



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

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Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of relevant Conference resolutions

Status of implementation of relevant Conference resolutions**

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its eighth session, held in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted resolution 8/8, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, in which it requested the Secretariat to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at its ninth session and to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at its intersessional meetings.

2. The present background paper has been prepared by the Secretariat to provide an account of action taken to implement resolution 8/8 and to serve as a basis for discussion by the Working Group in order to enable it to discharge its mandate effectively. The paper includes all global, regional or national initiatives relevant to the implementation of the resolution that have been undertaken by States parties with the support of the Secretariat during the reporting period, that is, from November 2019 to February 2020. Information on action taken between the previous meeting of the Working Group, in September 2019, and November 2019 is contained in document [CAC/COSP/2019/2](#), which was submitted to the Conference at its eighth session.

* CAC/COSP/WG.4/2020/1.

** Resolution 8/3, entitled “Promoting integrity in the public sector among States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption”; resolution 8/7, entitled “Enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies in fighting corruption”; resolution 8/8, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”; resolution 8/10, entitled “Measurement of corruption”; resolution 8/11, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”; resolution 8/12, entitled “Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment”; and resolution 8/13, entitled “Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption”.



II. Update on the status of implementation of resolution 8/8

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

1. Reporting on the implementation of resolution 8/8 by States parties

3. In its resolution 8/8, the Conference called upon States parties to continue and to reinforce the effective implementation of the preventive measures outlined in chapter II of the Convention and in the resolutions of the Conference. States parties are therefore invited to share with the Secretariat at the present meeting information about their efforts to implement the resolution.

2. Reporting on the implementation of chapter II of the Convention

4. In resolution 8/8, the Conference welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Working Group to facilitate the sharing of information among States parties on their initiatives and good practices relating to the topics considered at the meetings of the Working Group held in 2018 and 2019, and decided that the Group should continue its work. The Conference welcomed the commitment made and efforts undertaken by States parties to provide information on good practices in preventing corruption that was gathered, systematized and disseminated by the Secretariat in the performance of its functions as an international observatory. It requested States parties to continue to share information, and requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue its work as an international observatory, including by updating the thematic website¹ of the Working Group with relevant information.

5. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) therefore continued to gather information provided by States parties, which included presentations made at the meetings of the Working Group, relevant reports and links to additional resource material, and to make such information available through the thematic website of the Working Group.

B. Promoting universal adherence to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

New States parties to the Convention

6. UNODC continued to promote adherence to the Convention. During the reporting period, Tonga acceded to the Convention, bringing the number of States parties to 187.

7. UNODC organized workshops to assist and support the preparation of responses to the self-assessment checklist for focal points and government experts in Jamaica in November 2019, the Niger and Turkmenistan in December 2019 and Mauritania in February 2020.

8. In addition, UNODC held a series of meetings with government officials in Somalia in January 2020 to discuss measures needed for the ratification of the Convention, as well as other anti-corruption efforts.

¹ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/working-group-on-prevention.html.

C. Supporting the anti-corruption legal and policy frameworks of States

1. Support for States in drafting laws with provisions on the prevention of corruption

9. During the reporting period, UNODC supported the preparation and revision of several pieces of anti-corruption legislation, including a legislative gap analysis conducted in Kosovo pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). UNODC conducted a national workshop on the protection of whistle-blowers in Burundi, with a view to facilitating the legislative process on the matter, and developed recommendations for the drafting of a bill on whistle-blower protection in Mexico. UNODC also participated in a consultation workshop in the Gambia on the amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and discussed with the Solicitor General the tabling of an anti-corruption bill. In February 2020, support was provided to the Niger to review a draft bill on preventing and combating corruption.

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

10. In November 2019, UNODC began to support the implementation of the national anti-corruption plan of Greece as part of a project funded by the European Union. In December, UNODC contributed to informal consultations with the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority of Qatar regarding the implementation of its national anti-corruption strategy. A round table was held in February 2020 with the Anti-Corruption Commission of Maldives to review anti-corruption policy documents.

3. Integrity, transparency, accountability and rule of law in public administration

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

11. In Honduras, over the course of the reporting period, UNODC helped to customize the asset declaration system for the Higher Court of Audits. This assistance was based on information gathered and suggestions received during stakeholder interviews that UNODC had conducted earlier on.

(b) Reporting of corruption

12. In November 2019, UNODC delivered a presentation in Colombia on the guide entitled *Reporting Mechanisms in Sport* at a workshop organized by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Anti-Doping Agency. The event brought together representatives of national anti-doping organizations, law enforcement and the judiciaries from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru. UNODC also supported the development of a strategy for the prevention of corruption in the judicial branch of El Salvador, which was launched in December 2019.

(c) Procurement and public finances

13. In November 2019, UNODC provided support to the anti-corruption authorities of Uganda on the implementation of paragraph 1 of article 9 of the Convention, which deals with public procurement.

D. Ensuring that anti-corruption bodies have the necessary competence

1. Designation of competent authorities

14. Under article 6, paragraph 3, of the Convention, States parties are required to inform the Secretary-General about the designation of competent authorities that may

assist other States parties in developing and implementing specific measures for the prevention of corruption.

15. As of February 2020, the Secretary-General had received notifications from 118 States parties designating a total of 183 competent authorities. An up-to-date list is available to competent authorities and government agencies through an online directory.²

2. Support for anti-corruption agencies

16. In November 2019, in Vienna, UNODC delivered a presentation to officials from the Central Vigilance Commission of India. The same month, the Office conducted a workshop with the Anti-Corruption Unit of Cambodia and participated in a meeting of the National Anti-Corruption and Anti-Fraud Office of Senegal, in Dakar. Training on corruption investigations was also provided to prosecutors and investigators from the anti-corruption agencies of Chad and Mauritania at an event held in Senegal in February 2020.

3. Improving the coordination of global, regional and national anti-corruption initiatives

17. At the global level, in November 2019, UNODC presented the requirements of the Convention at an international meeting on anti-corruption efforts organized in Germany by the German Agency for International Cooperation. In Qatar, the Office co-facilitated with the Department of Peace Operations a workshop on corruption-related challenges that the United Nations peace operations face. In addition, UNODC contributed to the policy papers of and delivered presentations to the Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group at a meeting held in Saudi Arabia in February 2020.

18. At the regional level, in November 2019, UNODC delivered presentations on various aspects of its anti-corruption work to: the General Assembly of the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, in Togo; the annual general meeting of the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities; and the second Regional Meeting on Mutual Legal Assistance for central authorities from States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in Myanmar. The Office also took part in the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention, held in Morocco in January 2020. UNODC conducted mapping exercises under the project to fast-track the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the mapping exercise for Southern Africa was conducted in Zambia in January 2020. The mapping exercise for South America and Mexico was conducted in Mexico in February 2020. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office moderated and supported the Pacific Regional Conference on Anti-Corruption: Unity Against Corruption, held in Kiribati in February 2020.

19. At the national level, UNODC organized a workshop on international cooperation in complex, cross-border corruption cases in Myanmar in November 2019 and participated in a high-level anti-corruption conference entitled “Fight against Corruption for Prosperity in South-East Europe”, held in Serbia in November 2019. The same month, UNODC delivered training on corruption investigations in India and Romania. Workshops, training sessions and conferences on asset recovery-related themes were conducted in Ethiopia and Nigeria, also in November, and in Egypt and Austria in January 2020. UNODC also participated in an anti-corruption workshop organized in Austria by the Department of State of the United States of America and contributed to a round table on lessons learned from the experience of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, held in the United States in November 2019. UNODC and the Government of Honduras signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation on International Anti-Corruption Day, on

² www.unodc.org/comppauth_uncac/en/index.html.

9 December 2019. In January 2020, UNODC conducted a consultative mission to Greece as part of an anti-corruption project funded by the European Union; while in February 2020, the Office took part in a ceremony held by the Perdana International Anti-Corruption Champion Foundation, in Malaysia.

E. Promoting the integrity and accountability of the criminal justice system

1. Judicial integrity

20. In Austria, in November 2019, under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration and in collaboration with the United Nations Information Service and the International Association of Women Judges, UNODC organized two screenings of the film *The Judge* and held subsequent discussions to promote the work of the Global Judicial Integrity Network on gender-related integrity issues. A study tour of Austria was also organized and attended by 40 judges from the European Judicial Training Network. The same month, UNODC gave briefings on the work of the Network during high-level meetings with representatives of the Federal Supreme Court of Brazil, as well as at an anti-corruption workshop organized in Austria by the Department of State of the United States.

21. In Argentina, in December 2019, a training session on judicial ethics was delivered in Ushuaia and Buenos Aires, at events organized by the Council for the Judiciary of the City of Buenos Aires, which was followed by the UNODC-led meeting of the Global Judicial Integrity Network, which focused on Latin America. During the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties, UNODC organized a side event on the work of the Network to strengthen judicial integrity and the implementation of article 11 of the Convention. The same month, in the Dominican Republic, the work of the Network was presented at a conference of the International Association of Judges.

22. In January 2020, in Germany, UNODC delivered presentations on the Global Judicial Integrity Network at the Conference on the Rule of Law, Justice and Development organized by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

23. After several preparatory meetings organized during the reporting period, a high-level meeting of the Global Judicial Integrity Network was held in Qatar in February 2020 and attended by almost 700 participants from more than 115 countries and 50 judicial associations and organizations. Numerous coordination and partnership meetings were held in the margins of the event, including meetings with the Advisory Board of the Network, high-level representatives of judiciaries from across the world, the International Association of Women Judges and the International Association of Judges.

24. The use of social media by judges and the use of artificial intelligence in the judiciary were some of the issues that the Global Judicial Integrity Network focused on during the reporting period. In November 2019, UNODC contributed to an event organized in Switzerland by the Global Pulse initiative of the United Nations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the governance of data and artificial intelligence. The same month, as part of the Law, Justice and Development Week held by the World Bank in the United States, UNODC organized sessions on the use of social media by judges and the use of artificial intelligence by the judiciary. The “Non-binding guidelines on the use of social media by judges”, developed by the Global Judicial Integrity Network, were launched at the same event.

25. In Poland, in December 2019, UNODC participated in an expert meeting on updating the “Kyiv recommendations on judicial independence in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia” of 2010. In El Salvador, with the support of officials from Colombia, the Office delivered specialized training at the Prosecutor

Training School of the Office of the Attorney General and the Judicial Training School.

2. Prosecutorial integrity

26. Over the reporting period, UNODC moderated two panels on prosecutorial integrity at the Law, Justice and Development Week held by the World Bank and, in November 2019, it delivered a presentation on prosecutorial integrity to prosecutors from Portuguese-speaking African countries, in Cabo Verde.

F. Preventing and combating corruption in the private sector

Promoting the development of standards and procedures to safeguard the integrity of the private sector implementing article 12 of the Convention

27. In November 2019, UNODC discussed innovative technical solutions with IBM Think Lab, in Switzerland, and delivered a presentation on the relevance of the Convention for corporate compliance to the Austrian Business Council. In addition, UNODC participated in the nineteenth Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly of the European Partners against Corruption and the European Contact-Point Network against Corruption, in Sweden, in December 2019.

28. In Kenya, on International Anti-Corruption Day, UNODC and the Blue Company signed an agreement aimed at combating corruption in the private sector through a media outreach campaign. On the same day, in Senegal, the Office participated in a workshop organized by the National Anti-Corruption and Anti-Fraud Office on the role of the private sector in the fight against corruption.

G. Promoting education on the prevention of corruption

1. Academia

29. At the international level, under the Anti-Corruption Academic initiative, UNODC organized a symposium in the Russian Federation in November 2019 to discuss key issues in anti-corruption research and education.

30. In November 2019, under the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, UNODC participated in the biennial World Innovation Summit for Education, held in Qatar. The E4J university module series on integrity and ethics and on anti-corruption were presented at a conference of the Global Network for Public Interest Law, held in Singapore, also in November. In Indonesia, in December, these modules were also presented at the tenth Worldwide Conference, held under the theme “The inspiration and diversification of justice education”, of the Global Alliance for Justice Education. In Austria, on 24 January 2020, on the International Day of Education, the Office organized a high-level event on the role of higher education in strengthening the rule of law worldwide and in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16 by 2030.

31. In November 2019, UNODC delivered workshops on the E4J university module series on integrity and ethics and on anti-corruption in Mauritius and the Russian Federation. Those tools were also presented at an anti-corruption conference held in Kazakhstan in December. In February 2020, UNODC participated in a high-level workshop organized in Qatar to showcase the various tools developed under the E4J initiative.

2. Awareness-raising in schools

32. Under the E4J initiative, UNODC participated in the thirty-third International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement, held in Morocco in January 2020. The Office also participated in the secondary school edition of the annual Model United Nations, organized by the World Federation of United Nations Associations in the United States in February 2020. During the event, students received briefings on

UNODC mandates, and teachers were trained on the E4J *Resource Guide for Organizing Model United Nations Conferences that Address Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and Other Aspects of the Rule of Law*. Over the reporting period, more than 5,000 students and educators in India were provided with knowledge support and mentoring on school-led initiatives against corruption.

3. Other work with young people

33. In November 2019, UNODC supported the second Youth Integrity Camp, held in Myanmar by the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Ministry of Education, where E4J material was used to teach students about integrity, ethics and anti-corruption. On International Anti-Corruption day, E4J corruption-related educational tools were presented in Kazakhstan. In partnership with Facebook and the Nigerian technology company Andela, the second edition of the Hackathon4Justice was held in Nigeria in February 2020. The event involved more than 80 students competing to develop technological solutions to promote the rule of law and the fight against corruption.

4. Publications and online tools

34. In paragraph 22, of resolution 8/8, the Conference of the States Parties requested UNODC to continue to provide and develop capacity-building initiatives, including new knowledge products 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.

35. UNODC continued to develop knowledge products and to make existing ones available in several languages. Such technical tools and publications can be found on the UNODC website³ and are also clustered thematically on the web page of the Working Group.⁴

36. From October to December 2019, feedback from internal and external peer reviewers was sought to validate the final draft of a practical guide to corruption risk assessment and management in public organizations. The publication is expected to be released in the first half of 2020.

37. In November 2019, the guide entitled *Reporting Mechanisms in Sport*, developed in partnership with the International Olympic Committee, was launched in Switzerland.

38. UNODC publications were widely disseminated at relevant events, such as conferences, workshops and training sessions, as well as during country visits. They are also available on the UNODC website.⁵

H. Other preventive work and emerging topics

1. Parliaments

39. Under the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, UNODC delivered a session on international cooperation in recovering stolen assets, as part of an anti-corruption seminar of the International Law Institute held in the United States in November 2019. The seminar was attended by government officials and parliamentarians from 10 countries. On International Anti-Corruption Day, UNDP, UNODC and the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan organized a round table on corruption prevention strategies. In Ethiopia, in February 2020, the Office contributed to the first African Young

³ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/index.html.

⁴ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/working-group-on-prevention.html.

⁵ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/publications.html.

Legislators Conference on the sidelines of the thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

2. Environment and wildlife

40. As part of its expanding work in the areas of environment and wildlife, UNODC delivered a workshop on developing corruption risk mitigation strategies for the fisheries sector, in Senegal, in November 2019.

41. UNODC also provided support to States parties in the context of the negotiation of resolution 8/12, entitled “Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment”, adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its eighth session.

3. Safeguarding sport from corruption

42. At the global level, in November 2019, UNODC made a presentation on corruption in sport at the INTERPOL Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery Global Conference, held in Colombia, and contributed to the first Specialized Expert Group Meeting on International Police Cooperation of INTERPOL Project Stadia, held in France. In December 2019, the first General Conference of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport was held in the United Arab Emirates as a special event prior to the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties. The Office also facilitated a side event on safeguarding sport from corruption during the eighth session. In addition, UNODC participated in the Global Dialogue Forum on Decent Work in the World of Sport organized by the International Labour Organization in Switzerland in January 2020.

43. At the regional level, in November 2019, UNODC worked closely with INTERPOL and the International Olympic Committee to deliver training to authorities from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay; participate in a meeting of the European Commission Expert Group on “Integrity”; and give a presentation during a peer-to-peer learning activity on good governance and safeguarding against corruption in major sport events, in Bulgaria. In addition, training was delivered to participants in the inaugural winter school of the Integrity Programme of the Union of European Football Associations, in Switzerland, in January 2020.

44. At the national level, working closely with INTERPOL and the International Olympic Committee, UNODC delivered training to authorities in Algeria in October 2019.

45. In January 2020, UNODC took part in a meeting of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and held a partnership and cooperation meeting with the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland.

4. Journalists

46. A training workshop was organized by UNODC in Ghana in November 2019, with a view to strengthening the investigative capacities of journalists from West Africa in the field of fisheries crime.

5. Civil society

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

6. Gender

48. The Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC provided input on corruption and gender issues to the Global Programme on Gender Equality and the

Empowerment of Women in the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNODC, for reporting under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in January 2020. In addition, UNODC participated in the Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment to Fight Corruption of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum held in Malaysia in February 2020.

III. Delivery framework and resources

49. While the present report focuses on initiatives and activities carried out to implement relevant resolutions adopted by the Conference at its eighth session, it is important to note that, during the reporting period, UNODC also continued to provide assistance covering the full spectrum of the Convention.

50. Several global programmes and projects enabled UNODC to provide specialized guidance, advice and expertise, upon request from States parties, including:

- The Global Programme to Prevent and Combat Corruption through the Effective Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Support of Sustainable Development Goal 16
- The Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness
- The Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime
- The United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, jointly implemented by UNDP and UNODC
- The Global Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime
- The project Strengthening Criminal Investigation and Criminal Justice Cooperation along the Cocaine Route in Latin America, the Caribbean and Western Africa

51. UNODC has specialized staff with anti-corruption knowledge and expertise located at headquarters, as well as at the regional and national levels. Such staff work in a coordinated manner to deliver technical assistance and guidance to States parties requesting support for strengthening legislation and institutions in line with the Convention. Their contributions to the implementation of resolution 8/8 are reflected throughout the present report. Sustained and long-term support from donors is therefore essential to continue the work of those experts.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

52. The Working Group is invited to consider progress and challenges regarding the implementation of resolution 8/8, as described in the present progress report, and propose ways to strengthen and support further implementation by States parties. In this regard, the Working Group may wish to invite States parties to share additional information with the Secretariat about their activities, initiatives and partnerships to implement that resolution.

53. The Working Group may wish to highlight the need for sufficient and predictable funding for UNODC to continue the provision of technical assistance related to the prevention of corruption at the national, regional and global levels. The Working Group may therefore wish to further emphasize the need for States parties and donors to reconfirm their commitment to the prevention of corruption, including in the form of multi-year, soft-earmarked extrabudgetary contributions to UNODC.