



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

Distr.: General  
10 May 2013

English only

---

**Implementation Review Group**

**Fourth session**

Vienna, 27-31 May 2013

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Other matters**

**Statement submitted by the Academic Council on the United Nations System, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The following document is being circulated in accordance with paragraph 1 (i) of resolution 4/6 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and rule 17, paragraph 3 (b), of the rules of procedure for the Conference.

---

\* CAC/COSP/IRG/2013/1.



## **Statement of the Academic Council on the United Nations System at the fourth session of the Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

**27-31 May 2013, Vienna**

The Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) was founded twenty six years ago with the primary purpose of providing academic insights into the work of the Secretariat and the United Nations Bodies. We believe that the value of outsider evaluations based on research and close observations, is indisputable. All the Secretary Generals, since Kofi Annan, have appreciated the advice of the Academic Council on the United Nations System.

In some United Nations entities, the work of ACUNS is highly appreciated and we have assumed an acknowledged role in intergovernmental processes. In other places, the potential of academics assisting in providing policy advice, objective data, and comments based on in-depth research is not taken advantage of.

ACUNS fully supports the UNCAC Coalition set of recommendations to the Implementation Review Group, contained in the document “The First Three Years of the UNCAC Review Process: A Civil Society Perspective”, particularly with respect to the publication of full national reports, the discussion of country reports with civil society, identification of national focal points, and also making available the updated timetables for country reviews, so that civil society might provide useful information in due time. With regard to the next cycle of the United Nations Convention against Corruption review process, there should be a transparent and inclusive review process that includes country visits and consultations with civil society. The experiences and best practices gained should be gathered in order to improve the current review process and set high standards of compliance.

In other United Nations forums where ACUNS has participated, the documents submitted by NGOs, academic institutions, even individuals are welcomed in country reviews. Interactive dialogue with civil society is encouraged both at the national and international level. The environment in the UNODC treaty bodies is less open to civil society, although the International Narcotics Control Board has recently encouraged communications from and dialogue with NGOs during country missions. Civil Society hearings now take place during the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, while a Civil Society Forum is planned to precede the 13th Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. A series of encounters with the Executive Director, the Secretariat and the Chairs of both Commissions, as well as dozens of scientific side events have now become routine. Criminologists without Borders annually provides the Crime Commission with a bibliography of recent research on the major topic of the Commission. Both the Max Plank Institute for Social Anthropology and John Jay College plan scientific conferences to precede the 13th Crime Congress.

Moreover, there are regular contacts and closed consultations with research institutions and NGOs specialized on topics of concern to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Often, contracts are issued to academic institutions to prepare training manuals or studies for the office.

We feel that, particularly in the area of corruption, much could be gained from a closer cooperation with universities, researchers and NGOs committed to combating national and international corruption. A clearer picture, including new trends and international comparisons, would emerge through the eyes of a third party.

Also, for the sake of the United Nations Convention against Corruption itself, civil society support is absolutely necessary, providing the right amount of public pressure to see the necessary legislation and its implementation taking place. By opening up to civil society involvement and establishing a true partnership, the cause of curbing corruption would be strengthened and faith in the substantial role non-governmental organizations can have in the United Nations Convention against Corruption review process would be bolstered.

---