1	International cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings for the detection of offences established in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/8 and CAC/COSP/2019/8/Corr.1	Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States: report of the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/9	Implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: thematic report prepared by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/10	Implementation of chapter V (Asset recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: thematic report prepared by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/11	Good practices and experiences of, and relevant measures taken by, States parties after the completion of the country reviews, including information related to technical assistance: report of the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/12	Performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, in particular its second review cycle and

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
	the measures required for its completion: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/13	Preventing and combating corruption involving vast quantities of assets: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/14	Analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from country reviews and assistance delivered by UNODC: report of the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/15	Resources and expenditures for the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2019/16	Revised draft non-binding guidelines on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets
CAC/COSP/2019/INF/1	Information for participants
CAC/COSP/2019/INF/2	Provisional list of participants
CAC/COSP/2017/14	Report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its seventh session, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017
CAC/COSP/IRG/2019/9	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its tenth session, held in Vienna from 27 to 29 May 2019
CAC/COSP/IRG/2019/9/Add.1	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its first resumed tenth session, held in Vienna from 2 to 4 September 2019
CAC/COSP/IRG/2018/8	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its ninth session, held in Vienna from 4 to 6 June 2018
CAC/COSP/IRG/2018/8/Add.1	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its first resumed ninth session, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 September 2018
CAC/COSP/IRG/2018/8/Add.2	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its second resumed ninth session, held in Vienna from 12 to 14 November 2018
CAC/COSP/WG.2/2019/6	Report on the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery (Vienna, 29–30 May 2019)
CAC/COSP/WG.2/2018/6	Report of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery (Vienna, 6–7 June 2018)
CAC/COSP/WG.4/2019/3	Report on the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption (Vienna, 4–6 September 2019)
CAC/COSP/WG.4/2018/5	Report on the ninth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption (Vienna, 5–7 September 2018)
CAC/COSP/EG.1/2019/4	Report of the eighth expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention (Vienna, 31 May 2019)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CAC/COSP/EG.1/2018/4	Report of the seventh expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention (Vienna, 8 June 2018)
CAC/COSP/2019/CRP.1	United Nations Convention against Corruption: status of ratifications as at 27 November 2019
CAC/COSP/2019/CRP.2	Competent national authorities designated under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (as of 29 November 2019)
CAC/COSP/2019/CRP.3	Conference room paper entitled “Report of the International Expert Meeting on the return of stolen assets–ADDIS II (7–9 May 2019)”
CAC/COSP/2019/CRP.4	Conference room paper submitted by the Governments of Japan and the United States of America: G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group side event: Best practices in promoting transparency and accountability in asset return (9 October 2019)
CAC/COSP/2019/CRP.5	Conference room paper submitted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: written statement by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
CAC/COSP/2019/CRP.6	Conference room paper submitted by the European Union: European Union contribution to the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption
CAC/COSP/2019/NGO/1	Statement submitted by Transparency International: Grand corruption as a major obstacle to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
CAC/COSP/2019/NGO/2	Statement submitted by Transparency International: Calling for transparent and accountable asset recovery – TI chapter country reports
CAC/COSP/2019/NGO/3	Statement submitted by Transparency International: Gender and corruption – forms, impact and solutions
CAC/COSP/2019/NGO/4	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: UNCAC review transparency pledge
CAC/COSP/2019/NGO/5	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Making UNCAC work
CAC/COSP/2019/NGO/6	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: A guide to transparency and participation in the UNCAC Review Mechanism
CAC/COSP/2019/NGO/7	Statement submitted by the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption

Annex II

Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the ninth session of the Conference;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
 - (d) Participation of observers;
 - (e) Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials;
 - (f) General discussion.
2. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
3. Technical assistance.
4. Prevention.
5. Asset recovery.
6. International cooperation.
7. Other matters:
 - (a) Implementation of article 63, subparagraphs 4 (c) and (d), concerning cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations and appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for combating and preventing corruption in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work;
 - (b) Status of ratification of and notification requirements under the Convention;
 - (c) Any other matters.
8. Provisional agenda for the tenth session.
9. Adoption of the report

Annex III

Workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption for 2020–2021

<i>2020¹</i>	
<i>Session</i>	<i>Date</i>
Eleventh session of the Implementation Review Group (IRG) (Main topics: Prevention/Criminalization and Law Enforcement)	8 June: IRG procedural matters
Eleventh meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption	9–10 June: Substantive matters (Joint thematic and technical assistance sessions of IRG and the Working Group) ²
Intersessional meeting of the Conference on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, with the participation of all stakeholders	11–12 June
First resumed eleventh session of IRG (Main topic: Asset Recovery)	31 August–1 September: Only substantive matters; no discussion of procedural matters
Fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on Asset Recovery	Substantive matters (Joint thematic and technical assistance sessions of IRG and the Working Group)
Intersessional meeting of the Conference on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, with the participation of all stakeholders and/or informal consultations on the draft political declaration (closed meeting, with interpretation)	2–4 September
Second resumed eleventh session of the Implementation Review Group (Main topic: International Cooperation)	16 November (morning session): Procedural matters
Ninth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention	16 November (afternoon session)–17 November: Substantive matters (Joint thematic and technical assistance sessions of IRG and the expert meeting)

¹ It is proposed to hold three sessions of the Implementation Review Group in 2020 in view of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2021, so as to allow for the experts to participate in the discussions on the draft political declaration. It is proposed to subsequently reduce the number of sessions per year to two sessions.

² Briefing to civil society (in accordance with resolution 4/6), to be held in the margins of the Implementation Review Group session with the thematic focus on the topic of prevention.

<i>2020¹</i>	
<i>Session</i>	<i>Date</i>
Intersessional meeting of the Conference on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, with the participation of all stakeholders and/or informal consultations on the draft political declaration (closed meeting, with interpretation)	18–20 November
<i>2021</i>	
<i>Session</i>	<i>Date</i>
Special meeting of the Conference to approve the draft declaration (2 or 3 days, to be confirmed)	Week of 22 February
Twelfth regular session of IRG (Main topics: Prevention/Criminalization and Law Enforcement)	14 June: IRG procedural matters 15–18 June: Substantive matters (Joint thematic and technical assistance sessions of IRG and the Working Group) ³
Twelfth meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption	
Resumed twelfth session of IRG (Main topics: International Cooperation/Asset Recovery)	6 September (morning session): IRG procedural matters
Fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on Asset Recovery Tenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation	6 September (afternoon session)–10 September: Substantive matters (Joint thematic and technical assistance sessions of IRG, the Working Group and the expert meeting)

³ Ibid.