



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

Distr.: General  
4 September 2013

Original: English

## Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 26 to 28 August 2013

### 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. In its resolution 4/3, the Conference 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 would 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 United Nations Convention against Corruption would begin.



4. At its second meeting, the Working Group recommended that in advance of each future meeting of the Working Group States parties should be invited to share their experiences of implementing the topics under consideration, preferably by using the self-assessment checklist and including, where possible, successes, challenges, technical assistance needs and lessons learned in implementation. The Working Group requested the secretariat to prepare background papers synthesizing that information and decided panel discussions should be held during its meetings, involving experts from countries who had provided written responses on the priority themes under consideration.

5. At its third meeting, held from 27 to 29 August 2012, the Working Group adopted the following topics to be addressed at its subsequent meeting:

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

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

6. Also at its third meeting, the Working Group adopted on an indicative basis the topics to be addressed in 2014 and 2015, subject to reconsideration at subsequent meetings of the Working Group and sessions of the Conference.

## II. Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Working Group recommended that the Conference of the States Parties, at its fifth session, should consider deciding that the Working Group should continue its work and hold two meetings before the sixth session of the Conference.

8. The Working Group adopted the topics proposed in the workplan for 2014 and 2015, subject to reconsideration at subsequent meetings of the Group and sessions of the Conference, as set out below:

### 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 welcomed the draft implementation guide and evaluative framework for article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, a technical tool that had been developed by the secretariat and was presented at the meeting. Members of the Working Group resolved to provide comments to the secretariat on the draft document for integration into the guide prior to its finalization and presentation to the Conference.

10. The Working Group further recommended that the Conference should consider the guide as part of its deliberations at its fifth session.

11. The Working Group reaffirmed that States parties should continue to strengthen awareness-raising measures and education throughout all sectors of society, and that special attention should be devoted to working with young people and children as part of a strategy to prevent corruption.

12. Noting the importance of sharing good practices in the field of anti-corruption education, the Working Group recommended that the secretariat should continue its work to support States parties in introducing anti-corruption education at all stages of the education process. The Working Group further requested the secretariat to support both the collection and the dissemination of information about existing educational initiatives taken by higher education institutions through the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative and through the development of global educational tools for use by States parties.

13. The Working Group welcomed the initiative by the secretariat to develop a new website dedicated to the thematic presentation of all information submitted by States parties in advance of each meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group requested the secretariat to continue to collect and disseminate information concerning good practices in the field of corruption prevention.

14. The Working Group requested the secretariat to report to the Group at its next meeting on the activities undertaken pursuant to the above-mentioned recommendations.

### **III. Organization of the meeting**

#### **A. Opening of the meeting**

15. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its fourth meeting in Vienna from 26 to 28 August 2013. The meetings of the Working Group were chaired by Abdeladim El Guerrouj (Morocco), President of the Conference of the States Parties, Simona-Maya Teodoroiu (Romania) and Gabriel Liviu Ispas (Romania).

16. In opening the meeting, the Chair recalled 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 and had urged States parties to continue to share information concerning initiatives and good practices in the prevention of corruption. The Conference had requested the secretariat to continue to act as an international observatory responsible for gathering existing information on good practices in preventing corruption, organizing in a rational way and disseminating information received from States parties, and determining good practices and their possible reproduction on that basis.

17. The secretariat noted the essential role of preventive measures in the global effort to combat corruption, emphasizing that chapter II of the Convention provided a comprehensive framework for action in that area. The task of the Working Group was to assist States in the implementation of that chapter. It was noted that so far the

Working Group had addressed the following topics: public procurement; vulnerabilities to corruption in the public and private sectors; media coverage; integrity through youth; awareness-raising policies and practices; public sector codes of conduct and public reporting; conflicts of interest and asset declarations; and public-private partnerships.

18. The secretariat also introduced the documents for the session. The reports on integrity in the judiciary, judicial administration and prosecution services (article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption) (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2013/2) and on public education, in particular the engagement of children and young people and the role of mass media and the Internet (article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption) (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2013/3), had been prepared on the basis of responses submitted by Member States following a request by the secretariat for information. Those reports reflected the information received by 24 June 2013 from 22 Member States; the six submissions received after that date had been posted on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), together with the submissions received earlier. The report on the status of implementation of resolution 4/3, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” (CAC/COSP/2013/17-CAC/COSP/WG.4/2013/4) outlined action taken to implement the Marrakech declaration and to assist the Working Group in mapping the way towards effective efforts to prevent corruption.

## **B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

19. On 26 August, 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 2012:
  - (a) Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption:
    - (i) Thematic discussion on integrity in the judiciary, judicial administration and prosecution services (article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption);
    - (ii) Thematic discussion on public education, in particular the engagement of children and young people and the role of mass media and the Internet (article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption);
  - (b) Other recommendations.
3. Future priorities and consideration of topics indicated in the multi-year workplan for 2014 and 2015.
4. Adoption of the report.

### C. Attendance

20. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting of the Working Group: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.
21. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, was also represented at the meeting.
22. The following States signatories to the Convention were represented by observers: Czech Republic, Germany, Japan and Syrian Arab Republic.
23. The following non-signatory States were represented by observers: Kiribati, Oman and the State of Palestine.
24. The following Secretariat units, funds and programmes and institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network were represented by observers: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and UNODC.
25. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, International Anti-Corruption Academy, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.
26. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, an entity maintaining a permanent observer office at United Nations Headquarters, was also 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 2012**

##### **A. Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption**

###### **1. Thematic discussion on integrity in the judiciary, judicial administration and prosecution services (article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption)**

27. The Chair introduced the substantive discussion of the item, in relation to which the secretariat had prepared a background note (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2013/2). The Secretariat introduced the note and thanked Member States for the information they had provided in advance of the meeting.

28. The secretariat informed the Working Group that it was presently developing an implementation guide and evaluative framework for article 11 of the Convention. A draft of the document was provided to the Working Group for comments.

29. The secretariat introduced the substantive discussion on the item, noting that the Convention required States parties to strengthen integrity in the judiciary and prevent corruption among the judiciary without prejudicing its independence. Such measures could also be introduced within the prosecution service where it did not form part of the judiciary but enjoyed similar independence.

30. The secretariat summarized the written contributions received from States parties in advance of the meeting, which had focused on the following key thematic areas: recruitment, professional evaluation and training; measures to enhance transparency; conflicts of interest; and measures to support the independence of judges and prosecutors.

31. A panellist from Lebanon provided a presentation on experience in preventing corruption in the judiciary while preserving its independence. She outlined the role of the Supreme Judicial Council and its Judicial Inspection Unit, and the key characteristics of the recruitment and selection process for members of the judiciary. Measures had recently been introduced to address integrity challenges by strengthening the financial independence of the judiciary, enhancing judicial accountability and monitoring judicial performance and conduct.

32. A panellist from Costa Rica provided a presentation explaining the legal and institutional framework that supported judicial and prosecutorial integrity. He illustrated several cases and good practices in the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption in the judiciary and highlighted a number of general lessons regarding integrity risks in the judiciary based on those specific examples.

33. A panellist from Nigeria acknowledged the technical assistance received from UNODC in relation to the issue of judicial integrity and outlined measures taken to assess judicial performance, handle allegations of judicial misconduct and apply disciplinary measures. Emphasis was also placed on the need for the judiciary itself to be primarily responsible for the recruitment of judges, so as to ensure their independence.

34. The delegation of Germany requested that, in the first sentence of paragraph 55 of document CAC/COSP/WG.4/2013/2, the words “in the Federal Ministry of Justice” be replaced with the words “in the respective Ministry of Justice”.

35. Several speakers thanked the secretariat for preparing the draft implementation guide and evaluative framework for article 11, noting that the document would be of assistance to States parties in taking stock of measures adopted in that area and in identifying relevant international standards and best practices. One speaker noted that the implementation guide should serve as guidance and not be seen as binding on States parties and furthermore should not undermine the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism. Recommendations were also made by participants as to how specific parts of the document could be improved, with others noting that they would provide comments to the secretariat on the draft guide prior to its finalization and presentation to the forthcoming session of the Conference of the States Parties.

36. One speaker highlighted the importance of providing technical assistance in relation to the issue of judicial integrity and noted the potential role of UNODC in that regard. Furthermore, several speakers suggested that the Working Group should provide a series of specific recommendations to the Conference that could serve as guidance for States parties in the implementation of article 11 of the Convention.

37. Several speakers emphasized the importance of extending asset declaration regimes to members of the judiciary. Many speakers noted that judges and prosecutors were already required to file asset declarations and that this had proved to be an effective system for preventing corruption. It was noted in that regard that judges should not only be required to declare their assets on appointment but also on a regular basis thereafter. A number of States indicated that completed asset declaration forms were made available to the public online. In addition, a number of speakers reported that members of the judiciary were prohibited from holding foreign bank accounts.

38. In relation to recruitment, some speakers indicated that prospective members of the judiciary were subjected to more rigorous vetting processes so as to identify any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest in advance of their appointment. Many speakers highlighted the importance of having a body composed of judges or former judges responsible for decisions on judicial appointments. One speaker reported that a similar system had been adopted for the appointment of prosecutors. Many speakers also noted the value of consulting or employing national bar associations in the appointment process. One participant highlighted that rigorous and transparent recruitment processes at the initial stages of legal education also had a significant positive impact on integrity in the justice system.

39. In relation to the professional evaluation of members of the judiciary, many speakers noted that judicial councils or similar bodies should have primary responsibility in that area. The view was expressed that such judicial councils should be independent from the executive and be technically proficient. A number of speakers also noted the importance of specialized educational institutions for members of the judiciary, reporting that such bodies had been effective in the delivery of specialized anti-corruption training.

40. In an effort to enhance transparency in the justice system, one speaker noted the introduction of a national public forum that had been established to receive information on the public perception of the work of the judiciary. Several speakers also emphasized the use of technology in the form of online platforms aimed at educating members of the public on the functioning of and access to the judicial system. A number of participants outlined how such online tools had been used to provide access to information on individual cases.

41. Several speakers referred to the recent introduction of technology to facilitate the random allocation of cases to judges and prosecutors, which had led to an increase in the efficiency and integrity of the case-allocation process.

42. Some speakers referred to the lack or insufficiency of mechanisms available to members of the public to report acts of corruption in the judiciary. A number of participants indicated plans to introduce reforms to address that challenge.

43. Many speakers outlined cases in which members of the judiciary and prosecution services had been prosecuted for acts of corruption. It was noted that such prosecutions had occurred following reforms made to the criminal justice system to enhance its efficiency and transparency. Furthermore, a number of speakers indicated that the sentences applicable to judges and prosecutors when they were found guilty of corruption offences had been increased.

## **2. Thematic discussion on public education, in particular the engagement of children and young people and the role of mass media and the Internet (article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption)**

44. The Chair introduced the substantive discussion on the item, in relation to which the secretariat had prepared a background note (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2013/3). The secretariat noted with appreciation the information received from Member States, which formed the basis of the background note.

45. In order to facilitate the thematic discussion of the topic, the Working Group was invited to address the topic in two parts, the first relating to public education, in particular the engagement of children and young people, and the second relating to public education through mass media and the Internet.

46. The secretariat introduced the substantive discussion on public education, in particular the engagement of children and young people, noting that while only a few States had reported conducting specific anti-corruption courses at the primary and secondary school level, many more had addressed anti-corruption content in courses on topics such as ethics, law and civic education. The submissions received also referred to creative efforts to engage children and young people in extracurricular activities.

47. The secretariat highlighted that most States had adopted a comprehensive approach to anti-corruption education and were seeking to create a learning environment that valued integrity through the use of reporting mechanisms, surveillance of exams, training for teachers and school administrators, and codes of conduct.

48. At the university level, some States reported having offered specialized degrees in anti-corruption. The secretariat highlighted that an increasing number of



courses in law, business, finance, business administration and social sciences addressed topics such as ethics and integrity.

49. A panellist from Austria provided a presentation of a tailored anti-corruption course for students aged 14 to 18 years, which had been developed by the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption so as to raise awareness among the general public, particularly young people. She reported that a similar training course for children aged 10 to 14 years would be considered in the future. Furthermore, a train-the-teacher initiative would be launched in September 2013.

50. A panellist from China provided a presentation on a number of efforts on anti-corruption education organized by the Ministry of Education. Those efforts included the development of guidelines and materials, pilot projects and innovative educational activities, including performances, debates and games. The education programmes were combined with measures to prevent corruption in the education sector, such as codes of conduct and integrity training for teachers and staff. In 2012, the Ministry of Education had organized the nationwide collection of over 150 examples of integrity measures, from which 60 cases were selected as good practices.

51. A panellist from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela referred to the initiative known as “The Comptroller General goes to school”, which aimed to increase the participation of citizens and children in fiscal management to prevent and combat corruption. Children in each participating school elected a comptroller general who was responsible for tracking parts of the school budget and expenditure. The children developed skills on monitoring and auditing and improved the management of schools and their correct use of public funds. Over 12,000 students have been trained through this programme.

52. Speakers noted with appreciation the documentation prepared and presentations given by the secretariat. The speakers referred to experiences in the field of public education and the implementation of article 13 of the Convention and underlined the importance of awareness-raising and public education to prevent corruption.

53. Some speakers reported that anti-corruption modules were already taught at all levels of the education system, from early education and primary school through to the university level. Other speakers spoke of initiatives for specific age groups or stages of the educational system. The importance of tailoring the lessons in child-appropriate formats, including comics, games and other creative measures, was highlighted.

54. Some speakers reported that the more technical aspects of anti-corruption, including laws on economic and financial crime or tax issues, had been addressed in higher secondary school levels.

55. An increasing number of specialized courses and degrees were being developed at the university level, while integrity lessons had also been incorporated into the lectures on many other subjects. Several speakers referred to the introduction of anti-corruption awareness-raising modules in professional training establishments for teachers, health workers, military, police, customs officers and the judiciary.

56. One speaker recommended that the sharing of expertise in the area of anti-corruption education at all educational levels should be further enhanced, noting that States would benefit from the creation of a unified programme that would enable dialogue at the global level.

57. A number of speakers underlined the importance of public education in fighting corruption, noting that criminalization and punishment were not sufficient on their own. It was emphasized that public education should address social, ethical and religious values and seek to make corrupt behaviour socially unacceptable.

58. Many speakers mentioned the institutions that were responsible for public education on anti-corruption. Some underlined that specialized anti-corruption agencies were responsible for the prevention of corruption, including outreach and public education, while others indicated that the Ministry of Education had the lead for integrity education. Most speakers emphasized that a collaborative approach involving all key stakeholders was crucial for the design and implementation of effective and successful training programmes.

59. Several speakers reported that the use of diagnosis, experience-based surveys and risk assessments prior to the design and implementation of initiatives allowed for the creation of educational material that addressed the specific concerns and perceptions of the target group.

60. In the second part of the discussion, relating to public education through mass media and the Internet, the secretariat provided a substantive overview of the submissions of Member States, highlighting that States had reported that they increasingly made use of the Internet and social media for public education. States had further acknowledged the important role of mass media and open government data to support the participation of society in the prevention of corruption.

61. A panellist from Mauritius elaborated on the public education strategy of the Independent Anti-Corruption Agency, which used a variety of traditional and digital media. He noted that an important element of outreach campaigns was to evaluate the impact and to collect feedback. The involvement of mass media was key to ensuring that the campaign had a significant impact in informing the public about corruption.

62. A panellist from the Russian Federation provided information on measures to increase the transparency of public administration. He acknowledged the role of the media in disseminating information about the dangers of corruption, raising awareness and conducting investigative work. The panellist referred to the importance of media self-regulation and guarantees for the independence of the media. Media coverage of corruption used various forms such as reporting on cases, discussion panels, talk shows or fictional formats in order to ensure a broad outreach to the general public.

63. A panellist from Chile reported on a project to assess and strengthen the implementation of anti-corruption efforts. The Office of the Comptroller General had sought to involve a larger group of stakeholders and underlined the importance of designing material in an attractive, understandable and user-friendly way. A network of 25 institutions, including the public sector, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector, had been established to support continued awareness-raising initiatives.

64. A panellist from the United States of America provided a presentation on the use of innovative websites to promote transparency and accountability. The speaker highlighted recent efforts to use technology to make information available to the public in user-friendly formats. She noted that by virtue of advances in technology, users were provided with new ways to interact and analyse the data, which led to greater transparency, accountability and, ultimately, the deterrence of corruption.

65. Several speakers highlighted the increasing use of websites by governmental agencies to educate and interact with the public and to receive reports on corruption. Information that was made available online included law texts and information on administrative procedures, preventive measures and mechanisms to facilitate online reporting of corruption.

66. Several speakers referred to the use of traditional forms of communication in combination with social media tools in public awareness campaigns. In this regard, speakers referred to the use of YouTube videos, bulk dissemination of short message service (SMS) messages, documentaries, radio and television programmes, road shows and dedicated exhibitions and fairs. A number of speakers underlined that the success of those campaigns was measured through an increase in the number of online users and of reported incidents of corruption.

67. Some speakers emphasized the role of the media in creating an informed citizenry. In that context, the importance of ensuring a conducive legislative environment and sufficient access to information was highlighted. A number of speakers referred to training events for journalists and underlined the need to foster ethical reporting.

68. The representative of the International Anti-Corruption Academy provided an update on its initiatives, including a master's degree in anti-corruption studies, which covered a broad range of corruption-related subjects, including quantitative and qualitative research methods. She also informed the Working Group about the procurement anti-corruption training, a one-month programme delivered in collaboration with UNODC, training professionals from around the world in sound anti-corruption strategies.

69. The representative of UNDP underlined that the international community was giving increasing importance to the empowerment of young people and reported on the initiatives of UNDP in that area. In contrast to mere awareness-raising initiatives, UNDP aimed at the engagement of civil society and young people, particularly in evidence-based advocacy in various sectors.

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

70. The Chair introduced the session on other recommendations to further implement Conference resolution 4/3, in relation to which the secretariat had prepared a report (CAC/COSP/2013/17-CAC/COSP/WG.4/2013/4). The secretariat delivered a presentation to provide an update on the implementation of resolution 4/3, including activities, guidance materials and publications undertaken by UNODC. The secretariat was also currently working to streamline and simplify

the self-assessment checklist for chapter II of the Convention in preparation for the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

71. The secretariat reported the forthcoming publication of several reports and guidance materials, which would be launched at the fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties. A handbook of good practices in the implementation of anti-corruption safeguards for the organization of major public events had been prepared, with input from high-level experts from States parties, international organizations, the private sector and civil society. A technical tool, including good practices, current experiences and relevant case examples, was being prepared to support measures aimed at helping journalists to engage in ethical and professional reporting on corruption. Lastly, a final report was being prepared to advance the Institutional Integrity Initiative to support strengthening United Nations internal rules and regulations in preventing corruption.

72. With regard to preventing corruption in the private sector, UNODC had finalized a practical guide for business entitled *An Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance Programme for Business*. In addition, UNODC, in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, had published *Corruption Prevention to Foster Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development: Volume II*. The secretariat noted that, with the support of the Siemens Integrity Initiative, UNODC had prepared reports and guidance materials on incentives to the private sector in preventing corruption and regarding measures to prevent corruption in public procurement, and was currently creating a website that would act as a clearing house for information and resources on the Convention relevant to the business community. The secretariat reported that it continued to cooperate with the United Nations Global Compact on the interactive e-learning tool for the private sector, which thus far had registered over 53,000 users. In addition, a certificate programme for the tool was launched in 2013, and the tool would soon be available in nine languages.

73. The secretariat also reported on several technical assistance projects under way to support States parties in the prevention of corruption. Through its network of regional anti-corruption advisers and with additional expertise from its headquarters, UNODC had provided support to the strengthening of anti-corruption agencies, assisted States parties in the development or revision of national anti-corruption strategies, and had provided technical assistance and expertise to States parties in the implementation of the Convention through targeted legislative and capacity-building activities. In addition, the secretariat reported that UNODC was working with the United Nations System Staff College and UNDP in the development of materials to integrate anti-corruption into broader United Nations programming processes, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

## **V. Future priorities and consideration of topics indicated in the multi-year workplan for 2014 and 2015**

74. The Chair introduced the multi-year workplan of the Working Group for further consideration, noting that the Conference, in resolution 4/3, had decided to adopt such a plan to provide a framework for the substantive discussions of the

meetings of the Working Group and assist States parties in their preparation for the review of the implementation of chapter II of the Convention. At its third intersessional meeting, held in Vienna from 27 August to 29 August 2012, the Working Group had 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.

75. A representative of the secretariat proposed that Member States might wish to address how the substantive discussion of the meetings of the Working Group, and the information provided by States parties to the secretariat in advance of those meetings, could be best used to assist States parties in their preparation for the review of the implementation of chapter II of the Convention.

76. A presentation was provided demonstrating a new website developed by the secretariat that thematically organized all information produced through the work of the Working Group. The secretariat noted that the development of that resource formed part of its efforts to meet the mandate given to it by the Working Group to act as an international observatory for good practices in the prevention of corruption. Participants welcomed the efforts of the secretariat in that regard, noting that it increased accessibility of the information and would be a useful resource for those seeking information on good practices.

77. One speaker encouraged States parties to submit regular updates to the secretariat regarding their implementation of chapter II of the Convention, which could then be incorporated by the secretariat into the thematic website. The secretariat welcomed this suggestion and indicated that any additional information provided would be incorporated. It was requested that the secretariat consider replicating this thematic format for other Working Groups.

78. Several speakers expressed their approval of the topics proposed in the workplan of the Working Group for the period 2014-2015. It was further noted that, in preparation for the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, the Group should closely examine how to assess article 6 on anti-corruption bodies, taking into consideration the importance of coordination between different anti-corruption bodies. The secretariat noted that the matter would be addressed by the Working Group in 2014 under the current workplan. The secretariat further noted in that regard that work had been carried out with the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, which would hold its annual conference from 22 to 24 November 2013 in Panama in advance of the fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties.

79. The secretariat further noted that, together with UNDP and the Corruption Eradication Commission of Indonesia, UNODC had organized a global high-level meeting in November 2012 at which the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies, designed to guarantee the authority of such agencies and to safeguard their independence, had been adopted. The secretariat noted that the Conference might wish to consider the Jakarta Statement at its fifth session.

80. One speaker expressed appreciation for the progress made by the Working Group on Prevention since the adoption of the Marrakech declaration. The report of the secretariat had provided evidence of the work it had carried out in cooperation with various actors, such as international organizations, the private sector and civil society.

81. One speaker sought clarification on paragraph 14 of the report on the implementation of the Marrakech declaration (CAC/COSP/2013/17-CAC/COSP/WG.4/2013/4), which indicated that the Secretariat had decided to suspend its participation in the United Nations Public Service Awards programme for the next two years. The secretariat clarified that the work of the United Nations Public Service Awards had grown exponentially due to the number of submissions received and that this had also significantly increased the amount of work required to participate in the review process. Due to financial constraints, the decision was taken to suspend participation in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs programme, despite the Secretariat's recognition of its value.

82. One speaker expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat in maintaining and updating the legal library available on the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge portal, and recommended that States parties should provide more information to the secretariat to be included on the website. The secretariat informed the Working Group that it would strongly welcome further submissions from Member States in that regard.

## **VI. Adoption of the report**

83. On 28 August 2013, the Working Group adopted the report on its fourth meeting.