



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

Distr.: General  
4 October 2021

Original: English

## Ninth session

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 13–17 December 2021

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

## Prevention

### Status of implementation of Conference resolutions 8/7, 8/8, 8/11, 8/12 and 8/14, on the prevention of corruption

#### Report of the Secretariat

## I. Introduction

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 five resolutions focused on the prevention of corruption, namely, resolution 8/7, entitled “Enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies in fighting corruption”, resolution 8/8, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, resolution 8/11, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”, resolution 8/12, entitled “Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment”, and resolution 8/14, entitled “Promoting good practices in relation to the role of national parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and combating corruption in all its forms”. At the same session, in its resolutions 8/7, 8/11 and 8/14, the Conference requested the secretariat to submit a report on the implementation of the respective resolutions to the Conference at its ninth session, and, in resolutions 8/8 and 8/12, also to submit a report to the intersessional meetings of its relevant subsidiary bodies. In resolution 8/8, the Conference welcomed the progress made by States parties and the secretariat in the implementation of Conference resolutions 5/4 and 6/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”.

2. The present report provides the requested information on the implementation of resolutions 8/7, 8/8, 8/11, 8/12 and 8/14 and is intended to serve as a basis for discussion by the Conference on ways to progressively and effectively prevent corruption. The report provides an account of all initiatives that have been undertaken at the global, regional and national levels by States parties, with the support of the secretariat, to implement those resolutions during the reporting period (August 2019 to September 2021).

\* CAC/COSP/2021/1.



## **II. Update on the status of implementation of resolutions 8/7, 8/8, 8/11, 8/12 and 8/14**

### **A. Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption**

3. The Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, in its resolution 8/7, called upon States parties to continue to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies. In its resolution 8/8, the Conference called upon States parties to continue and to reinforce the effective implementation of the preventive measures set forth in chapter II of the Convention and in relevant resolutions of the Conference. In resolution 8/11, the Conference specifically requested measures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention in small island developing States. In its resolution 8/12, the Conference called upon States parties to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks and promote ethical practices, integrity and transparency with the aim of preventing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. In its resolution 8/14, the Conference called upon States parties to promote 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 welcomed the commitments made and efforts undertaken by States parties to provide information on good practices and challenges in preventing corruption, including the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies, and information on measures to mitigate corruption risks related to environmental crimes that was gathered, systematized and disseminated by the secretariat in the performance of its functions as an international observatory. It requested that States parties continue to share information and that the secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, continue its work as an international observatory, including by updating the thematic website of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption with relevant information.

4. Accordingly, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to gather and make available through the thematic website of the Working Group<sup>1</sup> all information provided by States parties ahead of each meeting of the Working Group. That information included presentations made at meetings, relevant reports and links to additional resources.

### **B. Supporting anti-corruption legal and policy frameworks**

#### **1. Support for the drafting of laws focused on corruption prevention provisions**

5. UNODC provided legislative assistance and supported the adoption or amendment of laws designed to prevent corruption. In November 2020, with support from UNODC, the asset recovery bill was adopted in Mozambique, as was the Organic Law on the Independent Commission against Corruption in the small island developing State of Papua New Guinea.

6. Advice in the form of workshops or commentary on draft legislation was provided to 27 countries with regard to 34 bills and regulations, including on whistle-blower protection, integrity in the public sector and the establishment of anti-corruption bodies.

#### **2. Assisting in the development of anti-corruption policies and strategies**

7. UNODC supported the development of various anti-corruption policies or strategies in 15 countries. The Office provided support to Argentina, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Chile, Honduras, Paraguay and Qatar in the development of their national anti-corruption strategies. The national integrity, transparency and anti-corruption plan of Paraguay for the period 2021–2025 was launched on the

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<sup>1</sup> [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/working-group-on-prevention.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/working-group-on-prevention.html).

occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day in 2020. Since December 2019, UNODC has been supporting Greece in the implementation of its national anti-corruption action plan and Peru in drafting guidelines for the implementation of models of prevention. In 2021, UNODC also assisted Mali in developing an action plan for prevention and response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the country.

8. At the regional level, in 2020, UNODC contributed to the publication by the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions entitled *Handbook of Good Practices to Fight Corruption*, a policy document for the adoption of measures to strengthen integrity, transparency and accountability.

9. UNODC provided assistance to the small island developing States of the Cook Islands, Fiji, Jamaica, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu in the development of their anti-corruption strategies.

### **3. Integrity, transparency, accountability and rule of law in the public sector**

#### **(a) Prevention of conflicts of interest and asset declaration systems**

10. In September 2019, UNODC provided assistance to Honduras in developing an asset declaration system for the Higher Court of Audit. In April 2020, UNODC reviewed and provided comments on a tool for identifying, preventing and resolving conflicts of interest for Colombia. In May 2020, UNODC, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank assisted in the development of an asset declaration bill in the Central African Republic. In December 2020, UNODC held a national workshop in South Africa to strengthen inter-agency coordination and information-sharing on asset declarations. In February 2021, UNODC facilitated a workshop on systems of integrity and transparency in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and on the management of asset declarations in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, with South-South cooperation from Colombia, Mexico and Peru. In February 2021, UNODC supported the Central Office for Combating Illicit Enrichment in Mali with a high-level conference on good practices in relation to asset declarations and asset recovery. In July 2021, UNODC supported the drafting of an asset declaration law in Senegal and held a follow-up workshop that raised awareness of the law among parliamentarians.

11. UNODC contributed to the publication entitled *Preventing and Managing Conflicts of Interest in the Public Sector: Good Practices Guide*, which was finalized under the Group of 20 (G20) presidency of Japan in 2019.

#### **(b) Transparency measures**

12. In December 2020, under the regional platform for Southern Africa, established to fast-track the implementation of the Convention, UNODC held a webinar on anti-corruption measures in public procurement in South Africa to foster collaboration between stakeholders with a view to improving the transparency and accountability of supply chain management.

13. In 2021, UNODC provided assistance to the Plurinational State of Bolivia in developing the *Compendium: Design and Implementation of the Municipal Transparency and Anti-Corruption Policy/Plan* and the “Guidelines for a transparent municipal transition”. In April 2021, UNODC facilitated training on the Convention, with special emphasis on access to public information, for Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. In June 2021, UNODC held a training event on open data standards for the Corruption Eradication Commission in Indonesia to strengthen its capacity to prevent and investigate corruption.

**(c) Reporting of corruption**

14. Through the reviews of implementation of the Convention, the need to improve whistle-blower protection was already identified as one of the areas with the largest numbers of technical assistance needs. The topic was also identified as a regional priority by the four regional platforms established by UNODC for East Africa, Southern Africa, South-East Asia and South America and Mexico, to fast-track the implementation of the Convention.

15. Under the regional platform for South America and Mexico, UNODC organized a series of workshops on whistle-blower protection, including in Colombia in September 2020, in Mexico in February 2021 and in Ecuador in June 2021. In July 2021, in a project aimed at preventing and countering corruption in the responses to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office organized a workshop on whistle-blower protection in times of crisis for Chile, Colombia and Paraguay. Similar workshops were carried out under the regional platform for East Africa, namely, in Uganda in November 2019 and in Ethiopia in June 2021. Under the regional platform for Southern Africa, UNODC delivered workshops in Zambia in October 2020, in South Africa in December 2020 and in Zimbabwe in September 2021. In addition, national workshops on reporting on corruption were organized in Ghana in July 2021 and in Thailand in August 2021.

16. Under the Global Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime, UNODC cooperated with the International Olympic Committee in delivering a series of national workshops on reporting mechanisms in sport.<sup>2</sup> In collaboration with the Fédération internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and in support of its Global Integrity Programme, UNODC organized regional and national workshops<sup>3</sup> in Egypt in December 2020 and in Mexico in February 2021.

17. In September 2020, UNODC engaged with various stakeholders, including the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association, and provided guidance on a whistle-blower protection bill in Kenya. In February 2021, UNODC provided assistance to Cambodia, Malaysia and South Sudan in the development of new whistle-blower protection frameworks and to Lebanon in the implementation of its new whistle-blower protection law.

18. UNODC initiated technical support to develop reporting channels and whistle-blower protection systems in health-care institutions and in wildlife departments and services in Brazil, Kenya and South Africa.

19. A webinar on public reporting and access to information for government officials was conducted for the small island developing States of Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands in April 2021.

20. UNODC supported the development of the G20 High-level Principles for the Effective Protection of Whistle-Blowers in accordance with article 33 of the Convention against Corruption, on the protection of reporting persons. Those Principles were adopted under the G20 presidency of Japan in 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Countries supported included Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Estonia, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kosovo (all references to Kosovo in the present publication should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)), Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Ukraine and the United States of America, and the small island developing States of the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

<sup>3</sup> For Governments and football associations affiliated with FIFA, such as the Asian Football Confederation, the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football and the South American Football Confederation.

**(d) Procurement and public finances**

21. In October 2020, UNODC launched the COVID-19 Anti-Corruption Response and Recovery project, designed to strengthen transparency in public procurement in the context of the pandemic. Under the project, UNODC led a series of dialogues in May 2021 to map the risks of corruption in public procurement in Chile. In June 2021, the Office also organized webinars and technical meetings to identify measures to mitigate corruption risks in public procurement in Colombia and held several consultations and focus group discussions to identify risks of corruption in public procurement in Paraguay. The possibility of deploying the UNODC corruption risk management methodology for procuring entities was discussed with South Africa and Timor-Leste. In the Philippines, UNODC assisted the Government Procurement Policy Board in strengthening its capacity to analyse electronic data to better prevent corruption. Forthcoming work under the project includes a global rapid reference guide on how to mitigate corruption risks in emergency procurement.

22. At the national level, UNODC implemented several capacity-building initiatives. In November 2019, UNODC provided support to the anti-corruption authorities of Uganda on the establishment of systems of procurement in accordance with article 9 of the Convention. In November 2020, the Office contributed to a virtual conference in Indonesia, organized by the Corruption Eradication Commission, with a presentation on big data analysis for the identification of fraud and corruption in public procurement. In July 2020, UNODC provided multi-agency training on addressing corruption risks in public procurement in Viet Nam and supported the development and launch of a guide on inspecting for procurement corruption and fraud for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In December 2020, UNODC conducted a webinar for South African officials on the development of public procurement reforms with a focus on open contracting and transparency of beneficial ownership.

23. UNODC conducted a training event on corruption risks in procurement for public officials of Micronesia (Federated States of) and Tuvalu in May 2021.

**C. Ensuring that anti-corruption bodies have the necessary competence****1. Designation of competent authorities**

24. As of June 2021, the Secretary-General had received notifications from 120 States parties designating a total of 188 competent authorities that might 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. An updated list is available to competent authorities and government agencies in the online directory of competent national authorities under the Convention ([www.unodc.org/compauth\\_uncac/en/index.html](http://www.unodc.org/compauth_uncac/en/index.html)).

**2. Support for anti-corruption bodies**

25. In line with Conference resolution 8/7, in which the Conference requested that the secretariat 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, UNODC analysed the responses received from States parties on the implementation of article 6 of the Convention and the executive summaries of country review reports issued under the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The resulting report was presented at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, held in June 2020 ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2020/4](http://CAC/COSP/WG.4/2020/4)).

26. UNODC provided assistance and training to anti-corruption bodies for the implementation of their mandates. That support included assistance in the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, such as financial investigations, interrogation,

interview techniques and case management, and thus addressed some of the recommendations made under the first cycle of the review of the implementation of the Convention. Because that assistance is substantively linked to other chapters of the Convention and does not fall within the main ambit of resolutions 8/7 and 8/8, it has not been included in the present report.

27. UNODC supported national anti-corruption bodies in developing workplans, undertaking corruption risk assessments and developing risk management plans in Argentina, Cambodia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Uruguay.

28. UNODC provided support to national anti-corruption bodies in the small island developing States of Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

29. In its resolution 8/8, the Conference requested that UNODC develop knowledge products, guidance notes on the implementation of article 6 of the Convention, and technical tools, including on measures to identify comparative good practices. To implement that mandate, in August 2020, the Office launched the *Colombo Commentary on the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies*, a guide designed to assist policymakers in their efforts to promote the independence of anti-corruption agencies. In July 2020, UNODC and the Corruption Eradication Commission in Indonesia conducted a webinar on the Jakarta Principles.

### 3. Improving coordination of anti-corruption initiatives

30. UNODC continued to deliver technical assistance, including the exchange of experiences, awareness-raising and learning activities at the global, regional and national levels.

31. Under its project to fast-track the implementation of the Convention, UNODC held discussions with other multilateral and bilateral assistance providers, donors and United Nations entities on synergies and plans for future anti-corruption activities. UNODC coordinated its anti-corruption work with IMF, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), government counterparts and business associations. The Office further solidified its cooperation with the Open Contracting Partnership, a not-for-profit organization, by developing a framework agreement to enhance the use of open data in public procurement.

32. UNODC supported the priorities of Saudi Arabia as Chair of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in 2020, including the preparation of the first-ever G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting and ministerial communiqué, as well as the development of three sets of G20 high-level principles, namely, for the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies, for promoting public sector integrity through the use of information and communications technologies and for promoting integrity in privatization and public-private partnerships. UNODC also contributed to a G20 scoping paper on international cooperation in dealing with economic crime, offenders and the recovery of stolen assets, developed a concept note for the Riyadh initiative towards the creation of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) and prepared the G20 publication entitled *Good Practices Compendium on Combating Corruption in the Response to COVID-19*.

33. In 2021, UNODC supported the work of Italy, as Chair of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, in several areas, such as in the development of G20 high-level principles on corruption related to organized crime, on tackling corruption in sport, and on preventing and tackling corruption in emergencies. UNODC also helped the Working Group to develop a questionnaire on the implementation and enforcement of G20 commitments on foreign bribery. In addition, the Office launched a website to collect all of the anti-corruption resources adopted by the G20 and to make the practical outputs more accessible to the public. UNODC led the drafting of two documents by the G20, on law enforcement cooperation and on the denial of safe havens, and contributed to one document on asset recovery.

Furthermore, UNODC supported the G20 in developing a new action plan for the period 2022–2024 to identify emerging priorities and advance action towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

34. At the regional level, in November 2019, UNODC presented various aspects of its anti-corruption work in different forums, namely, at the General Assembly of the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, held in Togo, at the annual general meeting of the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, and at the second Regional Meeting on Mutual Legal Assistance for central authorities from States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), held in Myanmar. The Office also took part in the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention, held in Morocco in January 2020.

35. UNODC conducted an online regional workshop on inter-agency coordination for Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe in April 2021. In Southern Africa, UNODC conducted a regional workshop on beneficial ownership transparency and on the scrutiny of politically exposed persons in May 2021. A similar workshop was held at the national level in South Africa in March 2021.

36. UNODC, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), moderated and supported the Pacific Regional Conference on Anti-Corruption, held in Kiribati in February 2020. UNODC facilitated an introductory session on misconduct in public office with the Samoa Public Service Commission and the Australian Public Service Commission in September 2020 and replicated the session with the Kiribati Public Service Office and the Australian Public Service Commission in December 2020. In October 2020, the Office contributed to an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) special event on enhancing the transparency of beneficial ownership and delivered presentations on international legal frameworks and good practices.

37. At the national level, many of the capacity-building workshops and training events listed in the present report, as well as in the report on technical assistance (CAC/COSP/2021/10), that relate to corruption investigations involved multiple national stakeholders, including anti-corruption authorities, law enforcement agencies, judicial actors, financial intelligence units, civil society organizations and the private sector, with a view to encouraging and improving their domestic coordination to more effectively and efficiently address corruption risks.

## **D. Promoting the integrity of the criminal justice system**

### **1. Judicial integrity**

38. The Global Judicial Integrity Network, which is supported by UNODC, continued to create experience-sharing and peer support opportunities for judges and judiciaries worldwide and continued to disseminate information about the Network in numerous forums. In Poland, in December 2019, UNODC participated in an expert meeting on updating the Kyiv Recommendations on Judicial Independence in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia, organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). UNODC also presented the work of the Network online during the global pandemic.<sup>4</sup> In February 2020, the Network held its second high-level meeting, in which participants took stock of achievements and adopted the 2020–2021 workplan. In March 2021, the Network held an ancillary meeting on judicial

<sup>4</sup> Including events organized by the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, the Network on Open and Innovative Government in Latin America and the Caribbean, the European Judicial Training Network, the International Bar Association, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of OSCE, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

integrity at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

39. UNODC also held events aimed at strengthening judicial integrity, including a meeting of experts held in Vienna in August 2019 on the role of judicial immunity in safeguarding judicial integrity and independence. During the global pandemic, the Office held 12 thematic webinars on integrity-related topics, including gender-related issues, transparency, the impact of organized crime and corruption on judicial integrity and independence, the institutional use of social media, and financial disclosures for judges. In December 2020, UNODC organized an online panel discussion on transparency techniques to strengthen the resilience of the judiciary at the nineteenth International Anti-Corruption Conference.

40. UNODC provided assistance on judicial integrity to judges, other members of the judiciary and court personnel in Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, Jamaica, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Thailand and the United States of America, as well as to the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime and to the small island developing State of Cabo Verde. In January 2021, UNODC co-organized a session on judicial ethics for newly appointed judges of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

41. Under its Sahel Programme, in December 2020, UNODC and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali delivered a workshop on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct and their application in Mali. Under its global programme on strengthening criminal justice cooperation along trafficking routes (CRIMJUST), UNODC contributed to a webinar on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on criminal justice systems in Africa, with a focus on Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria.

42. In order to assist judiciaries in addressing emerging judicial integrity-related challenges, the Global Judicial Integrity Network finalized three knowledge products in 2020, namely the “Non-binding guidelines on the use of social media by judges”, a paper entitled *Gender-related Issues in the Judiciary* and a guide entitled “How to develop and implement codes of judicial conduct”. The Network also continued to collect resources and raise awareness of other emerging areas, including the use of artificial intelligence, judicial transparency and open justice.

## **2. Law enforcement integrity**

43. Under its CRIMJUST global programme, UNODC supported several initiatives on integrity and accountability for law enforcement institutions, including the joint airport interdiction task force of the Airport Communication Project and the joint maritime control units of the Seaport Cooperation Project. Those initiatives were carried out at the national level in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal, and in the small island developing States of Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau. At the regional level, they were carried out in Central America and the Caribbean in November 2020 and in West and Central Africa in March 2021.

44. In March 2021, UNODC provided training on ethics for the police component of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) and training on anti-corruption measures in the response to COVID-19 for the security forces in Mauritania.

## **E. Preventing and combating corruption in the private sector**

45. UNODC supported regional and global efforts to strengthen public and private sector standards, including in partnership with the United Nations Global Compact initiative, the Alliance for Integrity, the task force on integrity and compliance of the Business 20, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, the World Economic Forum



Partnering against Corruption Initiative, ASEAN, APEC and OECD, including the Anti-Corruption Task Team of its Development Assistance Committee Network on Governance.

46. In November 2019, UNODC discussed innovative technical solutions with the IBM Think Lab in Switzerland. On International Anti-Corruption Day in 2020, UNODC and the Blue Company of Kenya signed an agreement aimed at combating corruption in the private sector in Kenya through a media outreach campaign. The Office also participated in a workshop organized by the National Office against Fraud and Corruption in Senegal on the role of the private sector in the fight against corruption.

47. In 2020, UNODC delivered online training programmes to junior ethics officers of private sector organizations in Mozambique and in Fiji, Mauritius and Solomon Islands. Under the Silk Road Economic Belt and Twenty-first Century Maritime Silk Road (Belt and Road) Initiative, UNODC co-hosted the third business integrity seminar with the National Supervision Commission of China and delivered a presentation on international legal instruments and corporate compliance in November 2020. Under the same initiative, UNODC supported a virtual conference on integrity in relation to the COVID-19 response and economic recovery in December 2020. In the same month, UNODC held a hybrid workshop on corruption, business and human rights at the first Pacific Forum on Business and Human Rights, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

48. In addition, UNODC contributed to the activities of the United Nations Global Compact initiative and to the upgrade of its annual reporting mechanism for companies, the “Communication on progress”. UNODC also contributed to the development of the United Nations Global Compact publication *Uniting against Corruption: A Playbook on Anti-Corruption Collective Action* and co-organized a high-level forum for the private sector on the margins of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

49. UNODC presented good practices in the protection of reporting persons at online conferences in Colombia and the United States, organized by the International Chamber of Commerce, and at an online event for the Compliance Officers Network in Colombia in October 2020. Between August 2020 and June 2021, UNODC delivered virtual capacity-building events at the regional and national levels with private sector organizations and chambers of commerce from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Paraguay, promoting the design and implementation of anti-corruption programmes focused on ethics and compliance for business across Latin America.

50. UNODC, in its advisory capacity to the presidency of Saudi Arabia of the G20 and in partnership with the University of Sussex, organized an Anti-Corruption Academic virtual round table. The purpose of the event was to develop research-based policy recommendations for the G20 on international cooperation, public procurement and approaches to the measurement of corruption. The recommendations were presented to the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in October 2020.

51. In addition, UNODC launched five projects funded by the Siemens Integrity Initiative to support anti-corruption measures in and with the private sector in Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. The aim of the projects was to prevent and fight corruption by strengthening legal frameworks, fostering public-private dialogue, helping small businesses identify corruption risks and involving young people, civil society and academia in the development of anti-corruption responses.

## **F. Promoting education on the prevention of corruption**

52. UNODC continued to implement the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, which is aimed at building a culture of lawfulness among children and young people through the provision of age-appropriate educational materials on topics related to crime prevention, criminal justice, anti-corruption issues and the rule of law, and through the integration of those materials into the curricula at all levels of education. The E4J initiative was a component of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness, and the initiative's university module series on integrity and on anti-corruption issues were presented at various international conferences on education, including in Mauritius, Qatar, the Russian Federation and Singapore in November 2019 and in Indonesia and Kazakhstan in December 2019. The modules were also used to develop an anti-corruption course for the University of the South Pacific, to be delivered in 12 small island developing States in the Pacific region.

### **1. Academia**

53. At the global level, under the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative, UNODC organized a symposium in the Russian Federation in November 2019 to discuss key issues in anti-corruption research and education and held a seminar on anti-corruption in times of COVID-19 in December 2020.

54. UNODC continued to develop and deploy teaching modules to support lecturers at universities and other higher education institutions to strengthen teaching. The Office organized the Education for Justice Global Dialogue Series, consisting of online discussions on the topics of education and the rule of law, youth voices, and the role of schools and higher education institutions in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. UNODC also gave lectures on the Convention against Corruption, the Implementation Review Mechanism, international cooperation and asset recovery at the University of Ouaga II in Burkina Faso in September 2019.

55. At the regional level, under its global integrity education project, UNODC held a series of online training events on anti-corruption, integrity and ethics for university lecturers from Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan. In March 2021, the Office organized two meetings of experts with teachers, representatives from the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the National Transparency Authority of Greece to discuss the adaptation to the Greek educational context of the E4J initiative teaching resource kits for primary and secondary schoolteachers. In addition, UNODC delivered lectures on its anti-corruption work to students from universities in Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Germany and Nigeria.

56. In Austria, in January 2020, on the International Day of Education, UNODC organized a high-level event on the role of higher education in strengthening the rule of law worldwide and in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16.

### **2. Awareness-raising at schools**

57. Under the E4J initiative, UNODC participated in the thirty-third International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement, held in Morocco in January 2020, and in the secondary school edition of the annual Model United Nations, organized by the World Federation of United Nations Associations and held in the United States in February 2020. In cooperation with Westminster International University in Tashkent and the Youth Affairs Agency in Uzbekistan, UNODC also jointly organized the Tashkent International Model United Nations conference in 2021.

58. In December 2020, UNODC supported the National Transparency Authority, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Institute of Educational Policy in Greece in the organization of a student competition entitled "Integrity leaders of tomorrow".

### 3. Work with youth

59. In November 2019, UNODC supported the second Youth Integrity Camp, held in Myanmar by the country's Anti-Corruption Commission and Ministry of Education, where material from the E4J initiative was used to teach students about integrity, ethics and anti-corruption issues.

60. In partnership with Facebook and the Nigerian technology company Andela, the second Hackathon4Justice was held in Nigeria in February 2020, with students competing to develop technological solutions to promote the rule of law and the fight against corruption. UNODC also participated in the first "YACathon", an anti-corruption competition aimed at controlling and preventing corruption through social innovation, social entrepreneurship and collective intelligence, organized by Youth against Corruption in Lebanon in May 2021.

61. In December 2020, UNODC held a conference on the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism for master's students at law universities in Uzbekistan. In October 2020, the Office conducted the first-ever East Africa Youth Online Blockchain Challenge, a six-week virtual programming marathon in which young developers in East Africa competed to design and implement blockchain-based software applications to resolve real-world challenges to anti-corruption efforts, with a focus on public procurement and financial investigations.

62. UNODC, in partnership with the International Anti-Corruption Academy, organized two online anti-corruption summer schools for young people. The first summer school was held in May 2021 for youth from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia and Nepal. The second was held in June and July 2021 with youth from Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

63. UNODC organized a series of workshops on business integrity and improved service delivery for young entrepreneurs in the small island developing State of Fiji in October 2020.

64. In May 2021, UNODC held the Youth Forum as a special event prior to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, with over 300 participants from 93 countries.

### 4. Publications and online tools

65. UNODC continued to develop global knowledge products, as highlighted in the specific substantive sections of the present report. Those knowledge tools and publications were prepared on the basis of research and experience accumulated globally, regionally and nationally. The Implementation Review Mechanism continued to be one of the key sources for the identification of areas in which tools were needed.

66. In November 2019, UNODC launched a publication entitled *Reporting Mechanisms in Sport: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation*, developed in partnership with the International Olympic Committee.

67. In February 2020, UNODC launched the publication *Scaling Back Corruption: A Guide on Addressing Corruption for Wildlife Management Authorities*, which provides guidance on the assessment and mitigation of corruption risks related to the mandates of those authorities.

68. UNODC launched the *Colombo Commentary on the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies* in August 2020.

69. At the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption in 2020, UNODC launched the publication *State of Integrity: A Guide on Conducting Corruption Risk Assessments in Public Organizations*. The guide sets out an uncomplicated approach to corruption risk

mitigation for public institutions, bodies and authorities, on the basis of seven resource-efficient steps. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, UNODC launched a guide on inspecting for procurement corruption and fraud in the Ministry in July 2020.

70. With regard to corruption risks related to COVID-19, UNODC produced several papers and guidance documents. In April 2020, UNODC produced a guidance paper entitled “Accountability and the prevention of corruption in the allocation and distribution of emergency economic rescue packages in the context and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic”, available in English, French and Spanish. The paper was developed as part of the newly created interdivisional task team on the COVID-19 response, and the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC led the thematic subgroup on addressing corruption within economic stimulus interventions, including in the public health sector. UNODC also developed a paper entitled “COVID-19 fiscal response and the prevention of corruption”, published in July 2020. In consultation with the Drug Prevention and Health Branch and the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC developed a policy paper on preventing corruption in the manufacture, allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, which was published in December 2020. UNODC also contributed to the development of two papers focused on sports and COVID-19, namely, the policy paper “Preventing corruption in sport and manipulation of competitions”, jointly developed with the International Olympic Committee and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), on ensuring that integrity is at the core of sport’s response to the pandemic, and “Recovering better: sport for development and peace – reopening, recovery and resilience post-COVID-19”, a United Nations-wide advocacy brief. UNODC and UNDP, within the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, produced an advisory note on COVID-19 and corruption in the Pacific.

71. In December 2020, UNODC launched the report entitled *The Time is Now: Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Corruption*. It is the first UNODC publication that explores the nexus between gender inequality and corruption and provides the anti-corruption community with guidance for programmatic initiatives.

72. Also in December 2020, UNODC launched the report entitled *Gender and Corruption in Nigeria*, which presents the first empirical evidence on gender and corruption in the country and facilitates the discussion on improving gender equality in public administration.

73. In June 2021, UNODC published *Speak Up for Health! Guidelines to Enable Whistle-Blower Protection in the Health-Care Sector* to promote a reporting culture and internal policies and procedures that facilitate the disclosure of allegations of wrongdoing and protect reporting persons.

74. UNODC publications were widely disseminated at relevant online events, such as conferences, workshops and training sessions. Given the global health situation, most in-person training programmes, workshops and other events that would constitute occasions for the dissemination of printed materials had to be cancelled, postponed or held virtually. The publications are available on the UNODC website ([www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/publications.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/publications.html)).

## **G. Other preventive work and emerging topics**

### **1. Work with other actors, including civil society and journalists**

75. In November 2019, UNODC organized a training workshop in Ghana to strengthen the investigative capacities of journalists from West Africa in the field of fisheries crime. The Office continued to provide support to the Norbert Zongo Cell for Investigative Journalism in West Africa. In November 2019, UNODC held an event in Senegal on the Convention against Corruption and regional anti-corruption instruments for young professionals from West Africa, in cooperation with the United

Nations Institute for Training and Research. In the Philippines, in November 2019, UNODC organized a regional round table for civil society organizations that are contributing to fast-tracking the implementation of the Convention in South-East Asia.

76. Under the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, UNODC worked with the Pacific Islands News Association to build the capacity of journalists to report on preventing, detecting and investigating cases of corruption. In partnership with the Palau Media Council, UNODC conducted an in-country workshop for local media in March 2020. In addition, UNODC held webinars on advancing the right to information in Papua New Guinea and in the Federated States of Micronesia in July and September 2020. In June 2021, UNODC participated in “Making World Press Freedom Day”, an event organized by the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network to help increase reporting on activities at risk of corruption through a stronger right to information and stronger legislation and whistle-blower protection.

77. In November 2020, UNODC, under its project entitled “Enhancing the capacity of civil society on good governance in Central Asia”, strengthened the capacities of civil society and other stakeholders with regard to their role in the Implementation Review Mechanism. The Office also organized a regional multi-stakeholder workshop with representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and contributed to an international conference on the role of applied research on anti-corruption issues, with a focus on the interaction between the academic community and civil society institutions, co-organized with the Academy of the General Prosecutor’s Office of Uzbekistan.

78. On the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day 2020, under the theme “Recover with integrity”, UNODC supported events led by civil society organizations in five Sahel countries, namely, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger. The events included film screenings, debates and round-table discussions on the 2020 theme, linking it to the importance of integrity in security forces for building trust in public institutions.

## **2. Parliaments**

79. In the implementation of resolution 8/14, in which the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption requested the secretariat to develop a compendium of good practices in relation to the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and combating corruption, UNODC, the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan and UNDP organized a round-table discussion on corruption prevention strategies in December 2020.

80. In Ethiopia, in February 2020, UNODC contributed to the first African Young Parliamentarians Conference in the margins of the thirty-third ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

81. UNODC continued its cooperation with the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption and jointly organized a side event during the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, held in June 2021, on the role of parliaments in implementing the political declaration adopted by the Assembly at its special session.

## **3. Environment and wildlife**

82. In implementing Conference resolution 8/12, entitled “Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment”, UNODC facilitated corruption risk assessments in 14 organizations, including wildlife, fisheries and forestry management authorities, environmental inspectorates and customs authorities, in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ghana, Greece, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria and Senegal. The Office continued to support the implementation of corruption risk mitigation strategies in Botswana, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Corruption risk mitigation work

included developing revenue prediction models, developing and strengthening codes of conduct and disciplinary codes, strengthening procurement processes and whistleblower mechanisms, administering staff morale and corruption experience surveys and implementing their outcomes.

83. In line with the same resolution, UNODC continued to support States in strengthening financial investigations related to wildlife and forest crime and crimes in the fisheries sector in Colombia, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru and Uganda and provided training on financial investigation techniques to public officials from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines and Thailand. In addition, UNODC supported the establishment of inter-agency cooperation units in Kenya and Uganda to foster increased coordination in addressing wildlife and forest crimes, crimes in the fisheries sector and corruption that facilitates those crimes. Also in line with the resolution, UNODC facilitated international cooperation by strengthening the capacity of source and destination countries to effectively request mutual legal assistance and by facilitating contact between national authorities.

84. In order to raise public awareness, UNODC launched the *World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in Protected Species 2020*, in which corruption was once again identified as a key enabler of wildlife crime. UNODC organized a number of events on the topic, including a high-level event on corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in March 2021. The Office also contributed to a side event on corruption and wildlife crime during the special session of the General Assembly against corruption in June 2021, as well as to webinars organized by partner organizations. UNODC also raised awareness of corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment through a social media campaign.

85. UNODC developed a number of knowledge products and facilitated meetings of experts to advance the global discussion on corruption risks that exacerbate forest loss. A publication on combating corruption that fuels forest loss is expected to be launched at the end of 2021.

86. The report on the status of implementation of resolution 8/12, which is being made available to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention as a conference room paper, is based on an analysis of the responses gathered from States parties through a questionnaire on their relevant actions and activities.

#### **4. Safeguarding sport from corruption**

87. UNODC organized two international conferences on safeguarding sport from corruption, supported by Italy and the Russian Federation, in September 2019, and the inaugural General Conference of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport, hosted by the United Arab Emirates, in December 2019. A special session on safeguarding sport from crime and corruption was organized at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in March 2021. In June 2021, a side event on safeguarding sport from corruption was held during the special session of the General Assembly against corruption. On International Anti-Corruption Day 2020, UNODC organized an online panel discussion in partnership with the European Parliament and launched an advocacy campaign with FIFA on tackling competition manipulation. In cooperation with FIFA, UNODC also launched an advocacy campaign on the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, on 6 April 2021.

88. UNODC led the development of the Governance Guidelines of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport, which were adopted by the steering committee of the International Partnership in November 2020. UNODC launched, with the International Olympic Committee, Task Force 4 of the International Partnership at a virtual event in April 2021 to enhance cooperation between law enforcement and criminal justice authorities and sports organizations. At the same

event, a draft stocktaking document on international anti-bribery standards in the context of sport was reviewed. In 2021, UNODC reviewed draft chapters of a global report on safeguarding sport from corruption, which involved input from more than 200 experts. In May 2021, UNODC organized a meeting of experts to review a forthcoming publication on legal approaches to tackling the manipulation of sports competitions.

### III. Delivery framework and resources

89. The Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, in its resolution 8/7, requested that the secretariat 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. In its resolution 8/8, the Conference requested that the secretariat 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. In its resolution 8/11, the Conference requested that the secretariat provide an update on the progress made and the challenges encountered in strengthening the implementation of the Convention in small island developing States. In its resolution 8/12, the Conference called upon States parties to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks and promote ethical practices, integrity and transparency with the aim of preventing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. In its resolution 8/14, the Conference called upon States parties to promote 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 invited States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the Conference resolutions, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations. Furthermore, it underlined the importance of providing UNODC with sufficient and adequate funding to be able to respond to the increasing demand for its services, and encouraged States Members 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, 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.

90. As showcased in the present report, UNODC continued to support the initiatives of States parties in implementing the Convention, both through tailored legislative and capacity-building activities and through the development of tools that facilitated the delivery of assistance on the ground. While such assistance covered the full spectrum of the Convention, the present report is focused on initiatives and activities in support of the implementation of Conference resolutions 8/7, 8/8, 8/11, 8/12 and 8/14.

91. Several global and regional programmes and projects have enabled UNODC to provide professional guidance, advice and expertise at the request of States parties. Those programmes and projects include the following:

(a) Global Programme to Prevent and Combat Corruption through Effective Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Support of Sustainable Development Goal 16, the primary vehicle used by UNODC to deliver assistance to prevent and counter corruption. The Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime is part of this Global Programme;

(b) Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime;

(c) Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness;

(d) Programme on strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (CRIMJUST);

(e) United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, a joint initiative of UNODC and UNDP.

92. The Office's close cooperation with other technical assistance providers, in particular with UNDP, as noted in several instances in the present report, has continued to be very productive.

93. In addition to specialized staff located at headquarters, UNODC regional and national anti-corruption advisers have been instrumental in delivering successful technical assistance initiatives. Their contributions to the implementation of resolutions 8/7, 8/8, 8/11, 8/12 and 8/14 are reflected throughout the present report.

94. During the reporting period, a global adviser was based in Vienna, while experts and advisers providing regional coverage were stationed in Fiji (for the Pacific), Kenya (for East Africa), Mexico (for Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean), Peru (for the Southern Cone of South America), Senegal (for West and Central Africa), Serbia (for South-Eastern Europe), South Africa (for Southern Africa) and Thailand (for South and South-East Asia). In addition, country advisers were located in Myanmar and Somalia, and country experts were located in Indonesia, Paraguay and the Philippines. The recruitment of advisers for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Papua New Guinea and Uzbekistan and the recruitment of an expert for Mali commenced.

95. The demand for the expertise and technical assistance of UNODC, including with regard to preventing corruption, has steadily increased, also as a result of the substantive focus of the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism on preventive measures.

96. Against this backdrop, increased and long-term support from donors and development partners is essential to continuing the work of the advisers and the staff located at headquarters who provide specialized anti-corruption expertise.

#### **IV. Conclusions and recommendations**

97. The Conference may wish to focus its deliberations on progress and challenges in the implementation of resolutions 8/8, 8/11 and 8/14 and recommend measures to be taken for the future. In this regard, the Conference may also wish to draw upon the conclusions and recommendations of the previous sessions of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, including its meetings held in Vienna from 31 August to 2 September 2020 and from 16 to 18 June 2021.<sup>5</sup>

98. The Conference may further wish to highlight the need for sufficient extrabudgetary resources to continue the provision of technical assistance related to the prevention of corruption at the national, regional and global levels. The Conference may thus wish to call upon States parties and other donors to reconfirm their commitment to the prevention of corruption, including through cooperation on ongoing initiatives and new work streams, and to the provision of financial means, in particular in the form of multi-year, soft-earmarked extrabudgetary contributions.

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<sup>5</sup> See [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2020/4](#) and [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2021/4](#).