



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

Distr.: General  
17 January 2022

Original: English

## Report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its ninth session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021

### Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption	3
A. Resolutions	3
9/1. Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery	3
9/2. Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthening international cooperation: follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption	9
9/3. Follow-up to the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption, and the use of information and communications technologies	12
9/4. Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption at regional levels	16
9/5. Enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation	20
9/6. Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption	23
9/7. Enhancing the use of beneficial ownership information to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime	29
9/8. Promoting anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training	33
B. Decisions	37
9/1. Submission of draft resolutions for the consideration of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption	37
9/2. Venue for the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption	37



II.	Introduction . . . . .	38
III.	Organization of the session . . . . .	38
	A. Opening of the session . . . . .	38
	B. Election of officers . . . . .	39
	C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work . . . . .	40
	D. Attendance . . . . .	40
	E. Participation of observers . . . . .	43
	F. Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials . . . . .	48
	G. Documentation . . . . .	49
	H. General discussion . . . . .	50
IV.	Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption . . . . .	55
V.	Technical assistance . . . . .	57
VI.	Prevention . . . . .	59
VII.	Asset recovery . . . . .	60
VIII.	International cooperation . . . . .	62
IX.	Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation . . . . .	64
X.	Other matters . . . . .	66
	A. Implementation of article 63, paragraph 4 (c) and (d), of the Convention, concerning cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations and making 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 . . . . .	66
	B. Status of ratification of and notification requirements under the Convention . . . . .	68
	C. Any other matters . . . . .	68
XI.	Action taken by the Conference . . . . .	68
XII.	Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Conference . . . . .	72
XIII.	Adoption of the report of the Conference on its ninth session . . . . .	72
XIV.	Closure of the session . . . . .	72
Annexes		
I.	List of documents before the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its ninth session . . . . .	73
II.	Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption . . . . .	78

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

### A. Resolutions

1. At its ninth session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted the following resolutions:

#### Resolution 9/1

### **Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery**

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

*Concerned* 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,

*Concerned also* about the negative impact of organized criminal activities, and acknowledging the need to strengthen efforts to better understand and address, identify, analyse and counter the links between corruption and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime, including money-laundering,

*Acknowledging* that preventing and fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and responsibility of all States parties,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [S-32/1](#) of 2 June 2021, in which the Assembly adopted the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, in which States parties recognized that preventing and countering corruption and illicit financial flows and recovering and returning confiscated assets, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>1</sup> could contribute to effective resource mobilization, poverty eradication, sustainable development and the enjoyment of all human rights, also recognized that corruption was often transnational in nature and reiterated the need for strong international cooperation and assistance in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, as well as in the recovery and return of confiscated assets in accordance with the Convention,

*Recognizing* that one of the purposes of the Convention against Corruption is to promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery,

*Reaffirming* the need for the full and effective use of the Convention against Corruption, including in prevention, and emphasizing the work of the relevant working groups of the Conference of the States Parties,

*Recognizing* the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating corruption, and to this end underlining the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures, that hinder such cooperation, and which are not

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and in this regard urging States parties, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures,

*Recognizing also* that preventing and combating corruption is particularly challenging during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery and that international cooperation is integral to recovery efforts,

*Recalling* its resolution 6/7 of 6 November 2015 on promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention against Corruption, and noting the growing importance of using such tools to combat corrupt practices, to inform appropriate response measures and to share and disclose information, in accordance with the Convention and the domestic law of parties, during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery,

*Deeply concerned* about global emergencies and crises, including the situation arising from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its health, social, economic and other implications, and their impact on, inter alia, good governance, the rule of law at all levels and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>2</sup> in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and its targets,

*Recognizing* that corruption risks may increase during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery as the urgency of needs, high demand for economic and health-related relief and the speed with which Member States and parties to the Convention against Corruption are required to respond create opportunities for corruption, which further impedes response and recovery efforts,

*Determined* to safeguard domestic and international stimulus funds and vital emergency resources, and recalling that corruption drains the resources necessary for crisis response and recovery and public service delivery, distorts markets and exacerbates the inequalities exposed during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery,

*Recognizing* that corruption is one of the factors that jeopardizes concerted multilateral efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and the international collaboration required to ensure adequate and equitable access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines, medical supplies, equipment, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, in particular for developing countries and people in vulnerable situations, as well as the promotion of global response and recovery efforts,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, in which the Assembly recognized the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in helping to ensure that all States had in place effective national protective measures, access to and flow of vital medical supplies, medicines and vaccines, in order to minimize negative effects in all affected States and to avoid relapses of the pandemic, and recognizing the importance of preventing and combating corruption in this regard,

*Recalling also* that Member States, in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021, noted with appreciation the important role of civil society, academia, the private sector and the media in identifying, detecting and reporting on cases of corruption and committed to 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 organizations, community-based organizations and the private sector, 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, and

---

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

recalling further the need for such actions during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery,

*Welcoming* the convening, in June 2021, of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption and the adoption by the Assembly, at that special session, of the political declaration in which reference was made to the need to ensure that appropriate measures were in place to prevent and combat corruption when responding to or recovering from national crises and emergencies and the role of supreme audit institutions and other oversight bodies and their functions in upholding policies and procedures for the management of public finances and public procurement were recognized,

*Recalling* the progress made by States parties and the secretariat in the implementation of Conference resolution 8/13 of 19 December 2019, entitled “Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption”, in which the Conference stressed 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 underlining the need to maintain efforts, including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, in that regard,

1. *Encourages* States parties to further the full and effective use of the United Nations Convention against Corruption to develop, put in place and, where appropriate, improve and strengthen anti-corruption policies and strategies, in accordance with domestic law, to ensure emergency preparedness and address corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery;

2. *Also encourages* States parties to continuously monitor and review the anti-corruption measures implemented during the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and other times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery and to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on corruption-related trends, keeping in mind that corruption risks may have increased during the pandemic;

3. *Further encourages* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal system, to afford anti-corruption bodies, supreme audit institutions and other relevant entities the appropriate mandates and the necessary independence and resources to carry out their functions effectively and free from undue influence, including, where relevant, in coordinating anti-corruption efforts, during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, and to strengthen political will in this regard;

4. *Calls upon* States parties to prevent opportunities for public officials to use their status, influence or insider knowledge to profit from procurement processes or the design, allocation, distribution or management of crisis response and recovery measures by requiring public officials to disclose potential conflicts of interest and ensuring appropriate review, management and sanction mechanisms, in accordance with domestic law;

5. *Urges* States parties to establish and, where necessary and appropriate, further strengthen, through the whole public procurement cycle, transparent, competitive and objective public procurement systems conducted by electronic means, if feasible within their means and in accordance with their domestic law, and to develop and improve guidelines for the use and governing of emergency procurement procedures that integrate anti-corruption safeguards to help ensure transparency, oversight and accountability during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, including by supreme audit institutions and other oversight bodies;

6. *Also urges* States parties to have in place sufficient internal audit systems and, where necessary, to strengthen them to help monitor the allocation and distribution of emergency relief and ensure the implementation of measures to prevent

corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, in accordance with their domestic legal frameworks;

7. *Encourages* States parties to have in place transparency and accountability measures in managing public finances during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery and, where necessary, to enhance them, including by presenting budget items to ensure that budgets and accounts are available for public access, using flexible and effective financial distribution policies to manage funds allocated for relief and enabling supreme audit institutions and other relevant entities to perform their functions in this regard, especially by upholding policies and procedures for the management of public finances, in accordance with the fundamental principles of domestic law, with a view to easing the burden on, and improving the conditions of, people in vulnerable situations;

8. *Reaffirms* States parties' commitment to improving their understanding of the linkages between gender and corruption, including the ways in which corruption can affect women and men differently, including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, and to continuing to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in this regard, including by mainstreaming it in relevant legislation, policy development, research, projects and programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of domestic law;

9. *Urges* States parties to incorporate and implement corruption risk management processes, in particular in institutions responsible for or concerned with crisis response and recovery, to help identify and mitigate potential corruption risks when designing, administering and managing the whole cycle of public procurement and relief measures, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems;

10. *Calls upon* States parties, where appropriate, to adopt or strengthen the anti-corruption measures necessary for private sector compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including with due regard for data protection and privacy rights, and to continue efforts to promote the development of 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;

11. *Reaffirms* States parties' commitment to making efforts in international cooperation and taking appropriate measures to enhance beneficial ownership transparency by ensuring that adequate, accurate and timely beneficial ownership information is available and accessible to competent authorities and by promoting beneficial ownership disclosures and transparency, such as through appropriate registries, where consistent with the fundamental principles of domestic legal systems, and encourages States parties to take such measures also during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery;

12. *Calls upon* States parties to investigate and prosecute offences established in accordance with the Convention against Corruption that result in unfair commercial practices, such as price gouging and the manipulation of the prices of essential goods and services or bids, especially those needed to respond during times of emergencies and crisis;

13. *Encourages* States parties to reinforce and enhance inter-agency cooperation at all levels to prevent individuals and companies, other legal entities, and systems used to transfer money, as well as non-regulated or unregistered financial or commercial or non-commercial entities at serious risk of being abused for corruption and money-laundering, from committing or being used to facilitate acts of corruption, including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, and to encourage and support companies and financial institutions in this regard, including to make better use of resources already expended;

14. *Also encourages* States parties to take anti-corruption measures to ensure that adequate safeguards are in place regarding the use of emergency executive authority during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, such as

legislative oversight, committee reports and monitoring mechanisms, in accordance with their domestic legal frameworks;

15. *Urges* States parties to take measures, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to provide the public with timely information during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, to prevent and combat corruption and to counter misinformation;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the important role of civil society, academia, the private sector and the media in identifying, detecting and reporting on cases of corruption and, in this regard, urges States parties to take 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 organizations, community-based organizations and the private sector, 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, including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, encourages States parties to respect, promote and protect the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption, which may be subject to certain restrictions, such as are provided for by law and are necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others and for the protection of national security, public order or public health or morals, and also encourages States parties to consider inviting those individuals and groups to contribute to the development and implementation of technical assistance programmes, upon request and based on the needs identified for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention against Corruption, and making efforts so that the conditions are present for their effective contribution to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the ability to operate independently and without fear of reprisal because of their efforts in that regard, in accordance with domestic law and their respective applicable international obligations;

17. *Calls upon* States parties to establish and, where appropriate, diversify and strengthen confidential complaint systems and protected reporting systems that are accessible and inclusive to facilitate the timely reporting of and to provide protection against any unjustified treatment for any person who reports in good faith and on reasonable grounds any facts concerning offences established in accordance with the Convention against Corruption, including as they relate to the allocation, distribution, use and management of emergency relief;

18. *Encourages* States parties to, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic law and their respective applicable international obligations, develop and strengthen the use of reliable, high-quality, timely and effective electronic communication channels that enable anti-corruption bodies, supreme audit institutions and other relevant entities to rapidly share timely information at the national and international levels through existing mechanisms, including those of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and consider accepting electronic copies in the sending and receiving of mutual legal assistance requests, including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, and notes the new Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, which aims to develop a quick, agile and efficient tool for combating cross-border corruption offences, strengthen communication exchange and peer learning between competent anti-corruption law enforcement authorities and complement and coordinate with existing and efficient tools for international cooperation;

19. *Also encourages* States parties to provide the necessary training and resources to ensure that relevant officials of oversight institutions have the tools and expertise required to analyse data and information to inform crisis planning, response and recovery, and in this regard further 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;

20. *Urges* States parties to collect and exchange best practices in preventing and fighting corruption and lessons learned concerning the use, availability and impact of data and digital tools, where feasible and taking into consideration the different circumstances of respective countries, to inform crisis response and recovery measures and help build, implement and maintain resilient emergency response systems;

21. *Recalls* article 43 of the Convention against Corruption, in which States parties are mandated to cooperate in criminal matters and, where appropriate and consistent with their domestic legal systems, consider assisting each other in investigations of and proceedings in civil and administrative matters relating to corruption, also recalls 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, through central authorities, and urges States parties to assist one another, including through joint or parallel investigations and bilateral sharing of capacity and expertise, where appropriate, through INTERPOL, including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery;

22. *Encourages* States parties to further explore and enhance their knowledge of the links between corruption and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime, including money-laundering, including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, to better strengthen integrity, transparency and accountability, and invites the secretariat, within existing resources, to compile a report in this regard on the voluntary information provided by States parties and submit it to the Conference at its tenth session;

23. *Directs* the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation to:

(a) Collect, with the support of the secretariat, information provided by States parties on a voluntary basis on best practices and challenges concerning international cooperation in combating corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery;

(b) Analyse, with the support of the secretariat, the information received, with a view to developing non-binding guidelines for strengthening international and multilateral cooperation to further prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery;

24. *Decides* that the next open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation should have, as a topic on its agenda, “Strengthening international and multilateral cooperation to further prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery”;

25. *Requests* the secretariat to submit to the Conference of the States Parties at its tenth session a report on progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the present resolution;

26. *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, based on priorities and needs and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to implement the relevant provisions of the present resolution;

27. *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 9/2

## **Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthening international cooperation: follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [73/191](#) of 17 December 2018, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, in which the Assembly decided to convene in the first half of 2021 a special session on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, and Assembly resolution [74/276](#) of 1 June 2020, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, in which the Assembly decided upon the organizational arrangements for the special session,

*Reaffirming* the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”,<sup>3</sup> which was approved by consensus by the Conference of States Parties at its special session held on 7 May 2021 and adopted by the General Assembly on 2 June 2021 at its special session against corruption,

*Noting with appreciation* the inclusive nature of the preparatory process for the special session, and the contributions by States, organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders,

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

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen measures and develop new approaches to assist States parties, at their request, in identifying and addressing challenges and gaps and overcoming obstacles in the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Recognizes* the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, held at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 4 June 2021, as a milestone in the efforts of the international community to prevent and combat corruption;

2. *Commits* to following up and building on the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, as the treaty body with prime responsibility for promoting and reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

3. *Reaffirms* the central role of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as the only treaty body established under the Convention and the body with prime responsibility for promoting and reviewing its implementation and improving the capacity of and cooperation between States parties to achieve the purposes and objectives set forth in the Convention;

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-32/1](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

4. *Directs* its subsidiary bodies, within their mandates, to take appropriate measures to follow up on the political declaration;

5. *Decides* to hold, within existing resources and with interpretation in all the official languages of the United Nations, preferably in 2022 and prior to the tenth session of the Conference, one follow-up intersessional meeting of the Conference on the achievements of the political declaration, and requests the Bureau of the ninth session of the Conference to make the necessary arrangements for the organization of this intersessional meeting, in close consultation with States parties, in line with the rules of procedure;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide substantive expertise and technical support to the Conference and its subsidiary bodies in conducting the follow-up process, including by creating and maintaining, on the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge portal, a repository of all the contributions submitted on a voluntary basis by States parties on the implementation of the Convention and the political declaration, such as on good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention;

7. *Recalls* the importance of an inclusive follow-up process to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, 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 follow-up process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the Conference, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect such contributions and make them available to the Conference;

8. *Encourages* contributions from relevant United Nations system entities, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, on the follow-up to the political declaration, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to coordinate with them regarding the implementation of mandates addressed to the United Nations system, including, as appropriate, through the United Nations Global Task Force on Corruption, and to report to the Conference on efforts in this regard;

9. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue reinforcing its global outreach and information exchange in order to increase public awareness of and knowledge on preventing and combating corruption, including through public global corruption prevention campaigns, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources to that end;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and existing resources, to continue to assist and support States parties, upon request, in their efforts aimed at advancing the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of the commitments made in the political declaration and strengthening their capacities and institutions to that effect;

11. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the lead entity in the United Nations system on countering corruption, to continue coordination and cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the wider United Nations system to foster anti-corruption measures that enable the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development,<sup>5</sup> to incorporate anti-corruption measures in the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and to increase coordination and cooperation with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat with a view to strengthening the rule of law and anti-corruption measures in United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts;

12. *Decides* to continue exploring activities, procedures and methods of work aimed at improving cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations

---

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations in line with the Convention and continue making appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for preventing and combating corruption in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work and to facilitate and promote effective cooperation and implementation of the Convention, and in this regard requests the secretariat of the Conference to continue ensuring the necessary coordination with the relevant international and regional organizations in the field of anti-corruption with a view to further facilitating and enhancing synergies;

13. *Recalls* paragraph 80 of the political declaration, in which the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is encouraged, in coordination with the Statistical Commission and in broad cooperation across the United Nations system, to develop and share a comprehensive, scientifically sound and objective statistical framework, grounded in methodological work and reliable data sources, to support States in their efforts to measure corruption, its impact and all relevant aspects of preventing and combating it, in order to inform and strengthen evidence-based anti-corruption policies and strategies, consistent with the Convention, and also recalls in this regard Conference resolution 8/10 of 20 December 2019;

14. *Also recalls* the invitation to the Conference in the political declaration to identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Convention by taking into account the results of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as any gaps and corruption challenges within the international anti-corruption framework, and to consider any recommendations by States parties to address the gaps and challenges identified in such a way as to improve the Convention and the implementation thereof as may be necessary, and in this regard, and as a first step, in the future, after the conclusion of and evaluation of the findings from the second review cycle, to organize a special session of the Conference on all aspects of the asset recovery and return process, with a view to considering all options available under the Convention, including exploring possible areas for improvement to the international asset recovery framework;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, to expand the global knowledge and data collection on asset recovery and return through gathering and sharing information on challenges and good practices, as well as on volumes of assets frozen, seized, confiscated and returned in relation to corruption offences, and the number and types of cases, as appropriate, while ensuring the protection of personal data and privacy rights, drawing upon existing efforts, within existing resources;

16. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to prepare a comprehensive report for the Conference on the state of implementation of the Convention after the completion of the current review phase, taking into account information on gaps, challenges, obstacles, lessons learned and best practices in preventing and combating corruption, in international cooperation and in asset recovery since the Convention entered into force;

17. *Requests* the secretariat to continue, as appropriate, to conduct the necessary surveys on particular gaps, challenges, lessons learned and best practices in prevention, criminalization, law enforcement, international cooperation and asset recovery and return;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Conference on its activities to support the implementation of the political declaration;

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

**Resolution 9/3****Follow-up to the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption, and the use of information and communications technologies**

*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,<sup>6</sup>

*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 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 Precepts and the Mexico Declaration on Supreme Audit Institutions Independence, adopted by, respectively, the Ninth and Nineteenth Congresses of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, held in Lima from 17 to 26 October 1977 and in Mexico City from 5 to 10 November 2007, and the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, signed on 30 July 2019, which provides a framework for cooperation between the two organizations in preventing and combating corruption,

*Noting* the programme for the implementation of Conference resolution 8/13 of 19 December 2019, entitled "Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption", funded by the United Arab Emirates and supported by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions Global Expert Team, which is led by the State Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates and entrusted with activating the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions,

*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

---

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

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,<sup>7</sup> including Sustainable Development Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and Goal 9, on, inter alia, increasing access to information and communications technology, which is conducive to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities,

*Welcoming* the convening, from 2 to 4 June 2021, of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption and the adoption by the Assembly of the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”,<sup>8</sup> in which Member States stressed the role played by the supreme audit institutions and other oversight bodies within their mandates in preventing and combating corruption, in particular with regard to promoting integrity, accountability, transparency and the proper management of public affairs and public property, and in areas such as public procurement, as well as the efficient use of public resources, and the need to take measures to prevent and combat corruption during emergencies and times of crisis and recovery, and emphasizing the role of supreme audit institutions and their functions in that regard,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the second meeting of the supreme audit institutions and the specialized anti-corruption bodies, and its recommendations, which was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 12 December 2021, prior to the ninth 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,

*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,

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

*Highlighting* the use of technology as a means of preventing and tackling corruption and reducing the impact of corruption on the response to and recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and encouraging States parties to adopt digital policies, where appropriate and with due regard to the protection of

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-32/1](#), annex.

personal data and privacy rights, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration and international cooperation, as well as enhancing accountability, transparency, integrity and citizen participation,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the international conference entitled “The future of anti-corruption: innovating integrity through technology and partnership”, which was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 9 December 2021, prior to the ninth session of the Conference, and which was organized by the State Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

*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,

*Welcoming* the progress made by States parties and the secretariat in the implementation of Conference resolution 8/13, entitled “Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption”, and underlining the need to maintain efforts in that regard,

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, 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. *Calls upon* States parties, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to encourage their supreme audit institutions to enhance their capacity and develop the capabilities and skills of their members and staff in preventing and combating corruption, including through training, education and knowledge exchange, consistent with article 60 of the Convention, through national, regional and international programmes;

8. *Also calls upon* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to enhance transparency, accountability and good governance in the management of their supreme audit institutions, including with regard to their organization, functioning and decision-making processes, where appropriate;

9. *Further calls upon* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to enable their supreme audit institutions to perform their roles in preventing and combating corruption when responding to or recovering from national crises and emergencies, especially with regard to their functions in upholding policies and procedures for the management of public finances and public procurement, and notes the importance of partnerships between the public and private sectors and other relevant stakeholders, in accordance with domestic law;

10. *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;

11. *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;

12. *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;

13. *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 Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption;

14. *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;

15. *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;

16. *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;

17. *Requests* the Open-ended Intergovernmental 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;

18. *Requests* the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention on Corruption and other relevant subsidiary bodies to include, as a topic for discussion at their future meetings, how to promote the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention;

19. *Requests* the secretariat to continue collecting, analysing and disseminating information on good practices in the development, access and use of information and communications technologies in preventing and combating corruption, taking into account existing technical expertise in the United Nations system, and also requests the secretariat to report on such efforts to the relevant subsidiary bodies;

20. *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;

21. *Requests* the secretariat, within existing resources, to submit a report to the Conference at its tenth session and to its relevant subsidiary bodies on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *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 9/4**

### **Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption at regional levels**

*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,

*Acknowledging* that preventing and fighting against corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and responsibility of all States parties, and reaffirming the



strong commitment of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>9</sup> as the most comprehensive, legally binding universal instrument on corruption, and the need for the full and effective use of the Convention,

*Welcoming* the promotion of anti-corruption technical assistance as a component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>10</sup> and as a means of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

*Convinced* of the importance of timely, adequate, effective and, where possible, long-term, sustainable technical assistance, upon request, 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,

*Recalling* article 62, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention, under which States parties shall make concrete efforts to the extent possible and in coordination with each other, as well as with international and regional organizations, inter alia, to enhance financial and material assistance to support the efforts of developing countries to prevent and fight corruption effectively and to help them implement the Convention successfully,

*Recalling also* article 62, paragraph 4, of the Convention, under which States parties may conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements on material and logistical assistance, taking into consideration the financial arrangements necessary for the means of international cooperation provided for by the Convention to be effective and for the prevention, detection and control of corruption,

*Recalling further* article 63, paragraph 4 (c)–(f), of the Convention, which provides the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention with the mandate to, inter alia, cooperate with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations and make 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,

*Recalling* paragraph 79 of the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”,<sup>11</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021, in which the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention is encouraged to continue exploring activities, procedures and methods of work aimed at improving cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations in line with the Convention and to continue making appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for preventing and combating corruption in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work and to facilitate and promote effective cooperation and implementation of the Convention,

*Recalling also* its resolution 7/3 of 10 November 2017, in which it encouraged States parties to continue to afford one another, according to their capacity, the widest measure of technical assistance, especially for the benefit of developing countries, including in the form of material support, capacity-building and training, upon request, consistent with chapter VI of the Convention,

*Acknowledging* the important contribution made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through the development of technical assistance programmes, and welcoming its initiative to adopt a regional approach in its anti-corruption technical assistance delivery, including through the creation of regional platforms across the world to fast-track the implementation of the Convention,

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly resolution S-32/1, annex.

*Recalling* the preamble to the Convention, in which States parties took note with appreciation of multilateral instruments to prevent and combat corruption,<sup>12</sup> and noting with appreciation the role that the Protocol against Corruption adopted by the Southern African Development Community on 14 August 2001 can play in the implementation of the Convention,

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

*Recalling* article 62, paragraph 2, of the Convention, entitled “Other measures: implementation of the Convention through economic development and technical assistance”, under which States parties shall make concrete efforts to the extent possible and in coordination with each other, as well as with international and regional organizations, to promote the implementation of the Convention,

*Convinced* of the need for a concerted multilateral effort, as well as for a regional approach, to promote and fast-track the implementation of the Convention, where necessary,

*Recalling* article 65 of the Convention, under which 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 implementation of its obligations under the Convention and may adopt more strict or severe measures than those provided for by the Convention for preventing and combating corruption,

*Recognizing* that multilateral and bilateral technical assistance is more effective when aligned with national anti-corruption strategies and action plans and built on their respective strengths, and therefore noting the importance of coordination among donors, technical assistance providers and recipient countries in order to leverage resources, increase efficiencies, avoid duplication of effort and meet the needs of recipient countries,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the regional approach and the methodology developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the creation of regional platforms for the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of States parties affording one another, according to their capacities, the widest measure of technical assistance, notably at the regional level, and addressing, upon request, technical assistance priorities, including those identified in the country reviews;

2. *Calls upon* States parties to acknowledge the importance of promoting, facilitating and supporting timely, sustainable, adequate and effective technical assistance for strengthening national capacities to prevent and fight corruption, and calls for accelerated action at all levels and by all technical assistance providers in addressing such needs, upon request, including those identified through the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, by mobilizing sufficient financial assistance, technical support

<sup>12</sup> Including, inter alia, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, adopted by the Organization of American States on 29 March 1996, the Convention on the Fight against Corruption involving Officials of the European Communities or Officials of Member States of the European Union, adopted by the Council of the European Union on 26 May 1997, the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, adopted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on 21 November 1997, the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 27 January 1999, the Civil Law Convention on Corruption, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 4 November 1999, and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union on 12 July 2003.

and other resources, as stated in paragraph 53 of the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021;

3. *Encourages* States parties to continue building, in collaboration with other partners, regional platforms for countries to fast-track effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by benefiting from regional capacities and knowledge to identify achievable and practical reform priorities, by assisting countries and development partners to fast-track identified Convention implementation priorities and by carrying out activities that serve to achieve tangible results in advancing countries' efforts to implement the Convention;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing, in close cooperation with multilateral and bilateral assistance providers, technical assistance to States parties, including regionally and by means of in-country capacity-building and assistance, when preventing and combating corruption at all levels and to continue ensuring the necessary coordination and cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption, with a view to further facilitating and enhancing synergies;

5. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through the regional platforms approach, to continue to provide technical assistance to States parties, upon request, including in the areas of:

(a) Promoting and fostering international and regional cooperation, including through the development of regional handbooks on mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecution and judicial proceedings and training and workshops on international and regional cooperation;

(b) Supporting the development of stronger procurement systems, including with the establishment of appropriate frameworks for emergency procurement procedures;

(c) Improving the transparency, accountability and integrity of public institutions, as well as the proper management of public affairs and public finances;

(d) Fostering financial investigations, including through the improvement of procedures to regulate anti-corruption and law enforcement bodies;

(e) Assisting States parties, as appropriate, in incorporating into their domestic legal system appropriate measures to provide protection against any unjustified treatment for any person who reports in good faith and on reasonable grounds to the competent authorities any facts concerning offences established in accordance with the Convention;

6. *Requests* States parties to take appropriate measures, within their means and in accordance with 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 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;

7. *Acknowledges* that United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime regional platforms should consider including mainstreaming a gender perspective into their activities, while continuing to promote the role of women in preventing and combating corruption, including in relevant legislation, policy development, research, projects and programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of the domestic law of States parties;

8. *Encourages* regional and national anti-corruption agencies and, where appropriate, other relevant stakeholders with anti-corruption responsibilities to continue their efforts in preventing and combating corruption and working together, including at the regional level, to accelerate the implementation of the Convention and to enhance synergies with relevant international and regional mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption, without prejudice to the domestic laws of States parties, and

notes the contribution of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime programme entitled “Fast-tracking the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, which is available to all States parties, in this regard;

9. *Invites* relevant regional organizations, within their mandates, to continue to prioritize and expand their initiatives in the area of prevention and the fight against corruption;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue and expand its regional approach methodology and establish further regional platforms, upon request by States parties, bearing in mind the characteristics of each region and the fact that its objective is not to duplicate activities but rather to build partnerships with other relevant technical assistance providers;

11. *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 9/5**

## **Enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation**

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

*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, paragraph (b), of the Convention,

*Recalling* its resolution 5/1 of 29 November 2013, entitled “Enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement cooperation in the detection of corruption offences in the framework of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, in which it, inter alia, requested States parties to cooperate closely with each other, consistent with their domestic legal and administrative systems, in order to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement action to combat the offences covered by the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>13</sup> and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing, in its programmes of technical assistance, measures to enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation, including in relation to offences covered by the Convention, before seeking mutual legal assistance,

*Recalling also* its resolution 8/1 of 20 December 2019, entitled “Strengthening of international cooperation on asset recovery and of the administration of frozen, seized and confiscated assets”, in which it encouraged 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,

*Recalling further* its resolution 8/2 of 20 December 2019, entitled “Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, in which it called 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, paragraph (b), of the Convention, with a view to facilitating the implementation of article 43 of the Convention,

<sup>13</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

*Recalling* the third open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention, held in Vienna on 9 and 10 October 2014, which encouraged the further use and expansion of existing networks of cooperation and their secure communication systems and encouraged States parties to enhance the efficiency of law enforcement cooperation mechanisms by, inter alia, developing effective systems of information-sharing, establishing channels of communication between their relevant authorities and, if needed, concluding arrangements to foster operational assistance,

*Recalling also* the tenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 September 2021, which made proposals to enhance international cooperation, such as early and direct communication and coordination, including through participation in cooperation and practitioners' networks,

*Recalling further* the political declaration entitled "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation",<sup>14</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021, in which Heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States and parties to the Convention against Corruption welcomed the creation of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (Globe Network) under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, one of the aims of which is to complement and coordinate with existing and efficient platforms for international cooperation, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)/Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery,

*Recalling* article 36 of the Convention, on specialized authorities, which provides that States parties shall ensure the existence of a body or bodies or persons specialized in combating corruption through law enforcement and that such body or bodies or persons shall be granted the necessary independence to be able to carry out their functions effectively and without any undue influence, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the legal system of the State party,

*Recalling also* article 48 of the Convention, on law enforcement cooperation, which requires States parties to enhance and, where necessary, to establish channels of communication between their competent authorities, agencies and services in order to facilitate the secure and rapid exchange of information concerning all aspects of the offences covered by the Convention,

*Noting* the Riyadh initiative for enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation, which provides for the creation of the Globe Network, which is to complement and coordinate with relevant international cooperation platforms and networks,

*Recognizing* that cooperation between and among anti-corruption law enforcement authorities both increases the effectiveness and efficiency of individual authorities and contributes to the success of the global fight against corruption,

*Taking note* of the charter of the Globe Network, adopted on 17 November 2021, in which it is recognized that effective international cooperation between and among anti-corruption law enforcement authorities must be based on a foundation of mutual trust, in line with the Convention,

*Bearing in mind* that full and effective use of the Convention against Corruption will facilitate effective international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation between competent authorities,

*Welcoming* the launch of the Globe Network on 3 June 2021, on the margins of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, commending the

<sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution S-32/1, annex.

efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in preparation for the establishment of the Network, and noting the organization of the first expert group meeting on the establishment of the Network, held on 3 and 4 March 2021, and the establishment of three interim task forces to advise on different aspects of the Network,

*Noting* the contributions of other United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and networks, such as the StAR Initiative and the asset recovery inter-agency networks, in their efforts to tackle corruption and enhance international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation, as well as to promote coordination and synergies with the GlobE Network,

1. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the establishment of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network), which is aimed at providing a quick, agile and efficient toolkit for combating cross-border corruption offences, strengthening communication exchange and peer learning between competent anti-corruption law enforcement authorities and complementing and coordinating with existing and efficient platforms for international cooperation;

2. *Invites* States parties that have not yet done so to encourage their anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to join, effectively participate in and make best use of the GlobE Network;

3. *Also invites* States parties that have not yet done so to encourage their authorities to participate in and make best use of opportunities for cooperation through other international organizations, networks and entities such as the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative and the asset recovery inter-agency networks, as well as to promote synergies with the GlobE Network, as appropriate;

4. *Calls upon* States parties, in accordance with their international obligations and domestic law, and without prejudice to their domestic law and policies on data-sharing and their own investigations, prosecutions or judicial proceedings, to proactively and in a timely manner share information between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities without a prior request, where they believe that such information could assist the authority in undertaking or successfully concluding inquiries and criminal proceedings or could result in the formulation of a mutual legal assistance request, as provided in articles 46, paragraph 4, and 56 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including by considering using the GlobE Network and existing networks, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), as appropriate;

5. *Encourages* States parties and relevant international organizations and networks to support the goals and objectives of the GlobE Network and other relevant networks, such as the INTERPOL/StAR Initiative Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery, with a view to contributing to the effective operation of the GlobE Network and enhancing cooperation with other relevant inter-agency networks, to strengthen and promote synergies;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consult with other international organizations, practitioner networks, including the INTERPOL/StAR Initiative Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery, and Member States, including their anti-corruption authorities with relevant expertise, as appropriate, to inform its proposed development of the online one-stop hub of the GlobE Network to provide a forum for cooperation, which may include a secure platform for confidential communication among Network members, and to keep States parties apprised of its progress in this regard;

7. *Requests* the secretariat, within existing resources, to collect information provided by States parties on a voluntary basis and report on the progress made and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the present resolution to the Conference at its future sessions and to its relevant subsidiary bodies;

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

### **Resolution 9/6**

## **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 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,

*Highlighting* the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>15</sup> 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,

*Welcoming* the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”,<sup>16</sup> adopted on 2 June 2021 by the General Assembly at its special session on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, in which Member States recognized the need and reaffirmed their responsibility to take urgent action to prevent corruption from occurring by putting in place preventive measures, policies and practices as outlined in chapter II (Preventive measures) of the Convention against Corruption and by strengthening practical tools, continuing to gather and share good practices and enhancing efforts and resources for education and training in the public and private sectors, while acknowledging the role of all individuals and groups outside the public sector engaged in prevention as one of the main pillars in the fight against corruption, and agreed to promote transparency, accountability, integrity and a culture of rejection of corruption at all levels of society as a basis for preventing corruption and ending impunity,

*Commemorating* the tenth anniversary of the adoption of its resolution 4/3 of 28 October 2011, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, and welcoming the progress made by States parties and the secretariat in the implementation of its follow-up resolutions and underlining the need to maintain efforts in that regard,

*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, which included the review of chapter II, and 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* the progress made by States parties and the secretariat in the implementation of its resolution 8/13 of 19 December 2019, entitled “Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption”, in which the Conference stressed the key role played by the supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption, in particular with regard to promoting

<sup>15</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>16</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-32/1](#), annex.

integrity, accountability, transparency and the proper management of public affairs and public property, as well as the efficient use of public resources, and underlining the need to maintain efforts including during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery in that regard,

*Stressing* that preventive measures are one of the most effective means of countering corruption, and in this regard recalling the commitment to prevent and combat corruption in a manner consistent with the obligations of Member States with regard to and respect for all human rights, justice, democracy and the rule of law at all levels,

*Acknowledging* that preventing and combating corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and responsibility of all States, and thus requires strong political will, the participation of society, strong, fair, effective, impartial, accountable and transparent institutions, comprehensive and balanced anti-corruption frameworks and approaches at all levels and committed enforcement by all jurisdictions in accordance with national legislative systems, as well as prevention, anti-corruption education, training and effective international cooperation, including, where appropriate, in asset recovery,

*Recalling* that the Convention highlights the importance of undertaking public information activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption, as well as public education programmes, including school and university curricula,

*Highlighting* the importance of strengthening and improving anti-corruption policies by, inter alia, periodically assessing and analysing the efficiency of the preventive measures and by recognizing and encouraging good practices therein,

*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, 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 to the Convention;
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, underlines the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group, and encourages States parties to implement them as appropriate;
4. *Acknowledges* that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption 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 tenth session of the Conference;
5. *Also acknowledges* that both preventive measures and law enforcement are required to address corruption effectively and that there are interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches that may lead to the increased effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts, and further acknowledges that successes in and lessons learned from one approach may inform the efforts in the other;
6. *Calls upon* States parties, in line with article 5 of the Convention, to establish and promote effective practices aimed at the prevention of corruption and to periodically evaluate relevant legal instruments and administrative measures with a view to determining their adequacy for effectively preventing and fighting corruption;



7. *Encourages* States parties to assess, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of their national anti-corruption policies, in particular with regard to measures to prevent corruption;

8. *Requests* the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption to consider including, as topics for discussion at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings, the development and implementation of national and international innovative measures to prevent corruption, including good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies and national responses in this regard, and the interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches, and requests the secretariat, within available budgetary resources, to report on those topics;

9. *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 Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption with relevant information;

10. *Highlights* the importance of the secretariat's work, in accordance with article 64 of the Convention, 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 Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption;

11. *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;

12. *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;

13. *Also calls upon* States parties to preserve, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, the independence of supreme audit institutions and other oversight bodies, to enable them to carry out their functions effectively and free from any undue influence, to implement policies for the effective operation of the institutions and to ensure that the findings and recommendations contained in the reports of these institutions and bodies are adequately addressed, including through corrective action where feasible;

14. *Further calls upon* States parties to enable effective cooperation at the domestic level among, as appropriate, anti-corruption authorities, police, investigative, prosecutorial and judicial authorities, financial intelligence units and administrative and oversight bodies, in particular supreme audit institutions, in corruption investigations and proceedings at the national level, in accordance with domestic legal systems;

15. *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;

16. *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,<sup>17</sup> adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, while respecting 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;

17. *Calls upon* States parties to take effective measures at the domestic level to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of corruption and related offences involving members of national parliaments at all levels in accordance with the Convention, while taking into account questions of privileges and immunities, as well as of jurisdiction, as appropriate, with a view to promoting the highest ethical standards as an essential element for maintaining public trust, 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;

18. *Also 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;

19. *Encourages* States parties, where appropriate, to include anti-corruption provisions in contracts and, when awarding public procurement contracts, to take into account whether natural or legal persons have been determined to have committed acts of corruption and any mitigating factors, as appropriate, and to consider establishing appropriate registries, in accordance with domestic law, while respecting the protection of personal data and privacy rights;

20. *Notes* the positive experiences and the challenges reported by States parties to the Convention that have established registries for natural or legal persons that have been determined to have committed acts of corruption;

21. *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;

22. *Encourages* States parties, in line with article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to incorporate and implement corruption risk management processes, in particular in public institutions and other institutions entrusted with the management of public finances, 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;

<sup>17</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

23. *Urges* States parties to take the necessary measures, including legislative and administrative measures, to prevent the bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, embezzlement, money-laundering and obstruction of justice by implementing the relevant obligations under articles 15, 16, 17, 23, 25 and 27, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and invites States parties to consider adopting measures, subject to their constitutions and the fundamental principles of their legal systems, and as may be necessary, to criminalize trading in influence, the abuse of functions and illicit enrichment, that is, a significant increase in the assets of a public official that he or she cannot reasonably explain in relation to his or her lawful income, bribery and embezzlement in the private sector and concealment, drawing on the observations and best practices emanating from the Implementation Review Mechanism and, to the degree possible, to go beyond the minimum and adopt additional measures for preventing and combating corruption;

24. *Reiterates* the importance of efforts by States parties to implement, 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, detect and, where appropriate, combat corruption involving the private sector, and requests the secretariat to continue to assist States parties, upon request, in those efforts;

25. *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;

26. *Also encourages* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of domestic law, to take measures to prevent corruption involving the private sector, including by promoting the development of standards and procedures designed to safeguard business integrity and promote transparency and the use of good commercial practices among businesses and in the contractual relations of businesses with States;

27. *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;

28. *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;

29. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on judicial integrity and education, and requests the Office to continue, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and 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 relevant regional and international organizations, as well as with other relevant partners;

30. *Invites* 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, integrity and knowledge in relation to preventing and combating corruption;

31. *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 chapter II 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;

32. *Recognizes* the importance of prevention of corruption for the broader development agenda, including the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and other relevant goals of Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>18</sup> and other initiatives aimed at strengthening the coordination and exchange of such information with development partners;

33. *Encourages* States parties to take 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, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and fight against corruption and to take into consideration, inter alia, the important role of the media in raising public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption;

34. *Requests* the secretariat to continue, in close cooperation with multilateral and bilateral assistance providers, to provide technical assistance to States parties, in particular 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;

35. *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;

36. *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, 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;

37. *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 thirteenth and fourteenth meetings and to the Conference at its tenth session;

38. *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.

---

<sup>18</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

**Resolution 9/7****Enhancing the use of beneficial ownership information to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime**

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

*Recalling* article 12, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>19</sup> which requires that each State party shall take measures, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its domestic law, to prevent corruption involving the private sector, enhance accounting and auditing standards in the private sector and, where appropriate, provide effective, proportionate and dissuasive civil, administrative or criminal penalties for failure to comply with such measures, and recalling also that, according to article 12, paragraph 2 (c), of the Convention, measures to achieve those ends may include, inter alia, promoting transparency among private entities, including, where appropriate, measures regarding the identity of legal and natural persons involved in the establishment and management of corporate entities,

*Recalling also* article 14, paragraph 1 (a), of the Convention, which requires that each State party shall institute a comprehensive domestic regulatory and supervisory regime for banks and non-bank financial institutions, including natural or legal persons that provide formal or informal services for the transmission of money or value and, where appropriate, other bodies particularly susceptible to money-laundering, within its competence, in order to deter and detect all forms of money-laundering, which regime shall emphasize requirements for customer identification and, where appropriate, beneficial owner identification, record-keeping and the reporting of suspicious transactions,

*Recognizing* the need for States to take such measures as may be necessary, in accordance with their domestic law, to require financial institutions within their jurisdiction to verify the identity of customers, to take reasonable steps to determine the identity of beneficial owners of funds deposited into high-value accounts and to conduct enhanced scrutiny of those accounts, including accounts sought or maintained by or on behalf of individuals who are, or have been, entrusted with prominent public functions and their family members and close associates,

*Recalling* its resolution 4/4 of 28 October 2011, in which States parties were encouraged to remove additional barriers to asset recovery by ensuring that financial institutions and, where applicable, designated non-financial services and professions adopted and implemented effective standards to ensure that such entities were not being used to hide stolen assets by, inter alia, adopting such measures as customer due diligence requirements, identifying and enhancing scrutiny of assets belonging to individuals who were or had been entrusted with prominent public functions, and to their family members and close associates, and collecting and providing beneficial ownership information and by ensuring, in accordance with the Convention and domestic law, through robust regulatory action, that they adequately implemented those requirements,

*Recalling also* its resolution 5/3 of 29 November 2013, in which it urged States parties to ensure that reliable beneficial ownership information on companies was accessible onshore to law enforcement agencies and other relevant authorities, including, as appropriate, financial intelligence units and tax administrations, thus facilitating the investigation process and the execution of requests,

*Recalling further* its resolution 6/3 of 6 November 2015, in which it encouraged States parties, inter alia, to implement the necessary measures to enable them to obtain

<sup>19</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

and share reliable information on beneficial ownership of companies, legal structures or other complex legal mechanisms, including trusts and holdings, misused to commit or conceal crimes of corruption or to hide and transfer proceeds, thus facilitating the investigation process and the execution of requests,

*Recalling* its resolution 7/1 of 10 November 2017, in which it called upon States parties to take appropriate measures consistent with domestic law and appropriate international standards, where applicable, to promote transparency of legal persons, including by collecting information on beneficial ownership, overcoming undue obstacles that might arise from the application of bank secrecy laws, preventing the transfer of proceeds of crime and identifying suspicious financial transactions through effective due diligence practices,

*Recalling also* the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”,<sup>20</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021, in which Member States committed to making efforts in international cooperation and taking appropriate measures to enhance beneficial ownership transparency by ensuring that adequate, accurate, reliable and timely beneficial ownership information was available and accessible to competent authorities and by promoting beneficial ownership disclosures and transparency, such as through appropriate registries, where consistent with the fundamental principles of domestic legal systems,

*Recognizing* that corruption and impunity are unacceptable, and thus committed to denying safe haven to those who engage in corrupt acts, whether natural or legal persons, and recognizing that those who engage in corrupt acts 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 and return such assets, consistent with the requirements of the Convention,

*Recalling* article 1 (b) of the Convention, which establishes that international cooperation, including in asset recovery, is one of the purposes of the Convention,

*Recalling also* article 51 of the Convention, which establishes that the return of assets pursuant to chapter V of the Convention is a fundamental principle of the Convention in that States parties shall afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance in that regard,

*Recalling further* the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, in which Member States recognized the need for effective, efficient and responsive international cooperation in asset recovery and return and mutual legal assistance without undue delay and committed to continuing to address challenges in their fight against corruption, including gaps in the implementation of the Convention,

*Recalling* the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, in which Member States committed to using the available tools for asset recovery and asset return, in accordance with domestic law, such as conviction-based and non-conviction-based confiscation, as well as direct recovery measures as outlined in chapter V of the Convention, and to sharing knowledge on and continuing to discuss and develop innovative modalities to clarify and improve mutual legal assistance processes in order to more efficiently advance asset recovery proceedings and render them more successful,

*Reaffirming* the commitment of States parties and determined to give effect to the obligations set out in chapter V of the Convention in order to identify, detect, trace, freeze, seize, recover and return in a more effective manner the proceeds of crime and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery in that regard,

---

<sup>20</sup> General Assembly resolution S-32/1, annex.

*Taking note* of the report of the High-level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda,

*Concerned* that those involved in corruption, as well as other criminal offences, can conceal their identity, criminal conduct and the proceeds of their crimes through the misuse of bank secrecy laws and complex company ownership structures involving anonymous shell companies,

*Concerned also* about the negative consequences of the lack of access by domestic law enforcement authorities to information on beneficial ownership and the difficulties that poses to their efforts to investigate and prosecute corruption offences and related crimes and enable asset recovery and return,

*Noting* 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 and the relevant discussions on beneficial ownership and asset recovery engaged in by participants,

*Noting also* applicable international standards on beneficial ownership, in accordance with domestic law, in which, inter alia, countries are urged to enhance the transparency of beneficial ownership information through the provision of adequate, accurate and timely information on the beneficial ownership and control of legal persons, including, where appropriate and consistent with domestic law, through registries that can be obtained or accessed in a timely fashion by domestic competent authorities,

*Recalling* article 14, paragraph 5, of the Convention, pursuant to which States parties are to endeavour to develop and promote global, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation in order to combat money-laundering, and noting the contributions of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Lausanne process initiative,

1. *Calls upon* States parties to ensure, or continue ensuring, efficient access to adequate and accurate beneficial ownership information on companies in a timely manner for their domestic central or competent authorities, including, as appropriate, financial intelligence units and tax administrations, in accordance with domestic law;

2. *Encourages* States parties to collect and maintain beneficial ownership information for legal persons and legal arrangements, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems and domestic law;

3. *Urges* States parties to cooperate closely with one another, bearing in mind the need to provide one another the widest measures of international cooperation, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and domestic law, to facilitate the efficient exchange of adequate and accurate beneficial ownership information in a timely manner;

4. *Calls upon* States parties, in accordance with the Convention and the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to adopt a multipronged approach to beneficial ownership transparency through appropriate mechanisms such as registries that provide efficient access to adequate and accurate beneficial ownership information on legal persons and legal arrangements in a timely manner in order to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of cases of corruption and the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime;

5. *Encourages* States to make use of beneficial ownership information in accordance with the Convention and domestic law to investigate and prosecute corruption and money-laundering and, where appropriate, to take measures to achieve the full potential that this information can bring with regard to the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime and, as appropriate, to strengthening the capacities of tax administrations;

6. *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;

7. *Encourages* States parties to give due priority to asset recovery efforts and to take measures to enhance international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, to ensure that those who engage in corruption offences are held accountable for such conduct and are denied the enjoyment of the proceeds of their crimes;

8. *Also encourages* States parties, where appropriate and feasible, to make use of digital and innovative technologies to facilitate the exchange of beneficial ownership information between central or competent authorities for the purposes of investigating and prosecuting corruption and the recovery and return of proceeds of crime in accordance with the Convention and domestic law;

9. *Further encourages* States parties to further a common understanding of the essential elements of beneficial ownership and the means of identifying the beneficial owners of various types of legal persons and legal arrangements and to ensure the availability of data that allow for their identification, in accordance with their domestic law;

10. *Urges* States parties to effectively implement paragraph 5 of article 52 of the Convention, which, inter alia, provides that States parties shall consider establishing, in accordance with their domestic law, effective financial disclosure systems for appropriate public officials and shall provide for appropriate sanctions for non-compliance, and that States parties shall also consider taking such measures as may be necessary to permit their competent authorities to share that information with the competent authorities in other States parties when necessary to investigate, claim and recover proceeds of offences established in accordance with the Convention;

11. *Also urges* States parties to further implement paragraph 1 of article 52, which requires States parties, in accordance with their domestic law, to require financial institutions within their jurisdiction to verify the identity of customers, to take reasonable steps to determine the identity of beneficial owners of funds deposited into high-value accounts and to conduct enhanced scrutiny of accounts sought or maintained by or on behalf of individuals who are, or have been, entrusted with prominent public functions and their family members and close associates;

12. *Encourages* State parties to consider designating and making available, where appropriate, points of contact authorized to accept and respond to requests for beneficial ownership information, in accordance with the Convention and the fundamental principles of their domestic law;

13. *Also encourages* States parties to consider developing effective mechanisms for relevant domestic authorities or entities to verify or check beneficial ownership information provided by legal persons and legal arrangements, and ensure that they have the necessary mandate or authorities for that purpose;

14. *Urges* States parties to ensure that non-compliance with beneficial ownership regulations by legal persons and legal arrangements is subject to appropriate effective, proportionate and dissuasive civil, administrative or criminal penalties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law;

15. *Also urges* States parties to cooperate in the implementation of applicable international standards on beneficial ownership transparency, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, in order to promote consistency in beneficial ownership regimes;



16. *Encourages* States parties, as appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector in order to raise awareness and understanding of the importance, in the fight against corruption, of measures to identify beneficial ownership of legal persons and legal arrangements, for the recovery and return of proceeds of crime;

17. *Urges* States parties to make use of opportunities for cooperation and peer-learning through existing practitioner-based networks;

18. *Encourages* States parties to enhance or establish channels of communication to facilitate, where appropriate and consistent with their domestic law, the sharing or exchange of beneficial ownership information among central or competent authorities to overcome obstacles in the recovery and return of proceeds of crime;

19. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, to make available, within existing resources, in the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge portal, information on States parties that maintain a registry or alternate mechanism on beneficial ownership information, together with information on how to make requests for such information;

20. *Encourages* States parties to promote broad domestic inter-agency collaboration in the collection and use of beneficial ownership information and to consider, where appropriate, making use of data from multiple data sets and with due regard for data protection and privacy rights, where consistent with the fundamental principles of their domestic law;

21. *Also encourages* States parties, with the assistance of the secretariat, to share, on a voluntary basis, examples of good practices on promoting beneficial ownership information transparency to facilitate the recovery and return of proceeds of crime and financial disclosure requirements for public officials while avoiding the duplication of work undertaken by other international forums;

22. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance, capacity-building and material support, upon request, to Member States, on the basis of their needs and priorities, with regard to establishing and implementing a domestic beneficial ownership information regime in order to facilitate the recovery and return of proceeds of crime;

23. *Decides* that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery should, within its mandate, in collaboration with and without duplicating the work of other relevant international organizations, include in its workplan for the period 2022–2023 the topic of good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership and how it can foster and enhance the effective recovery and return of proceeds of crime, taking into consideration article 63 of the Convention;

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 9/8**

### **Promoting anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training**

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

*Convinced* that education plays a fundamental role in the fight against corruption by promoting integrity and fostering a culture of rejection of corruption, and underscoring the important preventive function of awareness-raising, education

and training in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>21</sup>

*Acknowledging* the importance of working to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, adult and distance education, including technical and vocational training – so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to access opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development,

*Highlighting* the need to promote academic research on and expertise in different trends in and aspects of corruption, including on combating corruption, to, inter alia, provide evidence for and develop up-to-date anti-corruption policies and decision-making, thereby increasing the effectiveness thereof,

*Recalling* article 13 of the Convention, which requires that States parties take 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 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,

*Recalling also* articles 6, 36 and 60 of the Convention, in which States parties are requested to provide the staff of preventive anti-corruption bodies and specialized authorities and the personnel responsible for preventing and combating corruption with specific training to carry out their functions,

*Recognizing* that the private sector plays an important role in the prevention of and the fight against corruption, and welcoming efforts within the business community to develop and promote anti-corruption and compliance initiatives,

*Recognizing also* the important role of the media in raising public awareness about corruption,

*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 in order to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it,

*Recalling* the commitment of Member States to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>22</sup> including Sustainable Development Goal 16, and recognizing therefore the need to develop information and education programmes in order to promote the rule of law, build effective, accountable and transparent institutions and ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels,

*Recalling also* that, in the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”,<sup>23</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021, Member States stressed the importance of anti-corruption awareness-raising, education and training for the effective implementation of the Convention,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 4/3 of 28 October 2011, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, 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”, 6/10 of 6 November 2015, entitled “Education and training in the context of anti-corruption”, and 8/5 of 20 December 2019, entitled “Enhancing integrity by raising public awareness”,

<sup>21</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>22</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>23</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-32/1](#), annex.

*Welcoming* the achievements of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular under its Education for Justice initiative and Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative, in promoting anti-corruption education and the exchange of good practices among educators, as well as in developing publications on anti-corruption and integrity in the public and private sectors,

*Commending* the launch of the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment initiative by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as a follow-up to the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021 and to promote the role of education and youth empowerment in preventing and countering corruption,

*Noting* the meaningful role that relevant international and regional organizations and academic institutions play in the implementation of articles 13 and 60 of the Convention in areas such as public information activities against corruption and education programmes, including school and university curricula,

1. *Encourages* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal system, to continue their efforts to foster a culture that promotes respect for the rule of law and integrity, to strengthen preventive measures, to promote the participation of society in efforts to prevent corruption and to engage it in the development of anti-corruption policies and strategies;

2. *Invites* States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, with a view to promoting the active participation of civil society and the media, to undertake public information activities that contribute to promoting public knowledge of anti-corruption laws and regulations and non-tolerance of corruption and to raising public awareness regarding the existence, causes, gravity, risks and effects of corruption by various and diverse means, such as messages from senior leaders transmitted using technological innovations and modern means of communication, including on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day;

3. *Requests* States parties to further strengthen their efforts to support anti-corruption education and raise public awareness of corruption and its negative impact on society through education programmes involving all relevant stakeholders;

4. *Calls upon* States parties to increase public awareness of means for reporting instances of corruption, ensure that the relevant and competent anti-corruption bodies are visible and responsive to the public and disseminate information regarding the rights of any person who reports such instances in good faith and on reasonable grounds in accordance with domestic law and in line with article 33 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

5. *Urges* States parties to further strengthen their efforts to promote and enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption education at all levels, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems, such as by developing civic education programmes for children and young people and integrating courses on values, integrity and anti-corruption into curricula implemented by educational institutions, to foster a culture of non-tolerance of corruption from an early age and to prepare the next generation to become tomorrow's responsible citizens and policymakers;

6. *Encourages* States parties to develop, within their means and jurisdictional authority and in accordance with the principles of their educational systems, where possible, interactive remote educational technologies and e-learning tools on anti-corruption, integrity and the rule of law in the institutions of secondary and higher education to create a virtual space for students and educators to engage in innovative learning;

7. *Also encourages* States parties, to the extent necessary, to initiate, develop or improve specific training programmes for their personnel responsible for preventing and combating corruption, in line with article 60 of the Convention, to develop comprehensive guidance for anti-corruption law enforcement officials to

facilitate the enforcement of anti-corruption laws and regulations, as may be necessary, with a view to enhancing the skills of such practitioners and addressing current shortcomings in knowledge and practice in the field of anti-corruption, and to foster national, regional and international cooperation among these actors to share experiences and best practices in education and training;

8. *Urges* States parties to implement or improve, as may be necessary, periodic training programmes for public officials, especially those in positions vulnerable to corruption, inter alia, in the field of public procurement, to enhance their awareness of the risks of corruption inherent in the performance of their functions, with specific reference to resolving real-life situations, and to enable them to meet the requirements for the correct, honourable and proper performance of public functions, and invites States parties to consider, as appropriate, requesting the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international organizations and initiatives, such as the International Anti-Corruption Academy and the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, in this regard;

9. *Encourages* States parties, where necessary and within their jurisdictional authority, to develop and promote programmes, such as train-the-trainer programmes for educators in schools of public administration, law and criminal justice, academies and other educational institutions, also with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, where appropriate, that provide anti-corruption training to practitioners and public officials;

10. *Calls upon* States parties to promote the engagement of the business community in the prevention of corruption by encouraging it, inter alia, to develop and implement initiatives to prohibit and prevent any form of corruption, promote good corporate integrity practices, develop internal controls and codes of conduct, establish ethics committees, implement internal mechanisms to report acts of corruption, design specific training programmes and cooperate with official investigations;

11. *Encourages* States parties to promote ethics and integrity to be at the forefront of training in all professions, in particular those that can facilitate acts of corruption;

12. *Strongly encourages* States parties to promote comprehensive interdisciplinary research, as relevant, on patterns and trends in corruption to inform their anti-corruption policies and strategies and more effectively address emerging challenges, such as corruption risks during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the ways in which corruption can affect women and men differently, and to continue to promote the empowerment of women, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law and as called for in the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021;

13. *Invites* States parties and other relevant stakeholders to provide support to specialized initiatives aimed at facilitating research and connecting scholars and academic and research institutions to promote greater collaboration and sharing of resources and ideas, as well as to implement joint global and regional interdisciplinary research projects, including on compliance and collective action;

14. *Encourages* States parties to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in maintaining and updating the Legal Library, which is part of the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge portal, and to make information about the Convention and its implementation widely available;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to promote anti-corruption training and educational programmes and e-learning projects, as well as to further develop its knowledge products for the public and private sectors;

16. *Encourages* States parties to support the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

17. *Also encourages* States parties to consider participating in cooperation and exchange at the national, regional and international levels, using existing regional and international organizations, and to share best practices and experiences for promoting and enhancing, among others, anti-corruption education and law enforcement capacities, and to consider engaging the private sector and civil society, as well as interdisciplinary research on anti-corruption;

18. *Notes* anti-corruption education and practice-oriented initiatives, such as the joint programme offered by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the International Anti-Corruption Academy;

19. *Encourages* relevant institutions engaged in anti-corruption activities, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Anti-Corruption Academy, to closely cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and each other to exchange knowledge and develop cutting-edge educational and training programmes and innovative research projects;

20. *Requests* the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption to hold a panel discussion on challenges to and good practices in anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research at its thirteenth meeting, to be held in 2022, and requests the secretariat to prepare a background paper to inform the discussion;

21. *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.

## **B. Decisions**

2. Also at its ninth session, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

### **Decision 9/1**

## **Submission of draft resolutions for the consideration of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, recognizing the need for States parties to be informed in advance of draft resolutions submitted by other States parties, decided that, starting with the tenth session, States parties would be strongly encouraged to submit draft resolutions no later than one month in advance of the session.

### **Decision 9/2**

## **Venue for the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, recalling General Assembly resolution [47/202 A](#) of 22 December 1992 on the pattern of conferences, taking into consideration rules 3 and 6 of its rules of procedure, welcoming the offer by the Government of the United States of America to act as host to the tenth session of the Conference, and acknowledging the firm commitment of the United States to ensuring an inclusive session of the Conference of the States Parties for all States parties to the United Nations Convention against

Corruption<sup>24</sup> in the spirit of equality and non-discrimination, to facilitating the participation of States parties' representatives, to respecting their dignity and to ensuring the privileges and immunities as set forth in, inter alia, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations<sup>25</sup> and according to its other obligations to the United Nations, as applicable, and any host country agreement, arrangement or understanding pertaining to the Conference to be signed between the host country and the secretariat of the Conference, decided that its tenth session would be held in the United States in 2023.

## II. Introduction

3. 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

4. The Conference held its ninth session in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021. The Conference had resources at its disposal to provide for 20 meetings with interpretation into the official languages of the United Nations.

5. The outgoing President of the Conference, Harib Saeed al-Amimi (United Arab Emirates), made an opening statement.

6. The Conference viewed a video entitled "Road from Abu Dhabi to Sharm el-Sheikh".

7. The President of the Conference at its ninth session, Hassan Abdelshafy Ahmed Abdelghany (Egypt), made an opening statement.

8. The Conference viewed a video message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

9. In her opening statement, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), inter alia, highlighted that corruption undermined development, security and the rights of everyone and that it eroded public trust in systems and institutions. She noted that a lack of transparency and accountability in institutions denied people equal access to justice and to health, protection and other services and stressed that corruption infiltrated public procurement, destroyed competition, raised costs and compromised service delivery, while also affecting private sector development and growth. Moreover, the Executive Director stressed that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had underlined the negative impact of corruption on societies. She emphasized the need for resolute political will from leaders and Governments to take the steps needed to fight corruption and to mobilize the necessary resources. She highlighted the important roles played by law enforcement authorities, supreme audit institutions, financial investigation units, the judiciary and parliaments in countering corruption, and the need to foster greater international cooperation. She noted that, as the custodian of the Convention against Corruption, UNODC had supported 120 countries in developing strong laws, policies and capacities against corruption. She referred to the recently launched Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (Globe

---

<sup>24</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>25</sup> General Assembly resolution 22 A (I).

Network) and urged States parties to engage with the World Bank and UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative. The Executive Director stressed the importance of contributions of other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, who had a key role and responsibility in preserving integrity. Moreover, she stressed that women were affected disproportionately by corruption and bribery. She highlighted the need to educate children and young people on integrity and ethics and, in that regard, noted that UNODC was launching a new education initiative, the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative, at the present session of the Conference. She highlighted several UNODC initiatives and publications, on gender, health, responses to COVID-19 and safeguarding sport from corruption, among others. The Executive Director expressed her appreciation to the Administrative Control Authority, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the many other partners in Egypt that had worked with UNODC to make the session possible.

10. The Conference viewed a video about the work of the Administrative Control Authority of Egypt.

11. In his opening statement, the Prime Minister of Egypt, Mostafa Kamal Madbouly, described the Conference as the most important platform for exchanging best practices to combat corruption and stressed that combating corruption was a pivotal issue that overlapped with all aspects of development. He stressed that Egypt had made tremendous efforts to combat corruption, starting with the 2014 Constitution, which guaranteed the independence of oversight bodies and obligated State institutions to develop a national strategy to fight corruption. He indicated that corruption greatly affected quality of life; therefore, Egypt had worked on improving the living conditions of its citizens. It had adopted a comprehensive national programme for economic reform in 2016 and had implemented national projects to improve citizens' lives. Egypt had also launched several social programmes to support the social groups most in need and had launched the presidential initiative "Decent Life" to improve the lives of nearly 60 million people in rural areas, at a value of \$45 billion. Moreover, it had provided for development in unsafe and unplanned slums and had expanded coverage of water and sewerage systems. In 2021, Egypt had launched the National Strategy for Human Rights 2021–2026, which had combating corruption, strengthening governance and promoting integrity among its priorities. He mentioned that the establishment of the new administrative capital had also been a catalyst for administrative reform. He added that Egypt had taken measures to empower youth and women politically, socially and economically and was working to create a new generation of youth who rejected corruption. He reaffirmed that Egypt was committed to regional and international cooperation in preventing and combating corruption and sought to exchange experiences and knowledge with other countries in that field and stressed that the Conference would take important decisions at its ninth session that would strengthen the fight against corruption around the world.

## **B. Election of officers**

12. At its 1st meeting, on 13 December 2021, the Conference elected by acclamation Hassan Abdelshafy Ahmed Abdelghany (Egypt) as President of the Conference.

13. At the same meeting, the following Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur were elected by acclamation:

*Vice-Presidents:* Aftab Ahmad Khokher (Pakistan)  
Dominika Krois (Poland)  
María Andrea Matamoros (Honduras)

*Rapporteur:* Pierre Bertels (Belgium)

### C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

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

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. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.
8. Other matters:
  - (a) Implementation of article 63, paragraphs 4 (c) and (d), of the Convention, concerning cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations and making 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.
9. Provisional agenda for the tenth session.
10. Adoption of the report.

### D. Attendance

15. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the ninth session of the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya,



Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, 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, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

17. The following Secretariat units, United Nations entities, 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: Department of Operational Support, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, World Health Organization, United Nations Development Programme, Basel Institute on Governance, Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences and World Bank.

18. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: African Development Bank Group, African Union Commission, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Council of Europe, Eurasian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe, International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Development Law Organization, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Islamic Development Bank Group, League of Arab States, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and World Customs Organization.

19. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented by observers: Action citoyenne pour l'information et l'éducation au développement durable, Action pour l'éducation et la promotion de la femme, Africa Network for Environment & Economic Justice, Ltd/Gte, Africa Youths International Development Foundation, African Heritage and Global Peace Initiative, Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, Inc., Appui solidaire pour le renforcement de l'aide au développement, Arab Organization for Human Rights, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Association pour la promotion de la lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes et la participation au développement de la femme africaine, Bureau pour la croissance intégrale et la dignité de l'enfant, Centre for Civil and Political Rights, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, Club Ohada Thiès, Construisons ensemble le monde, Earth (Empathetic Activism Related to Humanity), Empower, Fundación Multitudes, Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption, HEDA Resource Centre, House of Jacobs International, Human Rights Association for Community Development in Assiut, Institute for Security Studies, International Association of Judges, International Association of Prosecutors, International Bar Association, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Joseph Adedayo Foundation, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, New Line Social

Organization, Nigeria-Togo Association, Organização das Famílias da Ásia e do Pacífico, Oyoun Center Foundation for Studying and Developing Human Rights and Democracy in Assuit, Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency, Partners for Transparency, Peace Worldwide, People of Good Heart, Social Watch/Contrôle citoyen au Bénin, Soroptimist International, United Nations of Youth Network – Nigeria, Universal Peace Federation, Stichting Wildlife Justice Commission, Transparency International, World Society of Victimology and Youth Competence Center.

20. 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 those other relevant non-governmental organizations. The following other relevant non-governmental organizations were represented by observers at the ninth session of the Conference: Accountability Lab, Africa Freedom of Information Centre, Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation, African Parliamentarians Network against Corruption, Aid Foundation, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Anti-Corruption Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Corruption Coalition, Anti-Corruption Trust of Southern Africa, Asociación Civil Japiqay, Memoria y Ciudadanía, Association for Children Management on Human Rights, Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women, Association of Anti-Bribery Management System Practitioners – Malaysia, AWTAD Anti-Corruption Organization, Balm for the Bruised Foundation, Botswana Centre for Public Integrity, Bulletin of Anti-Corruption Expert Review (Expertiza), Bureau de liaison avec le Parlement de la Conférence Episcopale Nationale du Congo, Cameroon Anti-Corruption Youths Movement, Caroline Wambui Gacheru Foundation, Centre for Development and Democratization of Institutions, Centre for Natural Resource Governance, Centre for Youth Initiative on Self Education, Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism, CHALLENGES: Action for Sustainable Development, Civil Forum for Asset Recovery, Coalition for Integrity and Accountability, Comisión Uruguaya de Lucha contra la Corrupción, Contraloría Ciudadana para la Rendición de Cuentas, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, Development Watch Network, Developmental Partnership Group, Due Process of Law Foundation, Egyptian Union for Development and Social Protection Policies, Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género, Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia – Tajikistan, Family Therapy Association of the Gambia, Foundation for Democratic Process, Freedom of Expression Institute, Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo, Gherbal Initiative, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Government Accountability Project, House of Africa, Humanitarian Legal Center, I Watch, Global Compact Network in Brazil, Improve Your Society Organization, Impunidad Cero, Indonesia Business Links, Initiative for Research, Initiative pour un Co-développement avec le Niger, Innovation and Advocacy in Development, Instituto Brasileiro de Governança Corporativa, International Association for Community Development, International Anticorruption Media, International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, International Federation of Accountants, International Fishermen Development Trust, International Foundation for African Children, Jolly Friends Foundation, Jordan Transparency Center, Journalists for Human Rights, KARIS Family Development and Resource Centre, Kuwait Transparency Society, Legal Analysis and Research Public Union, Ligue Comorienne de l'Anti-corruption et de la Transparence, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Missionaries of Africa, Mzalendo Trust, Network for Affirmation of the NGO Sector, Nyman Gibson Miralis, Observatoire de Lutte contre la Corruption et les Malversations Economiques, Open Contracting Partnership, Open Data Charter, Organisation Tchadienne Anti-Corruption, Palestinian Academy for Integrity, Pan African Lawyers Union, Pay No Bribe Animators Sierra Leone, Policy Alert – Grassroots People Empowerment Foundation, Progress Integrated Community Development Organisation, Progressive Center for Equality, Rapha International, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center, Sinar Project, Spectrum – Sustainable Development Knowledge Network, Stichting Kennis:

Knowledge for Safety and Good Governance, Strength in Diversity Development Centre, Studies and Economic Media Center, Sustainable Social Development Organization, Symbiosis and Solidarity, Tanzania Anti-Corruption Network, Technologies for Economic Development, Tojil, Transparency Justice, Transparency Maroc (Association marocaine de lutte contre la corruption), Transparency Mauritius, Tunisian Association of Public Auditors, Uganda Road Sector Support Initiative, Ukrainian League of Lawyers for Corruption Combating, UNCAC Coalition, United for the Protection of Human Rights Advocacy Network – Sierra Leone, United Youth for Growth and Development, University of Technology Sydney, Veille Citoyenne, World Economic Forum, Youth Against Corruption, Yuksalish Movement and Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development.

## **E. Participation of observers**

21. At its 1st meeting, on 13 December 2021, the President recalled that, according to rule 16 of the rules of procedure for the Conference, subject to prior written notification to the Secretary-General, representatives of entities and organizations that had received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, representatives of United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds, as well as representatives of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, were entitled to participate as observers in the deliberations of the Conference. Such entities and organizations, inter alia, could attend the plenary meetings of the Conference, deliver statements at such meetings at the invitation of the President, receive the documents of the Conference and submit their views in writing to the Conference.

22. The President recalled that rule 17, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure provided that relevant non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council could apply to the Bureau for observer status, which should be accorded unless otherwise decided by the Conference. In addition, rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure provided that other relevant non-governmental organizations could also apply to the Bureau for observer status. Accordingly, the secretariat circulated a list of relevant non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that had expressed interest in participating in the Conference and had applied for observer status. The President noted that invitations had been sent by the secretariat after the completion of that procedure to all relevant non-governmental organizations to the participation of which no objections were received.

23. The President informed the Conference that objections had been received to the participation of nine non-governmental organizations in the session of the Conference and that, in line with rule 17 of the rules of procedure and the past practice of the Conference, the Bureau of the Conference would consider the matter at its 1st meeting, on Monday, 13 December 2021.

24. Furthermore, the President proposed that, in line with a discussion held during the meeting of the extended Bureau of the Conference on 24 November, item 1 (d) of the agenda, entitled “Participation of observers”, be reopened on Wednesday, 15 December 2021, in the morning, as a first matter of business. The President informed the Conference that he would provide the Conference with further information on the deliberations of the Bureau at that stage. In addition, the President noted that he had made that proposal in the spirit of inclusiveness, especially in view of the hybrid nature of the session, given the situation arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The President referred to the high level of interest among delegations on the item and expressed his wish to ensure that all participants wishing to speak on the matter, both in person and online, had the opportunity to do so, so as to ensure the equal treatment of all States parties participating in the Conference.

25. At its 6th meeting, on 15 December 2021, the President informed the Conference that the extended Bureau had considered, at its meetings on 13 and 14 December 2021, the matter of the objections received from States to the participation of nine non-governmental organizations.

26. On the matter of the objection to the participation of the Libyan Transparency Association, the Bureau had recommended that the objection be upheld. The President informed the Conference that, in the past, objections raised in view of the national legal status of non-governmental organizations had been upheld by the Conference. The Conference decided to uphold the objection to the participation of the Libyan Transparency Association.

27. On the matter of objections raised by Turkey to the participation in the Conference of eight non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the President informed the Conference that, at its meeting on 14 December 2021, the Bureau had recommended that the Conference defer the decision on the participation of those eight non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Council that was objected to by Turkey and to start a process as soon as possible to discuss the issue, taking as much time as needed to find consensus. The Bureau had also recommended that the process should lead to the establishment of a mechanism, with the participation of all States parties, that would resolve the issue of the participation of non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Council in the future.

28. The representative of Turkey expressed appreciation for the timely and comprehensive reports on the meetings of the extended Bureau. He underlined that his Government was not targeting anyone and that it was not against non-governmental organizations, but that blanket approval could not be given to all of them. His Government expected all States parties to understand the serious security concern of his Government and noted that his Government would continue its fight against the Fethullah Gulen terrorist organization (FETÖ) and other terrorist organizations. He reiterated his Government's objection to the participation of the eight non-governmental organizations, as set out in letters dated 28 October and 24 November 2021. Moreover, he noted that his delegation had registered its position in the context of its national statement and had replied to the statements made by some delegations. He recalled and reiterated his delegation's request that the letters of his delegation dated 28 October and 24 November 2021 be published as conference room papers and attached to the report of the Conference on the present session. Furthermore, he noted that he would transmit the proposal of the Bureau to his capital and revert as necessary.

29. The representative of Slovenia, representing the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, expressed support for the recommendation of the extended Bureau, which was the only compromise possible in connection with the participation of non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. She noted that she had not been given the opportunity to make a statement at the 1st meeting of the session, on 13 December 2021, despite having raised her country name plate.

30. The representative of Slovenia, representing the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, made a joint statement on behalf of the following States parties to the Convention: Albania, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, European Union and its member States, Honduras, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. She noted that non-governmental organizations played a key role in supporting the global fight against corruption. It was therefore crucial that the Conference engage with a wide range of civil society organizations and that diverse voices be heard, in order to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and to ensure that States parties were capable of addressing current and future challenges in the fight against corruption. The principles of inclusivity and transparency were at the core of the Conference and its work. She stated that the expertise and voices of civil society were

needed during the sessions. She noted that, for those reasons, States had always supported the widest participation of relevant civil society and non-governmental organizations in the sessions of the Conference. However, there was concern that the work of the Conference was being undermined by a few countries blocking the accreditation of non-governmental organizations that had a proven track record of working on issues demonstrably relevant to the objective and purpose of the Convention. That had become a worrying pattern that went against the spirit of cooperation and genuine partnership required to fulfil the aims of the Convention.

31. The representative of the United States expressed regret that the objections had been submitted to the Bureau and, through the Bureau, to the Conference, without meeting a threshold standard of adequate proof to support the decision, which undermined trust in the current process. He noted that the United States understood the importance of including non-governmental organizations in the Conference as observers that had acted in good faith to assist States parties in their endeavours to achieve the aims of the Convention. His Government also understood the need for a mechanism to permit States parties to raise their well-founded objections when an entity seeking approval to participate as an observer had not met that standard of good faith. He noted that the system was built on trust that all participants, non-governmental organizations, the media, academia and Governments would act reasonably and in good faith. He stressed that, at the Conference, it must be ensured that, where entities had acted in good faith and on reasonable grounds, appropriate measures were taken to protect such entities from any unjustified treatment. One of the Conference's many goals was to further cooperation with non-governmental organizations; the Conference should not be used as a tool to have a chilling effect on such cooperation. He expressed regret that a number of States parties had used the session of the Conference to further interests that were outside the scope of the Convention. He recalled that, at the eighth session of the Conference, the participation of four non-governmental organizations had been objected to although there was no evidence of bad faith or unreasonable conduct. At the present session, the same State party had objected to eight non-governmental organizations, without providing the other parties to the Conference evidence of bad faith or unreasonable conduct by the entities in question, none of which operated within the territory of the objecting State. He noted that, as States parties to the world's first global treaty against corruption, it was time for Governments to move beyond the fear of public criticism by civil society. Each Government was represented at the Conference because it had admitted – by virtue of having signed a treaty with 189 other States parties – that they could not effectively combat corruption in isolation. Any proposal to exclude civil society was inconsistent with the spirit and the purpose of the Convention. Integrity Initiatives International was a non-governmental organization based in the United States and a strong advocate for global anti-corruption efforts. Its voice at the Conference would provide a meaningful contribution to collective dialogue. For those reasons, the United States remained concerned about the request to block the application of those non-governmental organizations to participate as observers. The representative appealed for the objections to be withdrawn and for the Conference to proceed in the constructive environment of transparency and collective effort that the signatories to the treaty had intended. Should that not be the will of the objecting State party, the United States would support deferring the matter without a decision to the next session of the Conference and using the intersessional period to establish a clear process consistent with the aims of the Convention and the terms and conditions unique to it.

32. The delegate speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States expressed support for the joint statement made by the representative of Slovenia, who had delivered a statement on behalf of 41 States parties to the Convention. He noted that the European Union had always supported the widest participation of relevant civil society and non-governmental organizations in sessions of the Conference and expressed deep concern that the objections raised by Turkey to a considerable number of non-governmental organizations would seriously impede those efforts. He noted that upholding the objections would set a dangerous precedent, as none of the

non-governmental organizations were based in the country that was objecting to them. He stressed that any Government had a legitimate right and responsibility to fight terrorism. Such efforts, however, needed to be undertaken in accordance with the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Any measures taken to counter terrorism must comply with States' other obligations under international law and observe the principle of proportionality. In that context, the European Union had serious concerns in relation to the objection of Turkey to the participation of eight non-governmental organizations, none of which were based in Turkey, as entities and/or individuals supportive of terrorism. He urged the Conference not to uphold the objections raised by Turkey to the participation of those non-governmental organizations in the session of the Conference.

33. The representative of Turkey noted that he needed to make some additional comments as some delegations were trying to create the impression that Turkey was against the participation of non-governmental organizations. He reiterated that that was not acceptable, and he recommended that all participants read the two letters from Turkey carefully. He added that it was unacceptable to claim that his country's objections were ungrounded. He noted that FETÖ was a terrorist organization that had been the perpetrator of a coup attempt and killed 251 innocent citizens. He noted that in none of the statements made at the meeting had it been mentioned that the non-governmental organizations to the participation of which Turkey objected were not supporting FETÖ. At the same time, the statements made by some delegations gave the impression that Turkey objected to the participation of non-governmental organizations. He rejected that. He also mentioned that he would convey the proposal of the Bureau to his capital. He stressed that the rules of procedure for the Conference were clear and that there was no point looking for an additional or substitute mechanism. He stressed that his delegation was open to discussions but was against changing the rules of procedure.

34. The representative of the Russian Federation noted that, when creating the Convention, there was no ambiguity in allowing for the active participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of Conference. He noted that the rules of procedure for the Conference clearly determined the order for the participation of non-governmental organizations in its work and recalled that those rules had been adopted by consensus, including by those States parties that were present at the Conference. He noted that no new problem or issue had emerged and also noted that his Government did not agree with the recommendation of the Bureau on establishing a mechanism, since such a mechanism already existed. He stressed that States parties had a right, as enshrined in the rules of procedure, to express objections to the participation of non-governmental organizations and that there was no requirement for States parties to justify their objections to the Conference. He stressed that the existing order for admitting non-governmental organizations did not require any changes to the rules of procedure.

35. The representative of Australia referred to the invaluable role played by civil society, the private sector and the media in preventing and combating corruption and expressed her Government's long-standing support of civil society's engagement in multilateral forums, including the Conference. She noted that it was important to ensure the broadest possible participation of civil society organizations in the work of the Conference, which was a forum to improve capacity and enhance cooperation in achieving the objectives of the Convention, and that the deliberations of the Conference were improved by the participation of non-governmental organizations.

36. The representative of Romania reiterated his Government's deep concern regarding the decision of the Government of Turkey to object to the participation in the Conference of eight non-governmental organizations, including one that was based in Bucharest, on the basis that it was considered as "supportive of terrorism", without providing any substantiating evidence and against the assessment of Romania as the organization's country of operation. He pointed out that, while every State had the legitimate right and responsibility to fight terrorism, such an unfounded accusation could put individuals and entities at risk and deprive the Conference of

valuable input. The representative reminded the Conference that, as a State member of the European Union, Romania strongly encouraged a vibrant dialogue between representatives of Government and citizens. The representative provided detailed information on the work of Expert Forum and asked for a decision allowing Expert Forum to participate in the Conference. Pending further instructions from the capital, Romania considered that deferring such decision for as much time as needed, as proposed by the extended Bureau, could lead to unreasonable delays.

37. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the participation in the Conference of relevant non-governmental organizations, in line with the rules of procedure, the established practice of the Conference and article 13 of the Convention. He noted that he did not have any comments on the objections made on the participation of some non-governmental organizations in the session of the Conference, but he raised concerns about some of the statements made by some delegations. He also noted that it was the sovereign right of States parties to make objections in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, which were clear in that, if there was no objection, observer status should be accorded, unless otherwise decided by the Conference. He further noted that the rules of procedure did not specify that States parties had to provide reasons for their objections. The representative noted that his Government did not support the establishment of a mechanism and that it was not in a position to agree to an amendment to the rules of procedure.

38. The representative of China noted that, although the issue of dealing with objections to the participation of non-governmental organizations had been discussed for a long time, no solution had been reached since the last session of the Conference. He noted that there had been no statements opposing the participation of non-governmental organizations in principle and that States parties supported the participation of non-governmental organizations in line with the rules of procedure. China did not oppose the participation of any non-governmental organizations in the session, while emphasizing that States parties were entitled to exercise their right to make objections in accordance with the Convention and the rules of procedure and that such right should be respected and taken seriously. He noted that it was important for States parties to find a long-term solution, rather than repeatedly reiterating positions and pointing fingers at each other. He expressed support for the recommendation of the Bureau to continue discussions to find an effective long-term solution.

39. Addressing the proposal put forward by the Bureau about the possibility of establishing a mechanism to address objections raised by States parties to the participation of civil society organizations, the representative of Mexico recalled that the Convention against Corruption did not foresee any conditionalities with regard to the participation of observers, including non-governmental organizations. Hence, Mexico would firmly oppose attempts by any State party to establish any conditions not present in the Convention, and underscored that such a mechanism, if established, would be exclusively for examining the objections raised by a State party and the best way to overcome them before the beginning of the session of the Conference.

40. The representative of Pakistan noted that his delegation welcomed the very constructive recommendation of the Bureau to defer a decision on the participation of the eight non-governmental organizations to which Turkey had objected. His delegation believed that that was the only appropriate way to address the issue. Pakistan believed that there was a need to develop a comprehensive mechanism to address objections to the participation of non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council once and for all. Therefore, Pakistan supported the Bureau's decision to start the process to develop such a mechanism at the earliest opportunity.

41. Several speakers noted that their Governments associated themselves with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union and its member States, as well as other States, and expressed support for the constructive and comprehensive recommendation of the Bureau of the Conference. Several speakers

noted that the allegations against the non-governmental organizations in question, which were located in their countries, were unfounded.

42. Several speakers expressed serious concerns regarding the objections and noted that upholding those objections would set a dangerous precedent. They stressed their Governments' support for the widest participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the work of the Conference. Several speakers referred to the essential role of non-governmental organizations in terms of ensuring accountability and democracy. Reference was made to the fact that non-governmental organizations needed independent access to information and resources. Several speakers noted that the participation of non-governmental organizations was essential to the success of the Conference. One speaker referred to the different interpretations of the rules of procedure.

43. Representatives of a number of non-governmental organizations made statements in support of the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference, raised concerns with regard to the exclusion of non-governmental organizations and encouraged the Conference not to uphold the objections received.

44. The President noted that, while there was agreement to defer the decision on the participation of the eight non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, consensus had not been reached on the establishment of a mechanism.

45. The President proposed to the Conference the holding of informal consultations and the continuation of discussions on the issue during the intersessional period, in order to facilitate consensus in the future and identify a long-term, institutional solution so as not to bring the issue to future sessions of the Conference, which might impair the ability of the Conference to address other issues. The Conference agreed to the proposal by the President.

## **F. Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials**

46. 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.

47. The President informed the Conference that the Bureau had considered the matter of credentials at its meetings on 13 and 14 December 2021.

48. At its meeting on 13 December, the Bureau had considered the matter of credentials submitted by Myanmar. On the basis of information provided through the Secretary by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat on the practice of other United Nations bodies in similar situations to which competing credentials were submitted, the Bureau had agreed to recommend not to accredit at that stage any delegate for Myanmar and to recommend to the Conference that it defer a decision on the credentials of Myanmar, pending guidance from the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly. The Conference decided to defer a decision on the credentials of Myanmar.

49. In addition, in view of the information provided by the secretariat on the matter of credentials from Afghanistan, the Bureau had agreed to recommend to the Conference that the credentials of Afghanistan be accepted. The Conference decided to accept the credentials of Afghanistan.

50. At its meeting on 14 December, the Bureau considered the matter of submission of credentials in the form of scanned copies by email. As agreed by the Bureau, the



secretariat had sought the guidance of the Office of Legal Affairs. The Bureau had agreed to follow the practice established in the context of the General Assembly and other United Nations conferences, at which the Credentials Committee had, as a matter of practice, accepted copies of formal credentials (including scanned copies received electronically) and notes verbales from permanent missions indicating the names of representatives on the understanding that the formal credentials would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. Furthermore, the Bureau had taken note of the practice established in the context of the General Assembly and other United Nations conferences for instances in which a permanent mission submitted formal credentials and then submitted provisional credentials, such as in the form of a note verbale from the permanent mission, in order to communicate the names of additional delegates. The practice in those cases was that all those communications were made available to the members of the relevant Credentials Committee for their consideration.

51. The Bureau informed the Conference that, of the 154 States parties that had registered for the ninth session, 119 States were in compliance with the credentials requirements, 15 States parties had only submitted credentials in electronic form and 20 States parties had not submitted credentials.<sup>26</sup> In cases where only copies of credentials had been received, delegations were reminded and requested to submit the originals to the secretariat in Vienna as soon as possible.

52. The President emphasized that it was the obligation of each State party to submit the credentials of representatives, in accordance with rule 18, and called upon 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 2022.

53. The Conference adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials at its 13th meeting, on 17 December 2021.

54. The representative of the State of Palestine, speaking also on behalf of Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen, stated that they had taken note of the Bureau's report on credentials and would like to express their reserved position on the credentials of the delegation of Israel for the following reason: Israel had annexed the city of Jerusalem and considered it its capital despite the relevant United Nations resolutions, especially Security Council resolutions 476 (1980), 478 (1980), 465 (1980), 298 (1971), 271 (1969), 267 (1969) and 252 (1968), and General Assembly resolution 35/169 E of 15 December 1980, in which the Assembly had determined that all legislative and administrative measures that followed the occupation of Jerusalem were null and illegal. The General Assembly had requested all States, specialized agencies and other international organizations to reject any action that contradicted the provisions of that resolution. She noted that, despite the provisions of the aforementioned resolution, the credentials of Israel had been issued from occupied Jerusalem.

55. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested that it be put on record that taking note of the report of the Bureau on credentials by no means and under no circumstances constituted recognition of the regime of Israel.

## **G. Documentation**

56. At its ninth 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.

<sup>26</sup> Status as at 17 January 2022.

## H. General discussion

57. At the 1st to 5th meetings, on 13 and 14 December 2021, the Conference of the States Parties considered agenda item 1 (f), entitled “General discussion”. The President of the Conference chaired the discussion.

58. The representative of Costa Rica, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, emphasized that corruption remained a challenge to security, stability, the rule of law and sustainable development. He reiterated the need to effectively promote the full implementation of the Convention and underlined the importance of the Conference of the States Parties. He welcomed the special session of the General Assembly against corruption held in June 2021 and the resulting political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, as well as the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in March 2021. He stressed the importance of having follow-up processes for the commitments made in both declarations and highlighted the need to prevent corruption effectively by enhancing efforts to implement chapter II of the Convention. In reference to chapter V of the Convention, he recalled that the return of assets remained a fundamental principle of the Convention. He underscored the need for action to be taken to remove barriers to international cooperation and called upon States parties to strengthen the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention. He highlighted the value of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and called for its continued funding under the regular budget of the United Nations. In closing, he underlined the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building activities as cross-cutting issues and called for the sustainable funding thereof.

59. The representative of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, stressed the negative impact of corruption on sustainable economic development, in particular in developing countries. He welcomed the 2018 decision of the African Union to designate 11 July as African Anti-Corruption Day. He also welcomed the draft resolutions submitted to the Conference at the present session by African States. Further, he called for the effective implementation of chapter V of the Convention, recalling that asset recovery was a fundamental principle of the Convention. He welcomed the ongoing second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism and emphasized the need to continue the funding of the Mechanism so as to preserve its impartiality. He noted with concern the lack of financial support for States parties, in particular developing countries, to enable technical assistance delivery. He also welcomed the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development 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 acknowledged the holding of the international expert meeting on the return of stolen assets held in Addis Ababa in May 2019, in which the international community had been encouraged to develop mechanisms to address illicit financial flows. He noted that States parties continued to face challenges in recovering stolen assets and outlined challenges that arose from the complex and lengthy procedures required in that regard.

60. The representative of Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States, emphasized 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 respond to it at the international level. In that regard, he welcomed the new States parties to the Convention since the last session of the Conference. He underlined the collective efforts taken to prevent and combat corruption for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16. He welcomed the political declaration adopted by the General

Assembly at its special session against corruption and the outcome of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. While acknowledging the important role of the Implementation Review Mechanism, he stressed that significant efforts were required to tackle delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He recalled that asset recovery was a fundamental principle of the Convention and highlighted the need to address illicit financial flows and facilitate the return of stolen assets. He urged States parties to take concrete measures to strengthen international cooperation, hold persons who committed corruption offences accountable and deny safe havens for persons engaged in corruption and the proceeds of crime. He highlighted the critical importance of technical assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

61. The representative of the European Union noted that corruption endangered the security and stability of societies, undermined public trust, triggered human rights abuses and threatened sustainable development. She stressed that the consequences of corruption disproportionately affected women and the most vulnerable. She highlighted the linkages between corruption and organized crime and the role of the European Union in addressing corruption through enhanced law enforcement cooperation, information exchange and innovation. She also highlighted the increased corruption risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on public health. She noted the role of the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the European Anti-Fraud Office in the fight against corruption, and highlighted their achievements. She emphasized that the rule of law was a cornerstone in the fight against corruption and stressed the importance of establishing robust institutions and independent and impartial legal systems. She highlighted the central role played by the media and investigative journalists. She noted the importance of civil society in the fight against corruption and expressed her concerns regarding the rejection of the participation of certain European Union-based civil society organizations in the session of the Conference, stating that that was unacceptable.

62. The representative of Azerbaijan, speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, highlighted the negative impact that corruption had on peace, security, the rule of law and sustainable development. He welcomed the ratifications by and the accession of new States parties to the Convention and called upon all remaining States to consider becoming a party as a matter of priority. He also welcomed the adoption of the political declaration at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption held in June 2021. He highlighted the inclusion of the issue of countering corruption in the outcome document of the eighteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Baku in October 2019. He underlined the importance of efficiently returning stolen assets, in line with chapter V of the Convention, and reaffirmed the importance of enhancing international cooperation in that regard. He reiterated the impact of the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption and acknowledged the importance of technical assistance, including the innovative use of technology in preventing and combating corruption.

63. A representative of the Council of Arab Ambassadors, speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, stressed the negative impact that corruption had on peace and security, the rule of law and sustainable development. He reiterated the importance of the Convention as the most comprehensive legally binding instrument to prevent and combat corruption. He underlined that corruption was both a local and a transnational phenomenon. He welcomed the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption, adopted by the Conference at its eighth session, as a turning point for cooperation among supreme audit institutions. He also welcomed the adoption of the political declaration by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021. He reiterated the need for international cooperation, including responding to requests for mutual legal assistance. He expressed appreciation for international efforts to continue international exchanges of good practices and knowledge, such as through the GlobE Network. In closing, he urged

donors to provide financial assistance to UNODC to support technical assistance delivery in line with chapter VI of the Convention. To that end, he highlighted the importance of partnerships between public and private stakeholders, as well as regional anti-corruption efforts to combat corruption.

64. Speakers welcomed the recent accessions to the Convention and emphasized that the Convention remained the only comprehensive legally binding global instrument for preventing and countering corruption. Speakers stressed the commitment of their countries to continuing their implementation of the Convention. The negative impact of corruption on development, social stability, the rule of law, human rights, peace and security was highlighted. Speakers underlined the importance of political will and a coordinated and unified approach to preventing and countering corruption as key enablers of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

65. Speakers welcomed and underlined the importance of implementing the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption held in June 2021. It was noted that the political declaration built on the momentum generated by the Convention and that the process undertaken for its preparation had helped to enhance cooperation on the priorities and challenges for combating corruption. Some speakers noted that the commitments made in the political declaration could be implemented within existing mechanisms.

66. Speakers highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and how corruption exacerbated its negative consequences, including the challenges posed to implementing the Convention. Many speakers underlined that accountability and transparency in response and recovery efforts, as well as combating corruption, were key pillars of an effective approach to the pandemic. The need to prevent corruption and strengthen international cooperation during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery was highlighted. One speaker noted the coordination in his country with citizen networks and the use of technology to help map and prevent corruption risks during the pandemic.

67. Speakers reported on positive outcomes as a result of their participation in the Implementation Review Mechanism established under the Convention and expressed strong support for the Mechanism and its core principles. Several speakers encouraged States parties to involve civil society in the review process and raised serious concerns over the practice of objecting to the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Conference. The role of the Mechanism as a means of sharing good practices and experiences, and as a catalyst of legislative reform in the field of anti-corruption, was emphasized. Several speakers, while calling for the timely conclusion of the second cycle of the review process, highlighted the need to open the discussion on the next phase of the Mechanism.

68. Several speakers described the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies in their countries, with the participation of a broad range of stakeholders, such as civil society, youth, academia, the media and women. The importance of strengthening national anti-corruption frameworks and specialized, independent agencies and commissions to address corruption was reiterated. The importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout anti-corruption initiatives was also underlined by some speakers. The work of investigative journalists in identifying and reporting on corruption, and the need for their protection, was highlighted by some speakers.

69. Many speakers highlighted the important role of civil society in the fight against corruption. Other delegations stressed the central role of States in countering corruption. One speaker stressed that non-governmental organizations should be supported, except those that were supportive of terrorism.

70. Speakers emphasized the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building activities in preventing and countering corruption and highlighted the

important role of UNODC in that regard. Speakers requested that such assistance and activities continue to be made available to States parties, upon request. Several speakers called upon UNODC and other assistance providers to ensure that technical assistance needs were met, in particular in developing countries and the least developed countries.

71. Speakers emphasized that education was an integral part of corruption prevention, and one speaker noted that the International Anti-Corruption Academy was a key partner in that regard. Some speakers highlighted the upcoming launch of the GRACE initiative to further promote education and youth empowerment. Some speakers reported on the inclusion of the topics of integrity, ethics and transparency in academic curricula at all levels as part of their awareness-raising efforts. The importance of tackling corruption in sport was also noted, and one speaker expressed appreciation for the recently launched UNODC *Global Report on Corruption in Sport*.

72. Speakers highlighted the key role played by the private sector in preventing and countering corruption. Measures such as the establishment of business registries and legislation aimed at criminalizing foreign bribery and holding private institutions accountable were mentioned. One speaker highlighted the establishment in his country of a registry of sanctioned companies, which procurement officials must consult before awarding contracts. Efforts to coordinate with the private sector to address corruption were also described, including efforts to obtain and analyse complex data, such as information held by Internet service providers.

73. Some speakers highlighted measures to improve asset disclosure by public officials as a means of strengthening integrity and trust in the public sector, and one speaker noted that digital assets had been recently included in asset declaration requirements under the domestic law of his country. The importance of implementing strong transparency and accountability measures and preventing conflicts of interest in the public sector was also noted. Speakers highlighted the use of electronic platforms to enable evaluations of government agencies, the expansion of the types of information made available to the public and the involvement of actors outside the public sector in decision-making processes to increase transparency.

74. Some speakers recalled actions taken to strengthen the capacity of anti-corruption officials, including standardized anti-corruption training courses and assessments for civil servants, as well as specialized training for prosecutors. In that regard, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was mentioned by one speaker.

75. The importance of harnessing technology to address corruption, including the use of open data to prevent, detect and mitigate corrupt acts, was highlighted by some speakers. One speaker noted the digitization of public services to help prevent corruption, including electronic procurement systems and electronic asset declaration registries that were publicly available and verified.

76. Speakers highlighted efforts undertaken to promote and facilitate the reporting of corruption, including through the establishment of online anonymous reporting mechanisms, and the need to protect those who reported.

77. Some speakers emphasized the importance of undertaking risk assessments in their public institutions. Another speaker noted the launch of a national anti-corruption index as part of corruption-prevention activities. The measurement of corruption using internationally recognized data standards was highlighted by one speaker.

78. Speakers stressed the importance of ensuring the transparency of beneficial ownership and international coordination, including through the establishment of registries, and curbing illicit financial flows.

79. Some speakers highlighted measures taken in their countries to strengthen the capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption cases, as well as efforts by the judiciary to enhance its effectiveness in adjudicating cases of corruption.

80. Speakers highlighted the links between organized crime and corruption, noting that corruption could facilitate organized criminal activity. Some speakers noted that that phenomenon was particularly manifest in environmental and wildlife crime. One speaker highlighted the importance of implementing the Kyoto Declaration adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to further anti-corruption action.

81. Speakers emphasized that asset recovery and international cooperation were cornerstones of the fight against corruption, noting in particular the use of the Convention as a basis for mutual legal assistance and joint investigations.

82. Some speakers underscored that they were facing certain international challenges and barriers in the prevention and combating of corruption. As a case in point, unilateral coercive measures that infringed the fundamental principles of international law and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations had impaired the allocation of resources required in the fight against corruption in the international arena and had further hampered cooperation among Member States, in particular in the return and recovery of asset and proceeds of crime.

83. Some speakers highlighted the participation of their countries in the GlobE Network. While noting the need to enhance cooperation among law enforcement authorities, some speakers encouraged all States parties to join the Network in order to benefit from its platform and tools.

84. Highlighting the need for consistency in effectively tackling money-laundering, one speaker advocated the effective implementation of the International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation of the Financial Action Task Force.

85. The importance of the implementation of the requirements of chapter V of the Convention and the related commitments contained in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption were also highlighted. Many speakers referred to legislative and policy reforms that improved their asset recovery frameworks and provided examples of the successful return and recovery of stolen assets. It was noted that returned assets should be used for the benefit of the people of the countries that had been victims of corruption offences. Speakers also referred to the usefulness of alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, that enabled proceeds of crime to be confiscated and facilitated the return of stolen assets. One speaker emphasized that international cooperation mechanisms and networks, such as the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network, were essential tools to achieve the effective return of stolen assets to their State of origin. Reference was made to activities undertaken in the framework of the StAR Initiative.

86. 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 in the prevention of, and the fight against, corruption.

87. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme highlighted the importance of mainstreaming efforts to fight corruption for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the potential of new technologies for addressing complex corruption challenges. The representative of the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat noted the importance of the United Nations common position to address global corruption and of strengthening anti-corruption efforts in peacekeeping operations. The representative of the World Bank provided examples of measures used to improve accountability and integrity, including the rehabilitation of sanctioned parties. The representative of the International Development Law Organization underlined the role of the judiciary in countering

corruption and presented examples such as specialized courts and the use of digital court monitoring and management tools. The representative of the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe recalled its guidance on managing corruption risks in the context of COVID-19 and emphasized its role in monitoring countries' compliance with international anti-corruption standards. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean noted the Assembly's commitment to advancing the parliamentary dimension of anti-corruption discussions, in particular with respect to the use of technology and the role of artificial intelligence. The representative of the UNCAC Coalition emphasized the essential role of civil society in the implementation of the Convention, as well as the need to continue to advance transparency with respect to beneficial ownership. The representative of Transparency International stressed the need to focus on grand corruption, illicit financial flows and international bribery and called attention to the work of civil society and the media. The representative of the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime reiterated the need for a holistic anti-corruption response, including through cooperation with diverse stakeholders. The representative of the International Association of Prosecutors announced the launch of its international cooperation platform for prosecutors to enable real-time communication between prosecutors and access to good practices. The representative of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption commended Conference resolution 8/14, in which the Conference had recognized the key role of national parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and combating corruption. The representative of the International Federation of Accountants highlighted that the accountancy profession was a committed anti-corruption partner serving the public interest in numerous sectors. The representative of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Malpractice Observatory described how independent media and civil society were vital partners in the fight against corruption. The representative of the International Bar Association highlighted its international cooperation committee and emphasized its coordinated anti-corruption legal strategy for the legal profession.

88. Statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Colombia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

#### **IV. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

89. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 15 December 2021, the Conference considered agenda item 2, entitled "Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption".

90. In his introductory remarks, the President of the Conference, *inter alia*, recalled that, in accordance with article 63 of the Convention, the Conference was to acquire the necessary knowledge of the measures taken by States parties in implementing the Convention and any difficulties encountered by them in doing so, through information provided by States parties and through such supplemental review mechanisms as may be established by the Conference. He also recalled Conference resolution 3/1, adopted at its third session, in 2009, 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 addressed the funding of the Mechanism and ways to overcome delays in the review process and enhance consistency in reviews.

91. The President of the Conference highlighted Conference resolution 6/1, in which the Conference had launched the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, pursuant to paragraph 13 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism. In addition, he drew the attention of delegations to resolution 8/2, in which the Conference had urged States parties to adhere to the indicative timelines for country reviews, and decision 8/1, in which the Conference had decided to extend the duration

of the second cycle of the Mechanism until June 2024 in order to allow for the completion of that cycle.

92. Furthermore, the President recalled that, in the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held from 2 to 4 June 2021, Member States had reaffirmed the importance of the Implementation Review Mechanism for accelerating progress in the implementation of the Convention by States parties, welcomed the achievements of the Mechanism and urged parties to the Convention to complete their reviews under the Mechanism in a timely manner. Also in the political declaration, Member States had committed to further harnessing the potential of the Mechanism in identifying the good practices and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Convention, disseminating good practices and making efforts to address the gaps in implementation and challenges and deepen mutual understanding and trust between States parties, while also building on challenges identified in that regard.

93. A representative of the secretariat provided an update on progress made in the conduct of the first and second cycle reviews and the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, in particular its second review cycle and the measures required for its completion. In that context, he presented a note by the Secretariat ([CAC/COSP/2021/2](#)) that 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 taken or required for completing the country reviews under the second cycle, taking into account the additional challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The representative also gave a briefing to the Conference on the activities of the Implementation Review Group (see [CAC/COSP/2021/3](#)), noting that, despite the difficulties arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group had discharged all of its mandated tasks, as well as the work defined by the Conference in the workplan adopted at its eighth session.

94. In addition, the representative introduced the note by the Secretariat providing an analysis of the views expressed by States parties to the Convention on the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism ([CAC/COSP/2021/4](#)), which had been prepared in accordance with resolution 8/2, in which the Conference had requested 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 Mechanism.

95. The representative 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/2021/5](#) and [CAC/COSP/2021/6](#), respectively). Moreover, he introduced the report of the Secretariat on the implementation at the regional level of chapters II and V of the Convention ([CAC/COSP/2021/7](#)) and provided an overview of the note by the Secretariat entitled “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/2021/9](#)), which provided an analysis of the measures taken by States parties after the completion of their reviews and, to that end, an analysis of the impact of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

96. In the ensuing discussion, many speakers underscored the importance of, and their Government’s support for, the Implementation Review Mechanism in promoting the effective implementation of the Convention and in furthering the prevention of and the fight against corruption at all levels. They also underlined that the Mechanism had been tested by time and was a reliable instrument for assessing progress achieved and sharing experiences, good practices and ways to overcome challenges. It was noted that the Mechanism had assisted countries in promoting legislative reforms and improving cooperation among national authorities at the working level.



97. Speakers shared their countries' experience in participating in the Implementation Review Mechanism. Several speakers highlighted the positive impact that the reviews had had on fostering cooperation and coordination at the national and international levels. Speakers also shared the experiences gained, challenges faced and good practices identified in the course of the reviews and also outlined the steps that their countries had taken to implement recommendations, such as the development of national anti-corruption strategies, legislative and institutional reform efforts and the creation of working groups and coordination mechanisms. One speaker noted that his country had signed the UNCAC Coalition Transparency Pledge.

98. Some speakers referred to the delays in the completion of reviews in the framework of the Implementation Review Mechanism, partially due to COVID-19-related measures such as travel restrictions, as well as delays due to the time required to translate documents. Speakers emphasized the need to complete the country reviews and underlined the need to do so in a timely manner. A number of speakers made concrete proposals in that regard.

99. The representative of the European Union, speaking also on behalf of the States members of the European Union and other States that had aligned themselves with the statement,<sup>27</sup> highlighted the need to begin the process of developing a possible second phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism and, in that regard, suggested that the second phase of the Mechanism could be shorter than the first phase. He noted that, at its next session, the Conference might have to make a decision on the future of the Mechanism. Several speakers noted that a new phase could look at the follow-up measures that countries had taken to implement the recommendations emanating from the first two cycles, especially in view of the time elapsed since the completion of country reviews and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Mechanism, in particular on the country visits, as they had proved to be the core element of the Mechanism. He noted that the positive experiences from the first phase concerning the involvement of civil society in the reviews should be taken into account.

100. Several speakers emphasized the need for the Implementation Review Mechanism to continue to function within its terms of reference and underlined its intergovernmental, impartial, technical, non-adversarial, non-intrusive and non-punitive nature. One speaker underlined that country reviews should be conducted in a manner consistent with the principles of the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.

101. Several speakers highlighted how the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector had enriched the review process and reiterated the importance of their participation in the review processes. Several speakers called upon States parties to publish their country review reports. Some speakers noted that the full country review reports needed to promote transparency and were a good basis for sharing information related to technical assistance needs identified in the reviews.

## V. Technical assistance

102. At its 8th meeting, on 15 December 2021, the Conference considered agenda item 3, entitled "Technical assistance".

103. The President of the Conference chaired the discussion. In his introductory remarks, he emphasized the crucial importance of technical assistance in building and strengthening the capacities and institutions of States parties. He recalled Conference resolutions 3/4, 4/1 and 7/3 and referred to the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in June 2021.

<sup>27</sup> Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

104. A representative of the secretariat gave an overview of the analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews and assistance delivered by UNODC in support of the implementation of Convention contained in document [CAC/COSP/2021/10](#). She presented a brief overview of needs emerging from the reviews and reported on technical assistance activities in relation to emerging areas such as corruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic response, the health sector, sports and environmental crime, as well as the gender dimension of corruption. She also reported on the launch of the Globe Network and the creation of two additional regional platforms to fast-track implementation of the Convention.

105. Several speakers highlighted the continued importance of the Implementation Review Mechanism as a tool for identifying technical assistance needs and its role in the exchange of good practices in the implementation of the Convention. One speaker called upon States parties to publish the results of their reviews in order to help exchange good practices.

106. Speakers commended the role of UNODC in providing technical assistance to States parties. In that regard, several speakers reported on specific examples of UNODC technical assistance efforts that had proved to be both beneficial and impactful, including through the production and dissemination of relevant knowledge products in relation to areas such as corruption in sport and the health sector.

107. Speakers urged States parties and other donors to continue to provide sufficient financial support for the provision of technical assistance by UNODC and other technical assistance providers. Several speakers noted the cooperation of their Governments with UNODC in that regard and reaffirmed their continued financial support. One speaker highlighted that corruption was increasingly recognized as one of the main obstacles to economic growth and development, and that the amount lost by developing countries to corruption and bribery, theft and tax evasion exceeded the amount of official development aid funding by several times each year.

108. Several speakers highlighted how States parties provided assistance to each other in the implementation of the Convention, including in cooperation with civil society organizations and the media. One speaker emphasized that providing such assistance was a joint commitment made by all States parties.

109. Speakers highlighted the importance of, and their countries' need for, technical assistance, including legislative assistance. Specific areas in which assistance was needed included financial investigations and the use of special investigative techniques, capacity-building for national anti-corruption and criminal justice authorities, the conduct of corruption risk assessments, the adoption of codes of ethics, measures to strengthen mutual legal assistance, the facilitation of cooperation at all levels, support in asset recovery and engagement in anti-corruption initiatives and networks. Speakers noted that the beneficiaries of such assistance included law enforcement officers, administrative and judicial authorities, and officials involved in detecting and sanctioning corruption. One speaker noted that demand-driven technical assistance was an effective way to tackle corruption in a sustainable manner.

110. In relation to the delivery of technical assistance, speakers underscored that it should be country-led and country-based and should incorporate the use of technology where possible. Speakers also noted the value of providing assistance in an integrated and coordinated manner. One speaker noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant challenges it posed to the effective and timely delivery of technical assistance.

111. Several speakers highlighted the cross-cutting nature of corruption and its linkage to other forms of transnational crime, the need to consider gender dimensions and gender equality when tackling corruption and the importance of identifying and addressing new and emerging corruption trends.

## VI. Prevention

112. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 16 December 2021, the Conference considered agenda item 4, entitled “Prevention”.

113. The Vice-President of the Conference chaired the discussion. In her introductory remarks, she recalled Conference resolutions 8/7, 8/8, 8/11, 8/12 and 8/14 and acknowledged the efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption. She also mentioned the necessity of providing sufficient financial resources to meet the needs for technical assistance in relation to the implementation of measures for the prevention of corruption.

114. A representative of the secretariat updated the Conference on progress made in the implementation of Conference resolutions 8/7, entitled “Enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies in fighting corruption”, 8/8, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, 8/11, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”, 8/12, entitled “Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment”, and 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”. She noted that an account of the status of the implementation of those resolutions was contained in a report prepared for the Conference ([CAC/COSP/2021/12](#)). She highlighted that information concerning the implementation of chapter II of the Convention was also contained in a thematic report available to the Conference ([CAC/COSP/2021/5](#)). She described the technical assistance initiatives of UNODC to support States parties in the prevention of corruption, including in specific sectors such as public health, sport and the environment. In that regard, she drew the Conference’s attention to a conference room paper on the implementation of Conference resolution 8/12 ([CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.8](#)). She reported that States parties had continued to prioritize anti-corruption initiatives during the pandemic, some of which were supported by UNODC through an expanding network of field-based advisers and practical knowledge products.

115. Speakers reported on actions taken to develop and strengthen national anti-corruption strategies and policies, in consideration of recommendations identified through the Implementation Review Mechanism, as well as progress in implementation. Regular assessments of anti-corruption legal, policy and strategic frameworks, including in partnership with civil society, to ensure their effectiveness were also highlighted. One speaker described the establishment of an interdepartmental body to develop a national anti-corruption strategy and help ensure inter-agency coordination in its implementation. Some speakers emphasized that the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including from civil society, academia, the media and the private sector, was essential to designing a strong anti-corruption strategy and fostering public trust in institutions.

116. Speakers recalled that corruption prevention must be a holistic endeavour underpinned by independent bodies and emphasized the importance of preventive anti-corruption bodies and other oversight authorities, such as procurement entities and supreme audit institutions. Speakers stressed that such bodies must have the necessary resources, personnel and capacity to perform their functions. One speaker reiterated the utility of exchanging good practices among such bodies at the national, regional and global levels. The role of supreme audit institutions in detecting corruption risks and ensuring integrity was emphasized by many speakers, with one calling for the implementation of Conference resolution 8/13, on enhancing collaboration between such institutions and other anti-corruption bodies. One speaker noted that anti-money-laundering frameworks in her country regulated gatekeepers, such as lawyers, real estate agents and accountants.

117. Speakers recalled the importance of good governance and public sector transparency, including in the preparation and implementation of the public budget and through regular audits. One speaker reported that a risk-based approach had been institutionalized in her country's main oversight body. Integrity testing, ethics codes, ethics training, organizational risk assessments and asset declarations that identified and verified beneficial owners were noted. Speakers emphasized that high-quality beneficial ownership information, including in publicly available registries, was also useful. Actions to enhance transparency in political party financing were also described, including regulations that required disclosures of donations exceeding prescribed thresholds. Some speakers noted similar regulations regarding the receipt of gifts.

118. Speakers called for increased access to information and greater citizen participation in the development of legislation and public policies, as well as the use of public funds, to mitigate opportunities for the abuse of authority. Technology was highlighted as a key facilitator of such participation. Speakers described the importance of enabling citizen feedback and reporting, including through legal frameworks for whistle-blower protection, to further enhance trust in public institutions. One speaker reported that her country had established an online portal that enabled access to the work of public agencies.

119. The rule of law, a strong criminal justice sector and parliamentary oversight were highlighted as essential to preventing corruption. Speakers recalled how judicial authorities, prosecutorial services, anti-corruption authorities and oversight bodies regularly coordinated to share information to prevent corruption.

120. Some speakers emphasized that the private sector was a key partner in preventing corruption and highlighted measures to ensure that businesses had anti-corruption tools at their disposal, such as compliance programmes, money-laundering risk-mitigation strategies, whistle-blower reporting channels and guides to manage conflicts of interest.

121. Anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training programmes were highlighted as essential to preventing corruption and creating a culture that promoted integrity and accountability. One speaker highlighted the critical role of civil society and the media in furthering those initiatives. Examples included the development of integrity schools, anti-corruption campaigns and anti-corruption certification courses. The recent launch of the GRACE initiative to empower youth, the implementation of Conference resolution 8/4, on safeguarding sport from corruption, and the publication of the new *Global Report on Corruption in Sport* were noted.

122. Speakers emphasized that the use of technology and innovative solutions, such as data analytics and artificial intelligence, were helpful to better identify, map and prevent corruption risks, enhance service delivery and improve the effectiveness of audit and oversight measures. Electronic public procurement portals to facilitate the monitoring of public contracts were highlighted.

123. Speakers mentioned that preventive efforts also required international cooperation among States, including through effective and timely responses to requests for assistance.

## **VII. Asset recovery**

124. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 16 and 17 December 2021, the Conference considered agenda item 5, entitled "Asset recovery".

125. The Vice-President of the Conference chaired the discussion. In her introductory remarks, she recalled Conference resolutions 1/4, entitled "Establishment of an intergovernmental working group on asset recovery", 6/2, entitled "Facilitating international cooperation in asset recovery and the return of proceeds of crime", 6/3, entitled "Fostering effective asset recovery", 7/1, entitled "Strengthening mutual legal assistance for international cooperation and asset recovery", 8/1, entitled

“Strengthening of international cooperation on asset recovery and of the administration of frozen, seized and confiscated assets”, and 8/9, entitled “Strengthening asset recovery to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

126. A representative of the secretariat provided an update on the work carried out in the area of asset recovery and referred to the progress report on the implementation of the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery (CAC/COSP/2021/13). He made reference to the two thematic reports contained in documents CAC/COSP/2021/6 and CAC/COSP/2021/7. He also introduced a note by the Secretariat on alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, that had proceeds of crime for confiscation and return (CAC/COSP/2021/14) and a note by the Secretariat on challenges, good practices and lessons learned, and procedures allowing the confiscation of proceeds of corruption without a criminal conviction from States parties that had implemented such measures in accordance with article 54, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention (CAC/COSP/2021/15).

127. In addition, the representative of the secretariat gave an overview of the data-collection initiative on international asset recovery efforts involving corruption proceeds (see CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.12), provided an update on the work related to the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets, including the collection of information in that regard, highlighted the revised 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 (see CAC/COSP/WG.2/2021/3) and referred to the expert group meeting on corruption and international investments held on 18 and 19 May 2021 (see CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.13). In concluding, he noted that the Conference might wish to provide further guidance on topics deserving additional consideration and on concrete actions to support the implementation of the commitments contained in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021.

128. A representative of the StAR Initiative gave an overview of technical assistance provided to more than 20 countries in 2020 and 2021. The assistance covered areas such as the adoption of new legislation, the establishment of domestic coordination mechanisms, capacity-building and the enhancement of international coordination processes. He reported on the launch of four new publications on issues related to the implementation of chapter V of the Convention. In concluding, he invited States parties to continue submitting information to the data-collection initiative on international asset recovery and returns cases involving proceeds of corruption, pursuant to Conference resolution 8/9.

129. In the ensuing discussion, several 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. It was recognized that the Convention was an essential tool for asset recovery and would continue to play a leading role in that regard. One speaker noted the successes achieved in asset recovery over the past few years, including the conclusion of several major cases and the recovery of large sums of money that had been returned to benefit the people harmed by corruption.

130. Several speakers reported on the legislative and institutional measures taken to facilitate and ensure the effective recovery and return of assets. Such reforms included the adoption of new laws, the establishment of dedicated asset recovery bodies and the adoption of mechanisms for the direct recovery of assets. Speakers referred to the importance of the management of seized and confiscated assets and described legislation in their countries for the disposal of such assets, including the allocation of such assets for social programmes for sustainable development and combating corruption.

131. Speakers highlighted the importance of the provisions related to asset recovery in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption and in the Kyoto Declaration adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Many speakers highlighted the need for the unconditional return of assets, and some speakers underscored paragraphs 40 and 46 of the political declaration. One speaker noted that the risk of recorruption of returned assets needed to be assessed and mitigated. Speakers also made reference to a set of recommendations adopted at the Baghdad International Conference on the topic “Asset recovery: modalities, procedures, difficulties and available means”.

132. Several speakers highlighted challenges and obstacles in the recovery of assets. One speaker noted that the compensation of victims remained a challenge. The lack of political will, the use of cryptocurrencies, differences in legal systems, the lack of communication, lengthy procedures and barriers in international cooperation were also mentioned in that regard. As means to overcoming those obstacles, some speakers noted the need to ensure transparency and accountability in the recovery process. In particular, one speaker announced the launch of their country’s first national framework for transparency and accountability in asset returns. Another speaker mentioned the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for asset recovery cases as a means of enhancing efforts while reducing costs.

133. Several speakers welcomed and noted the importance of technical assistance provided by UNODC, including through the StAR Initiative, for strengthening the capacity of States in the field of asset recovery. One speaker stressed the need for coordination between the various bodies providing technical assistance, in particular the StAR Initiative.

134. The need to enhance international cooperation, including through the application of the principle of reciprocity, was highlighted by several speakers. In that regard, speakers referred to their participation in international networks that facilitated asset recovery, such as the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific and the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network, and highlighted the relevance of such networks in fostering cooperation. One speaker referred to the eleventh Lausanne Seminar, which had addressed the topic “Exploring the potential of private sector engagement and public-private collaboration”.

135. One speaker stressed the need to further strengthen the international legal framework for asset recovery to plug the remaining gaps not addressed by the Convention. In that regard he highlighted that his delegation expected that the special session of the Conference would conclude with an agreement on how to reinforce the international legal framework on asset recovery, on the basis of the principles of fairness and lawfulness.

## **VIII. International cooperation**

136. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 16 and 17 December 2021, the Conference considered agenda item 6, entitled “International cooperation”.

137. In his introductory remarks, the Chair recalled Conference resolution 4/2, entitled “Convening of open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation”.

138. A representative of the secretariat provided an update on the outcomes of the ninth and tenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the Convention. He introduced the note by the Secretariat entitled “Progress on the activities of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption” ([CAC/COSP/2021/16](#)), which also contained information on technical assistance and other activities undertaken by the secretariat in the field of international cooperation. He provided an update on the GlobE

Network, which had been established under the auspices of UNODC and officially launched on 3 June 2021 at a high-level event on the margins of the special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

139. In the ensuing discussion, speakers noted the important role of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings in providing a platform for the exchange of experiences, information and best practices and for establishing direct links among national competent authorities. One speaker noted that the thematic focus of the expert meetings 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 the coordination of the work of the two bodies. Several speakers noted that international cooperation, in all its forms, remained a fundamental tool to effectively combat corruption, as the transnational nature of corruption made it a global challenge.

140. Several speakers welcomed the creation of the GlobE Network and encouraged more competent authorities from States parties to join the Network. The GlobE Network filled an important gap by providing a truly global network for anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to facilitate informal cooperation. Pursuant to the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, the GlobE Network was aimed at providing a quick, agile and efficient tool for facilitating transnational cooperation by strengthening communication exchange and peer learning.

141. Several speakers noted the necessity for competent authorities to address old and new threats, including the use of technology by criminals, in addition to new opportunities for corruption provided by the COVID-19 pandemic.

142. Speakers reported on recent national reforms relating to international cooperation, including the adoption or amendment of relevant laws, and the establishment of dedicated offices and committees. One speaker highlighted that his country had established deadlines to ensure the timely execution of international cooperation requests. Several speakers underlined the importance of the outcomes of the Implementation Review Mechanism in the development of such reform efforts.

143. Speakers provided statistical information on international cooperation, namely bilateral agreements, mutual legal assistance requests, direct cooperation and the spontaneous exchange of information. One speaker noted that the office in his country dealing with the corruption of foreign public officials depended on international cooperation in more than 80 per cent of the cases handled.

144. Another speaker recalled the many initiatives and activities initiated by his country at the regional and international levels, in cooperation with UNODC, to prevent and fight corruption, including the establishment of the Global Judicial Integrity Network.

145. Speakers underlined that further measures were required to enhance international cooperation. Such measures included enhancing human and material resources, adopting simplified procedures and executing requests on the basis of the Convention or reciprocity. To that end, technological advancements should be leveraged to, for example, improve coordination between central and competent authorities and the transmit mutual legal assistance requests electronically in a timely, expeditious and valid manner. Informal cooperation provided prior to the sending of a mutual legal assistance request, including through in-country legal attachés, liaison magistrates and practitioner and other international networks, was also mentioned.

146. Several speakers referred to gaps and challenges within the international anti-corruption framework, including when cooperating in civil, criminal and administrative matters by addressing protracted processes, the non-recognition of foreign orders, safe havens for perpetrators of corruption and the proceeds of their crimes, insufficient beneficial ownership transparency, and insufficient asset recovery and return. One speaker suggested that the secretariat gather information about negative responses to mutual legal assistance requests regarding corruption cases and



the time to execute such requests, in order to develop a plan of action to facilitate international cooperation in that regard.

147. One speaker noted the need to prevent organized criminal groups from infiltrating the legal economy, referring to public procurement systems and the vast amount of public funds allocated to support national investments.

148. Several speakers highlighted the importance of knowledge products and platforms developed by the secretariat, such as the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal and the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK) portal.

## **IX. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation**

149. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 17 December 2021, the Conference considered agenda item 7, entitled “Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”.

150. The Chair recalled that, in its resolution [73/191](#), entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, the General Assembly had decided to convene in the first half of 2021 a special session on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation. The Assembly had also decided that it would adopt a concise and action-oriented political declaration at that special session, agreed upon in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations under the auspices of the Conference, and had invited the Conference to lead the preparatory process for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner. Furthermore, the Assembly had requested UNODC to provide substantive expertise and technical support and had decided to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing resources. The Vice-President also recalled that, in its resolution [74/276](#), the General Assembly had determined the organizational arrangements for that session and had reiterated its invitation to the Conference regarding the preparatory process and the production of the political declaration.

151. On 7 May 2021, the Conference held a special session for the purpose of approving the political declaration and transmitting it to the General Assembly. The Vice-President recalled that, at its special session held from 2 to 4 June 2021, the Assembly had adopted resolution [S-32/1](#), by which it adopted the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”. In that political declaration, Member States, among other actions, committed to implementing the political declaration and invited the Conference, as the treaty body with prime responsibility for promoting and reviewing the implementation of the Convention, to follow up and build on the declaration.

152. In the ensuing discussion, speakers underscored that the political declaration was a significant milestone and highlighted that it contained a ground-breaking set of commitments to prevent and fight corruption. In the political declaration, Member States had reaffirmed their shared and joint responsibility to prevent and counter corruption, and speakers urged States parties to capitalize on the momentum generated. Speakers also commended the inclusive nature of the preparatory process prior to the adoption of the political declaration, during which inputs had been sought from a wide range of stakeholders.

153. Speakers underlined that the declaration was a positive extension of the Convention, which remained the relevant legal instrument, toolbox and benchmark through which to address corruption. Noting that implementation challenges remained, speakers emphasized that the Implementation Review Mechanism could be



used as the framework to follow up on the implementation of the declaration. As such, some speakers emphasized that obligations under the Convention and commitments outlined in the political declaration were complementary and efforts to implement both should be viewed as mutually reinforcing. The need to establish synergies between the political declaration and the Convention was also noted, with speakers noting that the adoption of the resolution on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption and the holding of an intersessional meeting of the Conference in 2022 would afford opportunities to do so.

154. Speakers further highlighted that the Conference was the body through which States parties should advance the implementation of the political declaration and called upon the subsidiary bodies of the Conference to develop workplans in that regard.

155. The need to identify gaps, challenges and lessons learned and advance the existing anti-corruption architecture to better respond to and anticipate current challenges, including through technology and innovative solutions, were highlighted by speakers. Speakers reiterated that perpetrators of corruption continued to adapt quickly to improvements in prevention and detection and used increasingly sophisticated methods, and that current measures were limited in their capacity to effectively prevent and counter corruption. Speakers called for the use of the political declaration as a means to develop innovative measures and approaches to address those emerging corruption challenges.

156. Speakers underlined that Member States had reaffirmed in the declaration that corruption could not be eradicated by individual States parties and that a whole-of-government approach was required. Speakers underscored the growing need for focused, coordinated international cooperation, noting that the political declaration would have an important impact on strengthening such cooperation to combat cross-border corruption. Some speakers emphasized that the GlobE network played a critical role in that regard, along with the sharing of good practices and experiences and the use of technology to strengthen the effectiveness of international networks.

157. The need for context-specific, integrated and coordinated technical assistance and capacity-building through multilateral and bilateral cooperation, including to prevent corruption in the private sector, was noted.

158. Speakers suggested areas in which to prioritize anti-corruption action. One speaker noted that objective, technical and independent information on the use of public resources could help to build confidence in public institutions and democracy. Access to information, the prevention of conflicts of interest, the development of practical guides for bilateral cooperation and independent commissions that had the necessary resources and tools to prevent and counter corruption were highlighted.

159. The Group of Friends for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNODC working on mainstreaming gender perspectives throughout anti-corruption initiatives, as well as efforts to better understand the linkages between gender and corruption, as reflected in paragraph 69 of the political declaration, were noted.

160. Some speakers emphasized the role that ethics and integrity education played in helping to foster a culture of solidarity and respect for the rule of law, with one speaker noting the work of the International Anti-Corruption Academy.

161. The essential role of civil society, the private sector and the media in holding authorities accountable, in particular with respect to implementing the commitments outlined in the political declaration, was highlighted by some speakers. One speaker recalled the ground-breaking nature of the commitment to protect journalists, contained in the political declaration, and another speaker noted the importance of recognizing the role of victims in anti-corruption efforts, including in decision- and policy-making processes, and the need to ensure the protection of those who detected, investigated and prosecuted corruption.

162. Some speakers emphasized the central role of States in combating corruption.

## **X. Other matters**

### **A. Implementation of article 63, paragraph 4 (c) and (d), of the Convention, concerning cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations and making 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**

163. At its 12th meeting, on 17 December 2021, the Conference considered agenda item 8, entitled “Other matters”.

164. 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 article 63, paragraph 4 (c), of the Convention, in which it was stated that the Conference should 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 might 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.

165. The President recalled that, in its resolution 8/2, the Conference had encouraged 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, and had requested the secretariat to report to the Implementation Review Group in that regard.

166. A representative of the secretariat provided an overview of recent activities to enhance synergies with the secretariats of the other anti-corruption peer-review mechanisms, in line with Conference resolutions 7/4 and 8/2, as well as paragraph 79 of the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption. She noted that regular dialogue continued to take place between the secretariats, especially in the form of attendance of each other’s meetings and frequent informal consultations on procedural issues related to country reviews and on matters of substance, including through a joint side event on whistle-blower protection on the margins of the Conference. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the secretariats had focused their regular informal consultations on ways to address obstacles posed to the peer-review mechanisms by the pandemic and had exchanged experiences and good practices in that regard. UNODC had also worked towards establishing synergies with the future mechanism to assess the implementation of the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention.

167. Moreover, she highlighted a joint message by the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and UNODC on enhancing synergies between anti-corruption peer-review mechanisms, as contained in conference room paper CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.5. In response to an invitation to enhance synergies in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, the three secretariats had renewed their joint commitment to working together to achieve their common goals and to combine their knowledge and experience to strengthen synergies and the implementation of the three conventions. In addition, she described a new UNODC project to further strengthen synergies between the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Mechanism for Follow-Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption of the Organization of American

States through a new regional hub in Mexico to fast-track implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and foster regional coordination.

168. One speaker noted that, in the framework of article 63 of the Convention, the anti-corruption efforts of all international and regional organizations should be conducted in line with the work of United Nations mechanisms. He referred to his country's participation in other relevant anti-corruption forums, including the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe, the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). He also noted his Government's support for the priorities of Italy during its presidency of the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in 2021 and highlighted the importance of, inter alia, the prevention of corruption in sports and anti-corruption education.

169. One speaker, inter alia, noted that, in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, Member States had noted with appreciation the important role of civil society, academia, the private sector and the media in identifying, detecting and reporting on cases of corruption. She recalled that the Conference had long recognized the important contributions of civil society and she called upon States parties to strengthen coordination with civil society groups to improve implementation of the Convention. She referred to her Government's commitment to fulfilling and embracing article 63 of the Convention. She stressed that the practice of interaction with civil society should be promoted in the framework of the Implementation Review Mechanism and welcomed the continued organization of civil society briefings, held on the margins of the Implementation Review Group, in accordance with Conference resolution 4/6. In that regard, she called upon States parties to extend such briefings to meetings of other subsidiary bodies of the Conference. She highlighted that her Government had taken the UNCAC Coalition Transparency Pledge for the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism and encouraged other States parties to take that pledge. She stressed that the Conference should promote increased information-sharing and collaboration with other multilateral review mechanisms that addressed corruption by identifying lessons learned and incorporating data and reports from other mechanisms at the regional and global levels.

170. Some speakers stressed that civil society, academia and the media played essential roles in bringing corruption cases to public attention and to the legal system, as well as in enhancing transparency, accountability and integrity. Some speakers noted that their Governments were committed to ensuring a viable space for the active involvement of civil society, academia, the media and the private sector in the implementation of the Convention and the fight against corruption, as well as in the work of the subsidiary bodies and the forthcoming intersessional meeting of the Conference, in 2022.

171. One speaker referred to the importance of constructive engagement with the private sector, which had a pivotal role. She reiterated her Government's deep concern regarding the objection to the participation of some non-governmental organizations, noted that her Government had aligned itself with the statement by Slovenia on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union on behalf of a large number of countries and repeated the request that the objections not be upheld.

172. A representative of the secretariat of the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe noted that the Group had managed to continue its monitoring work despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted the regular dialogue between the anti-corruption peer-review mechanism secretariats and the importance of exchanging experiences and lessons learned, in particular with regard to maintaining the effectiveness and added value of peer reviews in the course of the pandemic, as well as cooperation in matters of substance, such as the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption and the joint special event on whistle-blower protection.

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

173. Also at its 12th meeting, the Conference considered agenda item 8 (b), on the status of ratification of and notification requirements under the Convention.<sup>28</sup> The President noted that, since the eighth session of the Conference, three States parties had acceded to the Convention, bringing the total to 189 States parties and bringing the Convention closer to universal adherence.

174. 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 of article 6, paragraph 3, article 23, paragraph 2 (d), article 44, paragraph 6 (a), article 46, paragraphs 13 and 14, article 55, paragraph 5, and article 66, paragraph 4, of the Convention.<sup>29</sup>

## **C. Any other matters**

175. One speaker emphasized that all the chapters of the Convention were mutually reinforcing and that asset recovery remained key to combating corruption at the national and international levels. He noted, *inter alia*, that the mechanism for recovering assets needed to be reconsidered and that it was important for all States to consider asset recovery through criminal proceedings, as well as the through non-criminal proceedings, including civil, administrative, non-conviction-based proceedings. He requested the secretariat to develop a model law and procedure on best practices in that regard.

## **XI. Action taken by the Conference**

176. At its 8th meeting, on 15 December 2021, the Conference adopted a revised draft decision entitled “Submission of draft resolutions for the consideration of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption” (CAC/COSP/2021/L.11/Rev.1). (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 9/1.)

177. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted a draft decision entitled “Venue for the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption” (CAC/COSP/2021/L.12). (For the text, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 9/2.) Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States noted that, for nearly two decades, his Government had supported and championed the Convention against Corruption. He also noted that his Government remained firmly committed to the global fight against corruption and that the Convention and the Conference remained at the forefront of that fight. He stressed that that was a reason why his Government had put itself forward as a candidate to host the tenth session of the Conference, in 2023. He added that hosting the tenth session was an opportunity for his Government to reaffirm and strengthen its cooperation with other States parties in tackling corruption-related challenges in anti-corruption cases, where possible, including with those States parties with which his Government did not have close existing bilateral relationships. He expressed his Government’s appreciation to all States parties for entrusting it with the privilege of hosting the next session, in 2023, and acknowledged many of the reservations expressed by some States parties about the United States serving as the host. He expressed his Government’s particular appreciation to Switzerland for the role that it had played in working to build consensus on the important decision. The representative of the United States acknowledged the concerns expressed by several

---

<sup>28</sup> See CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.1.

<sup>29</sup> See CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.2.

States parties regarding the ability to travel to the United States in the light of measures taken to slow the spread of COVID-19, reaffirmed his Government's commitment to an inclusive Conference and promised to work with States parties to facilitate the participation of all States parties in the session.

178. At its 13th meeting, on 17 December 2021, the Conference adopted the following revised draft resolutions:

(a) "Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery" ([CAC/COSP/2021/L.3/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Armenia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the European Union (on its own behalf and on behalf of its member States), Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Paraguay, Peru, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yemen. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, resolution 9/1.) Following the adoption, the representative of Egypt, expressed his appreciation to delegations for their efforts in the preparation of the resolution as the first of its type on strengthening international cooperation to combat corruption in all its forms in times of emergency and crisis. He noted that the resolution reflected the awareness of the international community of efforts in that regard and stressed that crises should not impede efforts to combat and end corruption. The representative also noted that the General Assembly, at its special session, had referred to the importance of measures to combat corruption and that the resolution was an important addition to those efforts. He encouraged States parties to share best practices during crises and emergencies and to improve the tools available to counter corruption and other forms of crime. Furthermore, he noted that the resolution was the first document in which international principles in that area had been established and that the resolution would strengthen international cooperation in combating corruption;

(b) "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthening international cooperation: follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption" ([CAC/COSP/2021/L.4/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Guatemala, Honduras, Lebanon, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, resolution 9/2);

(c) "Follow-up to the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption, and the use of information and communications technologies" ([CAC/COSP/2021/L.5/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the European Union, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, resolution 9/3.) Following the adoption, the representative of the United Arab Emirates, while expressing appreciation for the support of States parties, noted that his Government would have preferred that the resolution allow for the organization of meetings of experts in order to strengthen the use of information and communications technologies to implement the Convention and to prevent and combat corruption. Information and communications technologies had an important and vital role to play in improving the efficiency of the efforts being made to combat corruption and to reduce its negative repercussions, especially during times of crises and emergencies. He noted that some States parties had thought it would be better to wait until a supplementary series of consultations had taken place and he also noted that, despite understanding the concerns of those States parties, his Government hoped that, in the future, it would be possible to increase the scope of the work to properly reflect the concerns of all States parties and improve the work in that regard and put into practice the resolutions of the Conference, in particular the programme of implementation of the Abu Dhabi declaration, which had been financed

by his Government. Moreover, the representative expressed appreciation to all those States parties that had sponsored the resolution, as well as to the President of the Conference and the host Government;

(d) “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption at regional levels” ([CAC/COSP/2021/L.6/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Angola, Brazil, Canada, the Dominican Republic, the European Union (on its own behalf and on behalf of its member States), Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Kiribati, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, resolution 9/4.) Following the adoption, the representative of Angola expressed appreciation to the President of the Conference and the host Government, as well as to the secretariat to the Conference. She also noted that her Government had tabled the resolution, which was the first on that important topic, jointly with Egypt, Portugal and Switzerland and that her Government recognized the role that different regional initiatives played in implementing the Convention, which could be strengthened with the adoption of the resolution. She encouraged States parties and international organizations, in particular UNODC, to continue working towards finding local, regional and international solutions aimed at combating corruption. The representative of Portugal highlighted the importance of the adoption of the resolution in terms of accelerating the implementation of the Convention at the regional level, while avoiding unnecessary duplication, and with a focus on the central role of the UNODC regional platforms to promote synergies. The representative of Switzerland expressed appreciation to the President of the Conference and the host Government, as well as to all the sponsors and the delegations involved in the informal consultations. He noted that it was the first resolution of its kind in that it focused on capacity-building at the regional level and stressed that it would strengthen the efforts of all States and showcase the relevance of that work;

(e) “Enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation” ([CAC/COSP/2021/L.7/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Austria, China, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the State of Palestine, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yemen. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, resolution 9/5.) Following the adoption, the representative of Saudi Arabia expressed appreciation to all the States parties to the Convention that had supported the resolution and highlighted his Government’s political leadership in launching the Riyadh initiative for enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation. He encouraged all States parties to implement the resolution and to benefit as much as possible from the initiative by: (a) expediting the accession process to the GlobE Network and participating actively in its work; (b) benefiting from its resources as much as possible by exchanging information pertaining to investigations and police procedures without prior requests and in a timely manner within the framework of the Convention; (c) supporting the objectives and aims of the GlobE Network as provided for in the resolution; and (d) making available the necessary financial resources to support the work of the Network. The representative of China expressed appreciation to the President of the Conference and the host Government;

(f) “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” ([CAC/COSP/2021/L.8/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Armenia, China, Costa Rica (on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Dominican Republic, the European Union (on its own behalf and on behalf of its member States), Indonesia, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, the United States and Yemen. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, resolution 9/6);

(g) “Enhancing the use of beneficial ownership information to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime” ([CAC/COSP/2021/L.9/Rev.1](#)), sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Honduras, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine and the United States. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, resolution 9/7.) Following the adoption, the

representative of Nigeria highlighted the need for all States parties to improve beneficial ownership transparency, in particular in view of the disturbing revelations contained in the Panama and Pandora papers, published by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which had revealed the loss of over 6 billion dollars through the activities of shell companies and politically exposed persons who exploited opaque and complex structures of legal persons and legal entities to corruptly enrich themselves and their cronies at the expense of societies. He noted that the resolution built on resolutions adopted by the Conference at past sessions, which had sought to advance the transparency of beneficial owners of assets and efforts to recover and return proceeds of crime. He also noted that the resolution also reflected the commitments contained in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption with regard to beneficial ownership transparency and the recovery and return of proceeds of crime, as well as recommendations of the High-level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda and principles espoused by the Financial Action Task Force. He expressed his Government's belief that the resolution would inspire more global action on beneficial ownership transparency by providing efficient access to adequate and accurate beneficial ownership information in a timely manner to domestic and foreign law enforcement authorities to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime. His Government looked forward to the implementation of the numerous recommendations in the resolution, including on the sharing of good practices on promoting beneficial ownership information transparency to facilitate the recovery and return of proceeds of crime, as well as on financial disclosure requirements for public officials. He referred to the provision by UNODC of technical assistance, capacity-building and material support, upon request, to Member States with regard to establishing and implementing a domestic beneficial ownership information regime. Furthermore, he noted that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery had been requested to include in its workplan for the period 2022–2023 the topic of good practices and challenges with respect to beneficial ownership transparency and how it could enhance the effective recovery and return of proceeds of crime, in partnership with other relevant mechanisms. He expressed his Government's appreciation to all the sponsors of the resolution. The representative of the State of Palestine expressed appreciation to all the sponsors and noted that the resolution was aimed at contributing to international efforts to implement the relevant provisions and commitments in the political declaration and relevant Conference resolutions in which enhancing transparency on beneficial ownership information was recognized as essential in order to facilitate the recovery and return of criminal proceeds. He noted that the resolution would encourage the exchange of best practices among practitioners in legal systems to identify beneficial owners who committed crimes of corruption and hid the proceeds of their crime. He also noted that the State of Palestine, as a member of the Financial Action Task Force, wished to commend its recommendations and its efforts in enhancing consistency in beneficial ownership. He expressed his Government's hope that the resolution would achieve, or help achieve, the objectives of the Convention through practical measures and overcoming the technical loopholes and gaps to help practitioners perform their duties to enhance international cooperation in preventing and fighting corruption. The representative of Pakistan expressed his Government's appreciation for the constructive engagement on and support for the resolution and noted that it would be useful in enhancing the use of beneficial ownership information and in facilitating the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime;

(h) "Promoting anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training" (CAC/COSP/2021/L.10/Rev.1), sponsored by Angola, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, China, Finland, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, Thailand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen. (For the text, see chap. I, sect. A, resolution 9/8.)

## **XII. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Conference**

179. At its 12th meeting, on 17 December 2021, the Conference approved the draft provisional agenda for its tenth session ([CAC/COSP/2021/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 tenth session of the Conference is contained in annex II to the present report.

## **XIII. Adoption of the report of the Conference on its ninth session**

180. At its 13th meeting, on 17 December 2021, the Conference adopted the report on its ninth session ([CAC/COSP/2021/L.1](#) and [CAC/COSP/L.1/Add.1–Add.9](#)), as orally amended.

## **XIV. Closure of the session**

181. Also at its 13th meeting, the Conference heard closing statements by the Executive Director of UNODC and the President of the Conference.



## Annex I

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

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CAC/COSP/2021/1	Annotated provisional agenda
CAC/COSP/2021/2	Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2021/3	Activities of the Implementation Review Group: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2021/4	Views of States parties on the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2021/5	Implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: thematic report prepared by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2021/6	Implementation of chapter V (Asset recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: thematic report prepared by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2021/7	Implementation at the regional level of chapters II (Preventive measures) and V (Asset recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: report prepared by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2021/8	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/2021/9	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: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2021/10	Analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews and assistance delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2021/11	Progress on the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption: note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2021/12	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
CAC/COSP/2021/13	Progress on the implementation of the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery: note by the Secretariat

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/14</a>	Alternative legal mechanisms and non-trial resolutions, including settlements, that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return: note by the Secretariat
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/15</a>	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: note by the Secretariat
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/16</a>	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
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/INF/1</a>	Information for participants
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/IRG/2021/6</a>	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its twelfth session, held in Vienna from 14 to 18 June 2021
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/IRG/2021/6/Add.1</a>	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its resumed twelfth session, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 September 2021
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/IRG/2020/5</a>	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its eleventh session, held in Vienna on 29 June 2020
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/IRG/2020/5/Add.1</a>	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its first resumed eleventh session, held in Vienna from 31 August to 2 September 2020
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/IRG/2020/5/Add.2</a>	Report of the Implementation Review Group on its second resumed eleventh session, held in Vienna from 16 to 18 November 2020
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/WG.2/2021/5</a>	Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held in Vienna from 6 to 10 September 2021
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/WG.2/2020/5</a>	Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held in Vienna from 16 to 18 November 2020
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/WG.4/2021/4</a>	Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 16 to 18 June 2021
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/WG.4/2020/5</a>	Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 31 August to 2 September 2020
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/EG.1/2021/4</a>	Report of the tenth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 September 2021
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/EG.1/2020/3</a>	Report of the ninth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention, held in Vienna from 16 to 18 November 2020
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.1</a>	Status of the United Nations Convention against Corruption as at 1 December 2021

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.2	Competent national authorities designated under the United Nations Convention against Corruption as at 1 December 2021
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.3	Views of States parties on the performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.4	Baghdad International Conference on “Asset Recovery: Modalities, Procedures, Difficulties and Available Means”
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.5	Conference room paper submitted jointly by the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption , the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: enhancing synergies between anti-corruption peer-review mechanisms –joint message by the secretariats
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.6	Conference room paper submitted by the Government of Switzerland: Boosting co-operation in asset recovery – eleventh edition of the Lausanne Seminar, on exploring the potential of private sector engagement and public-private collaboration
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.7	Conference room paper submitted by the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative: International Treaty for the Verification of Asset Declarations
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.8	Report of UNODC: preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment –an overview
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.9	GlobE Network: background and outcomes of the first meeting, including the charter
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.10	Crises and corruption: emergency responses during COVID-19 – experiences and responses
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.11	Conference room paper submitted by the Government of Romania: Background information regarding the non-governmental organization expert forum
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.12	Conference room paper prepared by the StAR Initiative: Mapping international recoveries and returns of stolen assets under the Convention – an insight into the practice of cross-border repatriation of proceeds of corruption over the past 10 years
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.13	Executive summary of the follow-up report of the expert group meeting on corruption and international investments held online on 18 and 19 May 2021
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.14	Conference room paper submitted by the Government of Turkey
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.15	Conference room paper submitted by the European Union
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.16	Conference room paper submitted by the Government of Armenia
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.17	Conference room paper submitted by the Government of Armenia

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.18	Conference room paper submitted by the Government of Azerbaijan
CAC/COSP/2021/CRP.19	Conference room paper submitted by the Government of Azerbaijan
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/1	Statement submitted by the Civil Forum for Asset Recovery
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/2	Statement submitted by Transparency International and the Global Initiative on Transnational Organized Crime
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/3	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Making the Convention work
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/4	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Promoting an inclusive, transparent and effective Implementation Review Mechanism
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/5	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: UNGASS follow-up – turning commitments into practice
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/6	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Growing civic space
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/7	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Advancing asset recovery
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/8	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Recognizing victims of corruption
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/9	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Tackling corruption related to environmental crimes
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/10	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Argentina – civil society report by Asociación Civil para una Sociedad más Justa. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: third year of review of chapters II and V
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/11	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Armenia – civil society report by the Armenian Lawyers' Association. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: third year of review of chapters II and V
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/12	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Benin – civil society report by Social Watch Benin. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: third year of review of chapters II and V
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/13	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Cambodia – civil society report by Transparency International Cambodia. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: third year of review of chapters II and V
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/14	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Colombia – civil society report by Corporación Transparencia Por Colombia. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: fourth year of review of chapters II and V
CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/15	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Costa Rica – civil society report by Costa Rica Íntegra. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: fourth year of review of chapters II and V

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/16</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Ghana – civil society report by Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: third year of review of chapters II and V
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/17</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Honduras – civil society report by Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: first year of review of chapters II and V
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/18</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Ecuador – civil society report by Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: fifth year of review of chapters II and V
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/19</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Madagascar – civil society report by Transparency International Initiative Madagascar . An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: fifth year of review of chapters II and V
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/20</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Pakistan – civil society report by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency . An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: fourth year of review of chapters II and V
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/21</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Papua New Guinea – civil society report by Transparency International Papua New Guinea. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: fourth year of review of chapter II
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/22</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Zimbabwe – civil society report by Anti-Corruption Trust of Southern Africa. An input to the Implementation Review Mechanism: third year of review of chapters II and V
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/23</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Anti-corruption priorities in the Asia-Pacific region
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/24</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Anti-corruption priorities for Europe
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/25</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Anti-corruption priorities for Latin America
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/26</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Anti-corruption priorities for Latin America [Spanish language version]
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/27</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Anti-corruption priorities in the Middle East and North Africa region
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/28</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Anti-corruption priorities in the sub-Saharan Africa region
<a href="#">CAC/COSP/2021/NGO/29</a>	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Agenda for the civil society preparatory meeting on Sunday, 12 December 2021

## Annex II

### **Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

1. Organizational matters:
    - (a) Opening of the tenth 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. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.
  8. Other matters:
    - (a) Implementation of article 63, paragraphs 4 (c) and (d), of the Convention, concerning cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations and making 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.
  9. Provisional agenda for the eleventh session.
  10. Adoption of the report.
-