



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

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Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 27 to 29 August 2012

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 3/2, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption decided to establish an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group, in accordance with article 63, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and rule 2, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Conference, to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption.

2. The Conference decided that the working group should perform the following functions:

(a) Assist the Conference in developing and accumulating knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption;

(b) Facilitate the exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices;

(c) Facilitate the collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices in corruption prevention;

(d) Assist the Conference in encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption.

3. At its first meeting, held from 13 to 15 December 2010, the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption recommended that each of its future meetings focus on a specific and manageable number of substantive topics drawn from chapter II of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

4. At its second meeting, held from 22 to 24 August 2011, the Working Group noted with appreciation that many States parties had shared information on their initiatives and good practices on the topics considered, namely: awareness-raising policies and practices, with special reference to articles 5, 7, 12 and 13 of the Convention; and the public sector and prevention of corruption: codes of conduct



(article 8 of the Convention) and public reporting (article 10 of the Convention). The Working Group requested States parties to continue to share with the secretariat updated information on initiatives and good practices related to chapter II of the Convention, including, where possible, successes, challenges, technical assistance needs and lessons learned in implementation. The Working Group further requested the secretariat to prepare background papers synthesizing that information. It also noted that panel discussions should be held during its meetings, involving experts from countries that had provided written responses on the priority themes under consideration.

5. The Working Group recommended that its future meetings should continue to focus on a manageable number of specific substantive topics relevant to the implementation of the articles in chapter II of the Convention, and reiterated that the availability of adequate expertise on the topics being addressed would benefit the discussions. At its future meetings, the Working Group could focus its attention on the following topics:

(a) Implementation of article 12 of the Convention, including the use of public-private partnerships;

(b) Conflicts of interest, reporting acts of corruption and asset declarations, particularly in the context of articles 7 to 9 of the Convention.

6. The Working Group requested the secretariat to report to it at its third meeting on the activities undertaken pursuant to the recommendations made at its first two meetings.

7. In its resolution 4/3, the Conference of the States Parties decided that the Working Group should continue its work to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption. In the same resolution, the Conference also decided that the Working Group should hold at least two meetings prior to the fifth session of the Conference. It was further decided that the future meetings of the Working Group would follow a multi-year workplan for the period up to 2015, when the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention begins.

II. Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Working Group adopted the topics proposed in the workplan for 2013 and adopted on an indicative basis those topics for 2014 and 2015, subject to reconsideration at subsequent sessions of the Group and the Conference of the States Parties, as set out below:

2013

Integrity in the judiciary, judicial administration and prosecution services (art. 11)

Public education, in particular the engagement of children and young people and the role of mass media and the Internet (art. 13)

2014

Mandates of anti-corruption body or bodies in respect of prevention (art. 6)

Public sector legislative and administrative measures, including measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and, where applicable, the funding of political parties (arts. 5 and 7)

2015

Measures to prevent money-laundering (art. 14)

Integrity in public procurement processes and transparency and accountability in the management of public finances (arts. 9 and 10)

9. The Working Group recommended that the secretariat consider how it could support States parties in assessing the impact of measures taken to prevent corruption in accordance with chapter II of the Convention.

III. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

10. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its third meeting in Vienna from 27 to 29 August 2012. The meetings of the Working Group were chaired by the President (Morocco), Vice-President (Argentina) and Rapporteur (Finland) of the Conference of the States Parties.

11. In opening the meeting, the Chair recalled Conference resolution 4/3, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” in which the Conference had stressed the importance of implementing articles 5 to 14 of the Convention, as well as of developing and sharing best practices in the prevention of corruption. In its resolution 3/2, the Conference had established the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption in order to assist in developing and accumulating knowledge, as well as facilitating the exchange of information and experiences among States in the area of prevention of corruption, in facilitating the collection, dissemination and promotion of related best practices and in encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption. He further noted that the Conference had requested the Secretariat to continue to act as an international observatory responsible for collecting existing information on good practices in the prevention of corruption, organizing in a rational way and disseminating information received from States parties, and determining good practices and their possible replication on that basis.

12. The Secretary of the Conference of the States Parties noted the importance of the Convention as a comprehensive, international instrument with 161 current States parties. The provisions on preventive measures were a critical component of the Convention. He noted that the previous two meetings of the Working Group had focused on public procurement; vulnerabilities to corruption in the public and private sectors; the alignment of financial and other public integrity rules of international organizations with the principles of the Convention; media coverage;

fostering integrity through activities for youth; awareness-raising policies and practices; and public sector codes of conduct and public reporting.

13. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the documents for the meeting. The reports entitled “Conflicts of interest, reporting acts of corruption and asset declarations, particularly in the context of articles 7-9 of the Convention” (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2012/3) and “Implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the use of public-private partnerships” (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2012/2), were based on responses submitted by Member States pursuant to the request of the secretariat for information. She mentioned that those reports reflected the information received by 7 June 2012 from 27 Member States and that submissions after that date had been posted on the website of UNODC, together with submissions received earlier. She further referred to the document “Report on the status of implementation of resolution 4/3, entitled ‘Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption’” (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2012/4), which outlined action taken to implement the Marrakech declaration and to assist the Working Group in mapping the way towards effective efforts to prevent corruption.

14. Several countries raised the issue of participation or non-participation of non-governmental organizations in the Working Group. Taking into account the discussion on this matter in the Working Group, the Chair took the decision to continue the work of the Group in accordance with the agenda adopted for the meeting (see sect. III.B below).

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

15. On 27 August 2012, the Working Group adopted the following agenda:

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Implementation of Conference resolution 4/3, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, and of the recommendations made by the Working Group at its meeting in August 2011:
 - (a) Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption:
 - (i) Thematic discussion on conflicts of interest, reporting acts of corruption and asset declarations, particularly in the context of articles 7-9 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
 - (ii) Thematic discussion on the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the use of public-private partnerships;
 - (b) Other recommendations.
3. Future priorities and establishment of a multi-year workplan.
4. Adoption of the report.

C. Attendance

16. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting of the Working Group: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

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

18. The following States signatories to the Convention were represented by observers: Czech Republic, Germany, Japan and Syrian Arab Republic.

19. The following observer State was also represented: Oman.

20. Palestine, an entity maintaining a permanent observer mission to the United Nations, was represented.

21. The following Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented by observers: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

22. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Council of Europe, International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

23. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, an entity maintaining a permanent observer office at Headquarters, was represented.

IV. Implementation of Conference resolution 4/3, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, and of the recommendations made by the Working Group at its meeting in August 2011

A. Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption

1. Thematic discussion on conflicts of interest, reporting acts of corruption and asset declarations, particularly in the context of articles 7-9 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

24. The Chair introduced the subject of the first substantive discussion, in relation to which the Secretariat had prepared a note entitled “Conflicts of interest, reporting acts of corruption and asset declarations, particularly in the context of articles 7-9 of the Convention” (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2012/3), in which information received from Member States had been compiled. In order to facilitate the sharing of good practices and initiatives on the implementation of this topic, the Working Group was invited to address it in two parts. Firstly, it would address the related issues of conflicts of interest and asset declarations and, secondly, the issue of reporting acts of corruption.

25. The representative of the secretariat introduced the substantive discussion on conflicts of interest and asset declarations. Conflicts of interest, pursuant to article 7, paragraph 4, of the Convention, were addressed by numerous States through the adoption of written standards and, specifically, codes of conduct for public officials. Such standards included positive declaratory values or principles and a range of restrictions or prohibitions, particularly in relation to activities in the private sector. The information also provided evidence of implementation of articles 8 (Codes of conduct for public officials) and 9 (Public procurement and management of public finances) of the Convention. He outlined the diverse ways in which conflict-of-interest standards had been implemented, namely, through proactive measures, divestiture of assets and the increasing use of central enforcement authorities.

26. In reference to asset declarations, as outlined in article 8, paragraph 5, of the Convention, the secretariat highlighted the common themes that had emerged from the information provided. These included the prevalence of central, independent authorities charged with monitoring the implementation of asset-declaration requirements and the increasing use of information technology tools to carry out those tasks.

27. The panellist from the United States of America made a presentation on proactive measures in relation to conflicts of interest, also introducing a conference room paper submitted by the United States, entitled “The United States of America executive branch financial disclosure system” (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2012/CRP.2). One particular measure highlighted was the use of an ethics agreement between public authorities and public officials outlining the measures that must be taken, following the submission of an asset-declaration form, in order to resolve any potential conflicts of interest prior to an individual’s commencing employment with a public authority.

28. The panellist from Argentina made a presentation on the financial disclosure system applicable to public officials. That system was used to identify both conflicts of interest and illicit enrichment. Specific focus was placed on the use of information technology for the submission and processing of asset-declaration forms. The panellist highlighted the problems Argentina had encountered when using a paper-based system for asset declarations and noted the benefits of moving to an automated system, including quick transmission of information, increased security, increased efficiency, greater public access to information and swifter identification of potential conflicts of interest. The panellist also highlighted the use of a centralized body for the receipt and processing of asset declarations.

29. The panellist from Japan explained the proactive measures that had been taken in relation to conflicts of interest, based on evidence obtained through questionnaires completed by public officials previously found to be in breach of conflict-of-interest regulations. He highlighted the important role that the training of public officials could play in the identification and resolution of conflicts of interest. In this regard, the Japanese authorities had new tools for training public officials, including DVDs and e-learning tools. Comparisons between different ministries and agencies were used to motivate them to improve existing practices in ethics training.

30. Speakers noted with appreciation the documentation prepared and presentations given by the secretariat. Some speakers noted that there were difficulties in addressing the issue of conflicts of interest and requested specific examples and guidance in order to assist States in the lead-up to the second cycle of the Review Mechanism. One speaker suggested that UNODC might wish to work with States to develop common standards or a framework in relation to conflicts of interest, which could take the form of a model law or a common regulatory framework.

31. Codes of conduct were identified by a number of speakers as an effective measure in addressing conflicts of interest, in accordance with article 8 of the Convention (Codes of conduct for public officials). Specifically, a number of speakers highlighted the development of specialized codes of conduct and standards for specific areas of public administration.

32. Several speakers spoke of measures adopted in relation to public procurement, pursuant to article 9 of the Convention (Public procurement and management of public finances). E-procurement was highlighted by a number of speakers as an effective method of reducing opportunities for corruption in the procurement process. One speaker referred to the CompraNet e-procurement system, noting the reduction in costs of procurement and in the number of bid protests since its establishment.

33. One speaker highlighted national reform efforts to simplify the regulatory framework and administrative procedures, thereby reducing opportunities for corruption and allowing for significant cost savings.

34. A diverse range of approaches were discussed by speakers in relation to asset declarations. A number of speakers noted that only senior officials were subject to asset-declaration requirements. Other speakers referred to an expansion of the scope of those requirements, which may be applied to all public officials and even others who work with the public sector, such as consultants. A number of speakers noted

that family members and close associates were also required to complete asset declarations. It was agreed that enhanced communication between governmental agencies (e.g. revenue authorities, authorities responsible for asset declarations) was important in order to identify potential irregularities. One speaker further highlighted the need to consider assets abroad and therefore to work with international counterparts.

35. Speakers reported a difference in the use of asset declarations, which may be limited to the identification of conflicts of interest or expanded to include possible illicit enrichment. Several speakers referred to the sanctions applicable where an individual failed to meet asset-declaration requirements, which could be either criminal or administrative in nature. One speaker referred to an additional requirement for public officials to provide declarations of expenditure in addition to asset declarations.

36. In considering the issue of reporting acts of corruption, pursuant to article 8, paragraph 4, of the Convention, a representative of the secretariat provided a substantive overview of the submissions of Member States on their experiences and good practices. A number of different measures were outlined, including the legal obligation to report acts of corruption, proactive measures to facilitate reporting (such as centralized and decentralized reporting mechanisms, training and awareness-raising activities) and the protection of individuals who report such acts, provided for under article 33 of the Convention (Protection of reporting persons). He also noted that many of the tools reported by States were available both to public officials and to members of the public, thereby furthering the implementation of article 10 of the Convention (Public reporting).

37. A panel of speakers made presentations on measures and systems to facilitate the reporting by public officials of corruption to appropriate authorities. The panellist from Poland described the work of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau, which brought together operational and investigative anti-corruption work with preventive and educational efforts. He reported the publication of an anti-corruption guidebook for civil servants, which was distributed to central and local government institutions, as well as the general public. In addition, Poland had produced an anti-corruption guidebook for entrepreneurs for members of the private sector who interact with public sector officials. Training courses on how to further implement the provisions of those guidebooks were ongoing. He noted that all public officials had an obligation to report criminal acts, including corruption, or risked being charged with a criminal offence.

38. The panellist from Ecuador reported that the 2008 Constitution of that country enshrined the fundamental duty of the State to guarantee its citizens a society free of corruption and the duty of citizens to report all acts of corruption. Under the Constitution, the State had additional responsibilities related to transparency and social control. The Council for Citizens' Participation and Social Control, made up of citizens chosen on the basis of qualifications and competitive examinations, received and investigated complaints of corruption from citizens, whose anonymity was protected, and produced reports regarding administrative, civil or criminal liability. The office of the State Comptroller General and the National Secretariat of Transparency and Management also received such complaints. Those three institutions conducted numerous public-awareness activities, including advertising

campaigns, outreach efforts, training programmes and a postgraduate course on transparency and efforts against corruption.

39. The panellist from France noted that while its Code of Criminal Procedure obligated all civil servants to report any criminal offence, there were challenges in charging a person with aiding and abetting a corruption-related offence for failure to report information. He also highlighted the importance of public education and training to anti-corruption efforts. He noted that a legal mechanism to provide protection for public sector whistle-blowers was not yet in place in France. The focus had been placed instead on the protection of whistle-blowers in the private sector, owing to a perception that they were more vulnerable to retaliation and other negative consequences as a result of reporting corruption.

40. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by UNODC and for the note prepared by the Secretariat. Speakers noted the importance of public servants' having a legal duty to report acts of corruption through an established mechanism. Different approaches were taken, however, as to the legal basis and formulation of that obligation. Speakers from some States noted that a general obligation to report all crimes was applicable, while others highlighted that a specific obligation to report acts of corruption had been introduced. Several speakers from those States with general provisions reported that they were currently considering legal reforms to introduce more specific obligations. Speakers reported that the legal consequences for public officials who failed to comply with the duty to report could be either criminal or administrative. It was emphasized that a lack of adequate protection could result in reporting persons' later recanting their reports. One speaker also identified the challenge of malicious or false reports of corruption being used to undermine superiors or political opponents.

41. Speakers outlined a wide range of mechanisms used to facilitate the reporting of acts of corruption, including the establishment of a centralized body for the receipt of reports and the use of an array of reporting mechanisms, such as in-person contact, hotlines, websites and SMS. Other speakers pointed out the advantages of a decentralized reporting mechanism in certain contexts. Several speakers also highlighted the link between encouraging the reporting of acts of corruption and ensuring the protection of those public persons or members of the public who come forward to provide such reports. Measures aimed at providing protection also demonstrated implementation of article 32 (Protection of witnesses, experts and victims) and article 33 (Protection of reporting persons) of the Convention. Several speakers emphasized the importance of preserving the reporting person's anonymity throughout the investigation and judicial process. Other speakers described practices of requiring reporting persons to identify themselves to the relevant authority, but preserving confidentiality. One speaker referred to its "secret user" programme, which promoted citizen participation in the detection of acts of corruption in public procurement.

42. Speakers noted that the implications of the duty to report on the private sector should be explored further. Several speakers pointed out that under article 13 of the Convention (Participation of society), States should involve the public in anti-corruption efforts and encourage reporting of corruption by the general public, not only by civil servants. It was pointed out that the media could also be a source of information for reporting corruption in both the public and private sectors, as well as avenues for public outreach and awareness-raising efforts. The involvement

of civil society organizations in reporting acts of corruption was also highlighted. One speaker outlined incentives for the private sector to self-report internal acts of corruption, with the State offering reduced sentences or penalties.

43. The representative of UNDP shared the findings of surveys conducted jointly with the Government of Viet Nam with regard to public administration and governance outputs and noted that many lessons had been learned. Good practices and the use of tools such as the Internet and mobile-phone SMS in some African countries had built good corruption-reporting mechanisms.

2. Thematic discussion on the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the use of public-private partnerships

44. The Working Group began its substantive discussion on the implementation of article 12 of the Convention with the introduction by the Secretariat of the note entitled “Implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the use of public-private partnerships” (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2012/2). The secretariat also provided an overview of initiatives and practices reported by Member States and organizations related to the prevention of corruption involving the private sector. It was highlighted that the most commonly reported aspects related to accounting and auditing standards, codes of conduct and similar measures, including measures regulating contractual relations between governments and businesses.

45. The panellist from Malaysia presented a number of examples of prevention of corruption through coordination between public and private stakeholders, based on the Anti-Corruption Principles for Corporations, developed through a series of round-table discussions between government and the private sector. Those principles had been implemented through mechanisms such as the Corporate Integrity Pledge, by which a corporation pledged to create a business environment free of corruption and to uphold the anti-corruption principles, and the Integrity Pact, in which bidders, in order to be able to participate in a public procurement process, were required to declare that they would refrain from corrupt practices throughout the entire process. The Mega Project Monitoring initiative was launched in 2012 to ensure that all government projects valued over \$160 million and of public interest were monitored by the Integrity in Governance Committee to ensure compliance and promote integrity.

46. The panellist from Brazil made a presentation outlining the experiences of the Office of the Comptroller General in fostering integrity in the private sector through a partnership with the Ethos Institute. Starting in 2006, Brazil had launched a number of business integrity initiatives, such as voluntary commitments that businesses could adopt under the Business Pact for Integrity and against Corruption; the Clean Company Campaign was used to monitor compliance with the Business Pact. In 2008, the country launched the debarment and suspension list of non-compliant companies. The panellist highlighted the Pro-Ethics List, launched in 2010, which created “white lists” of companies that invested in ethics and integrity measures. The screening process under the Pro-Ethics List was comprehensive, and only 10 of the 70 companies that had applied had been added to the list.

47. Subsequently, the panellist from the Russian Federation made a presentation on that country’s efforts to strengthen dialogue through the establishment in 2011 of

a working group on combating corruption with representatives of business associations, unions and the State, under the leadership of the Minister of Economic Development. The group had adopted an anti-corruption charter for the business community, including standards for business associations, and a road map for its implementation, and involved the business community in the discussion of relevant draft laws. Another initiative related to the thorough examination of appropriate ways to regulate lobbying in the Russian Federation. That initiative involved, among other things, an international workshop, held in Moscow in June 2012, with the participation of international organizations, such as UNODC and OECD, and international experts.

48. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by UNODC and the background documentation provided. Several speakers provided overviews of efforts made in their countries to establish policies and practices to prevent corruption involving the private sector.

49. One speaker noted the importance of creating open channels of communication, including through informal means, in addition to more formal processes for public-private partnerships, such as integrity pacts and codes of ethics. He emphasized that governments should proactively communicate their expectations to the business community before enforcing requirements. Several speakers reported that they provided websites and newsletters to inform the private sector about good practices and relevant laws and regulations, and provided case-by-case advisory services upon request.

50. Some speakers remarked on the importance of bringing together the public and private sectors to increase dialogue and understanding in preventing corruption. Many reported using round tables to share experiences, to discuss compliance with the Convention and to identify areas for improvement. Several speakers noted that they had invited the private sector to participate in the development of multi-stakeholder anti-corruption strategies and joint workplans. One speaker highlighted that the private sector was invited to provide feedback on the performance of government ministries in preventing corruption.

51. Several speakers acknowledged the differences in audits of the private and public sectors, but noted that efforts were being made to harmonize standards to create a common approach to integrity and ethics. Several States highlighted that bookkeeping and auditing requirements for both the public and the private sector should be in line with international standards. One speaker emphasized that bookkeeping must be authentic, genuine and comprehensive so as to provide a full picture of the financial situation of a company. Several speakers noted the importance of aligning requirements for maintaining financial records with the statute of limitations applicable to corruption offences.

52. Several speakers referred to the promotion of codes of conduct and ethics for the private sector. A number of speakers noted, however, that it was difficult to measure actual compliance with such codes. Special focus was placed on the importance of codes of conduct in high-profile and high-risk sectors, such as extractive industries, the health sector and construction.

53. Challenges in monitoring and regulating the private sector were noted by several speakers, particularly in relation to contracts between private sector entities.

Another speaker referred to the fact that many countries had very large informal economies that were unregulated and vulnerable to corruption.

54. The observer for the International Anti-Corruption Academy reported on the launch of a master's degree in anti-corruption studies, in which lecturers and students involved in anti-corruption work from both the public and the private sector participated.

B. Report on the status of implementation of Conference resolution 4/3 and other recommendations

55. A representative of the secretariat updated the Working Group regarding progress made with regard to the implementation of resolution 4/3, entitled "Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption", since the last session of the Conference of the States Parties, held in Marrakech from 24 to 28 October 2011. She expressed the hope that the Working Group would further assist the Conference in mapping the way towards effective action in the prevention of corruption. She recalled the need to inform the Secretary-General about the designation of competent authorities that could assist other States parties in developing and implementing specific measures for the prevention of corruption and to update existing information where needed. She informed the Group about an initiative entitled "United Nations Convention against Corruption as a framework to mainstream anti-corruption safeguards for the organization of major public events", aimed at identifying good practices, based on the Convention, for preventing corruption in connection with major public events. She also provided the Group with an update regarding the implementation of the Institutional Integrity Initiative of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, aimed at aligning the internal ethics and integrity rules of its members with the principles of the Convention. The representative of the Secretariat further outlined a project aimed at developing practical materials to assist States parties in establishing measures to allow journalists to engage in responsible and professional reporting on corruption, including through the sharing of good practices, current experiences and relevant case examples. In terms of cooperation among stakeholders and various sectors of society to prevent corruption, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the fact that UNODC had launched a new initiative, the Integrity Initial Public Offering, which offered businesses the chance to help developing countries tackle corruption and strengthen their ability to fight it. Finally, she stressed that UNODC has a leading role in the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative, a collaborative academic project aimed at producing a comprehensive anti-corruption academic curriculum composed of a menu of individual academic modules, syllabi, case studies, educational tools and reference materials that could be integrated by universities and other academic institutions into their existing academic programmes.

56. Speakers welcomed the report provided by the Secretariat on progress in the implementation of the Marrakech declaration; it was requested that the Secretariat continue to provide updates in this regard. The importance of States parties' implementing resolution 4/3 was emphasized. With regard to the designation of competent authorities to assist States parties in developing and implementing specific measures for the prevention of corruption pursuant to article 6 of the Convention, Algeria indicated that information on its competent authority was forthcoming.

57. The importance of States parties' conducting self-assessments of their implementation of chapter II of the Convention, despite the fact that chapter II was not currently under review, was emphasized. It was proposed that the secretariat, as an international observatory for the prevention of corruption, continue to collect, systematize and disseminate good practices and models for the implementation of chapter II, particularly relating to public procurement and the role of the private sector. The secretariat was also encouraged to continue to work with the Group of 20 and the "Business-20" on anti-corruption matters. It was further suggested that in the context of preparing for the review of chapter II, and in view of the secretariat's role in preparing good practices for its implementation, the secretariat prepare a comprehensive matrix of prevention measures taken by States parties, including relevant websites and contact details for anti-corruption authorities and national experts.

58. Speakers highlighted the importance of providing technical assistance to requesting countries in support of the further implementation of chapter II, particularly with respect to articles 9 and 12. It was suggested that multifaceted anti-corruption programmes were in significant demand in Africa, and should be tailored to specific national needs and contexts without being prescriptive. This assistance could be facilitated by engagement with the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption, which had considered corruption-prevention initiatives. From a programming standpoint, it was suggested that additional global and regional anti-corruption initiatives be launched, particularly in the area of asset recovery. Such initiatives could be developed in coordination with other institutions, including the World Bank, the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, OSCE, OECD and other departments and agencies of the United Nations.

59. It was further proposed that additional focus be placed on the prevention of corruption in the private sector for small and medium-sized enterprises, sole proprietors and members of liberal professions, such as lawyers, auditors, accountants and consultants, in addition to larger companies. The importance of public-private partnerships in implementing chapter II and achieving the Millennium Development Goals was noted. It was suggested that such measures could include economic protection, in such areas as contracts and prevention of economic harm, for companies and businesses that participate in the detection and assist in the prosecution of corrupt offences, which may confer immunity from prosecution. The initiative of the Secretariat regarding the prevention of corruption in the context of major public events was welcomed.

60. The importance of educational programmes for the prevention of corruption was emphasized, particularly at the university level, and speakers welcomed the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative of the Secretariat and encouraged further activities in this area, as well as activities to promote programmes at other levels of education, such as primary and secondary schools. In addition, the development of additional training and public awareness-raising activities in the prevention of corruption was suggested.

61. Additional focus on the prevention of corruption in the judiciary was proposed as a priority in the implementation of chapter II. The importance of institutional coordination by national authorities, including legislative bodies, executive offices and the judiciary, in the prevention of corruption was also noted.

V. Future priorities and establishment of a multi-year workplan

62. The Chair introduced the matter of the further consideration and adoption of the multi-year workplan for the Working Group, noting that the Conference, in its resolution 4/3, had decided to adopt such a plan to provide a framework for the substantive discussions of the Working Group's meetings and assist States parties in their preparation for the review of the implementation of chapter II. A representative of the secretariat described the background of the multi-year workplan and invited States parties to finalize its content and share their views on ways in which the work of the Working Group could meet the requirements of its mandate.

63. Several speakers expressed their approval of the topics proposed in the draft workplan for the period 2013-2015. It was further noted that more emphasis could be placed on identifying international norms and standards in the prevention of corruption as the next cycle of the Review Mechanism approached.

64. Speakers expressed concern that the inclusion in the topic on anti-corruption bodies of those exercising investigative capacities in line with article 36 of the Convention could take focus away from the prevention functions of anti-corruption agencies addressed in article 6 of the Convention.

65. With regard to the topic in the draft workplan regarding public education, it was proposed that the focus be on the education of children and young people, and not extend to the engagement of children in anti-corruption prevention measures or the role of mass media and the Internet.

66. Speakers noted the challenges of assessing the effectiveness and impact of steps that have been taken to implement provisions of chapter II and suggested that this topic be further explored by the Working Group. One speaker suggested that this could be achieved through the development of country-based indicators, which could later be collated into regional and global indicators to measure the impact of corruption-prevention initiatives. The Chair suggested that the issue of measuring the impact of preventive measures be taken into consideration in relation to the substantive topics of the workplan, particularly regarding the topic on the mandates of anti-corruption bodies, and noted that the Secretariat might consider the development of a tool to aid in the measurement of the impact.

67. A representative of OHCHR stressed that the implementation of human rights and anti-corruption efforts were mutually reinforcing, as recognized by the Human Rights Council, and emphasized the importance of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the Convention and the prevention of corruption.

68. A representative of the Council of Europe provided an update of the Groups of States against Corruption process and noted that the next cycle of evaluation would include preventive measures against corruption, with special focus on transparency measures, conflicts of interest and asset declarations in relation to parliamentarians, prosecutors and judges.

VI. Adoption of the report

69. On 29 August 2012, the Working Group adopted the report on its third meeting.
