



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

Distr.: General  
5 July 2021

Original: English

## Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 16 to 18 June 2021

### 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 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 8/8, the Conference welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption to facilitate the sharing of information between States parties and underlined the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group at its meetings held in Vienna from 5 to 7 September 2018 and from 4 to 6 September 2019.
4. In the same resolution, the Conference 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 website of the Working Group with relevant information.
5. In its resolution 6/1, the Conference requested the Secretariat to structure the provisional agendas of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions, while respecting their mandates.
6. In its resolution 8/13, the Conference requested the Working Group to include strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption as a topic for discussion at its future meetings.



7. In its resolution 8/14, the Conference requested the Working Group to include the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in strengthening the implementation of the Convention as a topic for discussion at its twelfth meeting.
8. In line with those resolutions, the topics for discussion at the twelfth meeting of the Working Group were “Role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption” and “Role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in strengthening the implementation of the Convention”.

## **II. Organization of the meeting**

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

9. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its twelfth meeting in Vienna from 16 to 18 June 2021. The meeting included four meetings held jointly with the Implementation Review Group, on 16, 17 and 18 June.
10. The Working Group held six meetings, which were chaired by Harib Saeed al-Amimi (United Arab Emirates), the President of the Conference at its eighth session.
11. The Working Group considered item 2 of its agenda jointly with the Implementation Review Group.
12. In opening the meeting, the Chair recalled Conference resolution 8/8, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, in which the Conference had welcomed the efforts of the Working Group to facilitate the sharing of information between States parties, underlined the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Group at its meetings held in Vienna from 5 to 7 September 2018 and 4 to 6 September 2019 and decided that the Group should hold at least two meetings prior to the ninth session of the Conference. The Chair also recalled Conference resolution 3/2, in which the Conference had established the Group and defined its functions.

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

13. On 16 June 2021, 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 relevant Conference resolutions:<sup>1</sup>
    - (a) Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption:
      - (i) Thematic discussion on the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in strengthening the implementation of the Convention;

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<sup>1</sup> 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) Thematic discussion on the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption;
  - (b) Other recommendations.
3. Future priorities.
  4. Adoption of the report.

### C. Attendance

14. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Pluractional State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

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

16. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was also represented at the session.

17. In accordance with rule 2 of Conference resolution 4/5, the Conference decided that intergovernmental organizations, Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network may be invited to participate in the sessions of the Implementation Review Group.

18. The following United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and institute of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: United Nations Development Programme, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and Korean Institute of Criminology.

19. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf, Economic Community of West African States, European Court of Auditors (on behalf of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)), International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), League of Arab States, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, and World Customs Organization.

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

### III. Implementation of relevant Conference resolutions

#### A. Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption: thematic discussion on the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in strengthening the implementation of the Convention

21. The Chair introduced agenda item 2 (a) (i), on the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies in strengthening the implementation of the Convention, and invited the participants to provide observations and comments following the introductory presentation by a representative of the secretariat.

22. A representative of the secretariat presented the background paper on the role of national parliaments and other legislative bodies in strengthening the implementation of the Convention ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2021/2](#)). He thanked those States parties that had provided information in advance of the meeting. That information had formed the basis of the document. The submissions received by the secretariat demonstrated that a wide range of approaches and measures had been taken to promote and strengthen the role and capacity of national parliaments and other legislative bodies. The measures and initiatives cited most frequently by States parties included adopting legislation to support budget transparency, ensuring accountability in the management of public finances and reinforcing the review and oversight functions of national parliaments and other legislative bodies. States parties had also reported on the development and implementation of “open parliament” initiatives and the adoption of tailored codes of conduct and ethics for members and staff of parliaments. Finally, the representative noted that, in their submissions, many States parties had recognized the importance of engaging in regional and interregional platforms and other forms of cooperation to exchange good practices and experiences.

23. A panellist from Greece recalled that, in democratic systems, parliaments were the main institutions that expressed the will of the people. Therefore, they should have a central role in the fight against corruption through their representational, legislative and oversight functions. With respect to the representational functions of parliament, the panellist noted that members of parliament were accountable to the electorate for addressing and countering corruption. He stated that, in order to best represent their voters’ interests, members of parliament should engage in constructive dialogue with civil society organizations and the media in order to be informed about and contribute to the development of laws that best served their needs. Regarding the legislative functions of parliament, the panellist referred to the importance of enacting legislation to address corruption, fraud and money-laundering. He referred to the establishment, by law, of the Hellenic National Transparency Authority as an independent authority with an anti-corruption mandate and responsibility for the promotion of good governance and integrity in the public and private sectors. He highlighted the importance of engaging citizens in the development of laws and cited the Greek legal framework, which provided for public consultations on draft legislation. The panellist also highlighted the importance of the parliamentary oversight function for holding the executive branch to account for their actions and expenditure. In Greece, the oversight function was performed by specialized parliamentary committees. To fulfil their functions, members of parliament needed to adhere to the highest standards of integrity in order to meet community expectations and uphold citizens’ trust in public institutions. The panellist underlined that the role of national parliaments in enacting laws against corruption was integral to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

24. A panellist from Indonesia highlighted that the mobilization and distribution of large relief packages in response to the COVID-19 pandemic had increased the risks of corruption globally. She called for greater international cooperation to ensure that the prevention of corruption was an integral part of global and national pandemic-recovery efforts. The panellist noted that the prerogatives and responsibilities of members of parliament were enshrined in the constitution, which

provided the legal basis for parliamentarians to enact legislation to prevent and combat corruption. The panellist made reference to several legal instruments and other measures that had been adopted by the House of Representatives of Indonesia in order to criminalize corrupt practices, strengthen anti-corruption agencies and implement other provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Among such measures were the bill on asset forfeiture, the bill to amend the Law on the Eradication of the Criminal Act of Corruption and the amendment to the Law on Witness and Victim Protection to strengthen the protection of reporting persons from any form of retaliation. With regard to the oversight functions of parliament, the panellist made reference to the establishment of the Public Accounts Committee and the Center for the Study of State Financial Accountability, both of which were intended to provide expertise for members of parliament to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the management of public finances. The panellist highlighted the increased participation of civil society through the Open Parliament Indonesia initiative in 2018. She stressed the importance of interparliamentary cooperation and international legislative networks, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption and its regional chapter, the Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption. Finally, the panellist noted the need for Governments to further involve parliaments and other legislative bodies in country reviews under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

25. A panellist from Bosnia and Herzegovina emphasized the role of parliaments in ensuring a strong legal framework to prevent and fight corruption. The panellist reiterated that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased vulnerabilities to corruption, in particular with regard to the receipt and management of resources from international donors and resources mobilized to offset job losses or to procure emergency goods and services in the health sector. He noted that key to the proper performance of parliamentary functions was the identification and prevention of conflicts of interest. The panellist indicated that training for parliamentarians and measures to strengthen integrity in the legislative process were core aspects of the anti-corruption strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He added, however, that additional work was required to meet the objectives of the strategy.

26. In the ensuing discussion, one speaker raised a question regarding challenges in connection with raising the awareness of members of parliament of the outcomes of the reviews arising from the Implementation Review Mechanism and ways to address such challenges. In response, the panellist from Greece stressed the importance of strengthening understanding of the Convention and noted that his country had been conducting awareness-raising consultations with parliament. The panellist from Indonesia referred to the organization of training for members of parliament to present the recommendations issued for the review of her country.

27. Speakers reaffirmed the important role that parliaments and parliamentarians played in the prevention of and fight against corruption and in the full implementation of the Convention. The legislative function performed by parliamentary assemblies was deemed key to reinforcing international cooperation, promoting asset recovery, establishing anti-corruption bodies and facilitating digitalization and the use of technology in procurement processes and asset declaration systems. It was noted that electronic platforms developed to facilitate the secure and confidential reporting of potential corruption by whistle-blowers and witnesses had increased the number and quality of reports while providing for more effective protection of reporting persons.

28. One speaker emphasized that one of the key functions of parliaments and other legislative assemblies was to enact streamlined and simplified anti-corruption legislation.

29. Speakers noted that measures to strengthen the integrity and accountability of members of parliament were important for ensuring that parliaments were well equipped to carry out their role. In that respect, one speaker referred to specific codes of conduct for parliamentarians, to be complemented by ethics committees

responsible for ensuring compliance with the codes. One speaker called for action to increase parliamentarians' awareness of the Convention and its requirements and of the Implementation Review Mechanism, as well as of other international anti-corruption instruments and relevant international organizations.

30. Some speakers noted the importance of a system of asset declarations for parliamentarians to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure accountability. It was noted that such a system could involve dedicated bodies or committees within parliaments to ensure the oversight and accountability of its members, including the imposition of sanctions, where appropriate.

31. Speakers reaffirmed the significance of international and regional cooperation, particularly through interparliamentary forums for the exchange of good practices and experiences. One speaker emphasized the importance of interparliamentary dialogue to enhance the fight against corruption, particularly in the area of recovery and return of assets in an expedited manner and free from impediments.

32. Speakers emphasized that measures to increase civil society participation and transparency in legislative processes and promote access to information regarding draft legislation were important to ensure an inclusive approach to the adoption and implementation of anti-corruption legislation. One speaker noted that transparency could be better ensured by clearly outlining the legislative process and how civil society could contribute, and by making parliamentary hearings and meetings public.

33. Some speakers elaborated on the oversight function of parliaments, which was regarded as key to holding executive branches to account, particularly in relation to the management of public finances and expenditure. One speaker emphasized that, in order to carry out the oversight function more effectively, parliaments would benefit from partnerships with anti-corruption bodies, commissions and supreme audit institutions. Parliamentary oversight should address possible corruption in the public and private sectors and in the management of publicly owned companies and institutions that operated in primarily cash-based economies.

## **B. Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption: thematic discussion on the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption**

34. The Chair introduced agenda item 2 (a) (ii), on the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and invited the participants to provide observations and comments following the introductory presentation by a representative of the secretariat and the panel discussion.

35. A representative of the secretariat presented the background paper on the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2021/3](#)). He thanked those States parties that had provided information, which had formed the basis of the document. He emphasized that the submissions from States parties presented a wide range of initiatives, actions and practices at the global, regional and national levels to promote and strengthen the role and capacity of supreme audit institutions. The representative also highlighted that the measures and initiatives cited most frequently by States parties related to the strengthening of the independence of supreme audit institutions and the use of information and communications technologies. The representative noted that, in their submissions, States parties had recognized the importance of cooperation between supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies.

36. A panellist from Chile emphasized the need to mainstream anti-corruption into every function of public administration. She underlined the importance of information and communications technologies to prevent corruption and promote integrity, accountability, transparency and the proper management of public affairs and public property. The panellist emphasized the importance of public reporting for strengthening public trust, good governance and the rule of law. She noted that efforts

to enhance transparency and the accountability of public administrations were vital for upholding high standards of integrity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

37. A panellist from Morocco highlighted the role of the Court of Audit in ensuring the proper management of public finances. She described how the competencies of the Court contributed to the prevention of corruption and fraud by promoting transparency and the accountability of government bodies, public projects and political parties. The independence of the Court of Audit was regarded as a prerequisite for the proper performance of its functions. The panellist further outlined that the Court of Audit had the authority to sanction public officials for violations of budgetary, financial and accounting rules and asset disclosure legislation.

38. A panellist from the Russian Federation referred to the adoption of the Moscow declaration by the twenty-third International Congress of Supreme Audit Institutions, held in Moscow from 25 to 27 September 2019. In the declaration, opportunities were identified for the improvement of the audit process in order to promote greater transparency in the public sector, in accordance with the Convention against Corruption. The panellist stressed that the supreme audit institution of the Russian Federation partnered with the Government, parliament, civil society and law enforcement agencies. She informed the Working Group about the instruments and approaches adopted by the supreme audit institution, such as the use of information and communications technologies, artificial intelligence, a risk-based methodology applied at the early stage of audits and a matrix of major offences. She indicated that the supreme audit institution regularly published its reports and had expanded its social media presence to promote transparency. The panellist concluded by reiterating the importance of providing staff with adequate education and training.

39. A panellist from the United Arab Emirates indicated that successful measures to prevent corruption included effective reporting on government activities, using new technologies to improve processes in Government and promoting national and international cooperation. She observed that the primary mandate of supreme audit institutions was to ensure that public resources were used effectively, economically and in line with existing rules and regulations. The panellist stated that broader use of information and communications technologies and advanced data analytics could significantly improve good governance, transparency and the effectiveness of internal controls. She emphasized that enhancing cooperation between international organizations, supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies was crucial to preventing corruption. In that context, she referred to the signing of an agreement between the supreme audit institution of the United Arab Emirates and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the implementation of the Abu Dhabi declaration programme, funded by the United Arab Emirates in the amount of \$5.4 million. The three-year programme, which was aimed at promoting implementation of the Abu Dhabi declaration (Conference resolution 8/13), would enhance cooperation between supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies and would strengthen effective implementation of the Convention against Corruption, in particular article 9, paragraph 2, thereof, on the management of public finances. She concluded by noting that, in the political declaration adopted by the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, the important role of supreme audit institutions had been reiterated.

40. A panellist from INTOSAI noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased the risk of fraud and corruption. She underlined the importance of the INTOSAI standards for promoting effectiveness, impartiality, integrity and independence in the work of supreme audit institutions. She informed the Working Group about the activities carried out by the INTOSAI community to promote the implementation of the Convention and stressed that supreme audit institutions needed mechanisms and established practices to ensure their integrity and compliance with the code of ethics of INTOSAI. The panellist recalled the memorandum of understanding between INTOSAI and UNODC signed in 2019 and described how that landmark document and Conference resolution 8/13, the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to

more effectively prevent and fight corruption, would contribute to the global implementation of the Convention. She concluded by providing information on the activities of the Court of Audit of Austria related to the prevention of corruption.

41. In the ensuing discussion, speakers shared information on how their countries had implemented Conference resolution 8/13 with regard to enhancing collaboration between supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption.

42. Speakers provided information on the structure and activities of their national supreme audit institutions and the recent legislative and other measures undertaken to strengthen their independence and effectiveness.

43. Many speakers gave examples of the auditing function of the supreme audit institutions, which led to preventing corruption more effectively, exposing irregularities, imposing sanctions and referring irregularities to law enforcement authorities.

44. Several speakers underlined the value of national, international and regional coordination; some speakers mentioned the coordinating role of INTOSAI and of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

45. Some speakers highlighted the importance of providing the public with access to information and data sources to ensure effective oversight and accountability in the management of public affairs. One speaker underlined the importance of transparency in the work of supreme audit institutions, which required the publication of audit findings.

46. Some speakers underlined the importance of information and communications technologies for the work of supreme audit institutions and the proper management of public affairs and public property in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

47. Several speakers indicated that promoting the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector was a priority for the supreme audit institutions of their countries. One speaker informed the Working Group that civil society was engaged in the assessment of the implementation of the national anti-corruption plan.

48. One speaker provided information on measures taken by the supreme audit institution of his country to ensure staff integrity. He described a recent reform that had been aimed at managing the risks of corruption in emergency procurement processes.

49. One speaker reported that training programmes had been established by the supreme audit institution of his country for both auditors and civil servants. He emphasized that technical assistance was necessary to improve the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in his country.

50. Some speakers indicated that synergy between audit and judicial functions was key to the effectiveness of the supreme audit institutions. One speaker described how the work of the supreme audit institution of her country had led to the recovery of stolen assets.

### **C. Other recommendations**

51. The Chair introduced the discussion under agenda item 2 (b), on other recommendations, and drew the attention of the participants to the mandate of the Working Group to advise and assist the Conference.

52. A representative of the secretariat provided an update on the implementation of relevant Conference resolutions, focusing on corruption prevention, and provided an overview of the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the period from March 2020 to May 2021, including with regard to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its work.



53. During the period from March 2020 to May 2021, UNODC had implemented multiple technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels. The Office had continued its work to promote universal adherence to the Convention and to serve as an international observatory. The secretariat had provided assistance to States parties to strengthen their anti-corruption institutional and legal frameworks, promote international cooperation in the prevention of corruption, strengthen the integrity of procurement and the proper management of public finances, promote the integrity of the judiciary and the prosecution service, prevent corruption in the private and public sector and encourage the participation of society. The representative paid particular attention to the work of UNODC in emerging areas such as safeguarding sport from corruption, anti-corruption education, addressing corruption that facilitated crimes with an impact on the environment, assessing the gender dimension of corruption and preventing and combating corruption in the time of COVID-19.

54. UNODC had also developed a number of knowledge products, such as the publications entitled *Colombo Commentary on the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies*, *State of Integrity: A Guide on Conducting Corruption Risk Assessments in Public Organizations*, *Guide on Inspecting for Procurement Corruption and Fraud in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*, *The Time is Now: Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Corruption* and *Gender and Corruption in Nigeria*, a guidance paper entitled “Accountability and the prevention of corruption in the allocation and distribution of emergency economic rescue packages in the context and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic”, an article on COVID-19 fiscal response and the prevention of corruption and a policy paper entitled “COVID-19 vaccines and corruption risks: preventing corruption in the manufacture, allocation and distribution of vaccines”.

55. A representative of the secretariat presented the initial results of the research on the implementation of Conference resolution 8/12. He noted that 28 States parties had provided information on that topic and emphasized the importance of preventing and combating corruption related to crimes with an impact on the environment. He described the scope of the research and the preliminary findings, provided examples of corruption schemes, challenges and solutions, and noted that academic literature and information on the topic of the resolution remained limited. To allow for a more comprehensive understanding and analysis of Governments’ experiences and efforts, States parties were encouraged to provide further information to the secretariat by responding to the questionnaire that had been distributed to them in April 2021. The deadline for submitting such responses had been extended to 31 July 2021. The final research report, containing an in-depth analysis of the responses, was to be submitted as a conference room paper to the Conference at its ninth session, in December 2021.

56. In the ensuing discussion, speakers shared information about the efforts made by their countries to implement the relevant resolutions.

57. One speaker reported on the support that his country had provided for the development of a guide to assist States in implementing the commitments and recommendations emanating from international anti-corruption instruments and mechanisms such as the Implementation Review Mechanism and the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe. The guide contained targeted and actionable steps to increase transparency and accountability in the process of implementing those commitments and recommendations.

58. One speaker reported that his country had amended and enacted new legislation in order to comply with the recommendations of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

59. One speaker indicated that her country was developing a report that would enhance the ability of public bodies to prevent corruption, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

60. Several speakers provided examples of activities undertaken to prevent corruption, including mapping risks of corruption, protecting reporting persons from intimidation or retaliation and providing training to public officials.

#### **IV. Future priorities**

61. The Chair introduced the discussion under agenda item 3, on future priorities, and drew the attention of the participants to the mandate of the Working Group to advise and assist the Conference.

62. A representative of the secretariat recalled the thematic topics suggested by the Working Group for discussion at future meetings. The topics were as follows: (a) measuring corruption and the impact of anti-corruption efforts using scientific indicators; (b) identifying risks of corruption; (c) measures and systems to facilitate reporting by public officials (art. 8, para. 4); and (d) public reporting (arts. 10 and 13, para. 2). He also recalled the thematic topics identified by the Conference in its resolutions 8/12, 8/13 and 8/14.

63. He reported on the recent activities of the Working Group to develop and accumulate knowledge, in particular through its thematic webpage, in the areas of corruption prevention, the exchange of information and experiences among States on preventive measures and practices, and the collection, dissemination and promotion of good practices in the prevention of corruption.

64. In the ensuing discussion, two speakers suggested that the Working Group should focus on how countries were implementing article 13 of the Convention. The Group should identify good practices by States parties in supporting the role of individuals and groups outside the public sector in the prevention of corruption.

65. Two speakers suggested that the Working Group evaluate the effectiveness of anti-corruption legislation and policies (art. 5, para. 3), with a focus on how States parties encouraged the participation of society in those processes (arts. 10 and 13).

66. One speaker recalled the increasing number of resolutions on the prevention of corruption and suggested that States parties consider addressing corruption-prevention issues in fewer but stronger resolutions.

67. One speaker underlined the importance of using the country review reports to inform technical assistance programming and delivery.

68. One speaker commented on the development of a multi-year workplan of the Working Group, noting the important role of the Conference resolutions and highlighting the need for flexibility in such a workplan.

#### **V. Conclusions and recommendations**

69. The Working Group acknowledged that progress had been made by States parties in relation to the implementation of Conference resolutions 8/13 and 8/14. The Group underlined the need to maintain such progress and assist States parties in overcoming implementation challenges.

70. The Working Group recommended that States parties continue to promote the exchange of good practices and information in order to strengthen the role of parliaments and other legislative bodies. Achieving that objective required engagement with global and regional parliamentary assemblies and organizations and the establishment of agreements with the parliaments and legislative bodies of other States parties. The Group also recommended that States parties continue to exchange good practices and information on cooperation between supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies.

71. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to continue to provide technical assistance to States parties, upon request and subject to the availability of

extrabudgetary resources, to support implementation of article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention and to continue efforts to gather information on good practices related to the management of public finances, in particular those arising from the Implementation Review Mechanism.

72. The Working Group recommended that States parties pay renewed attention to the use of information and communications technologies to prevent corruption, in line with Conference resolutions 6/7 and 6/8.

73. The Working Group recommended to the Conference the adoption of a multi-year workplan for the Group, while recognizing the need to leave sufficient room on the agenda of the Group to add topics for discussion or to amend those already suggested.

74. The Working Group emphasized the need for both States parties and the donor community to reconfirm their commitment to the prevention of corruption and also emphasized the need for sufficient and predictable funding, including in the form of multi-year, soft-earmarked extrabudgetary contributions, so that UNODC could continue to provide technical assistance for the prevention of corruption at the national, regional, interregional and global levels.

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

75. On 18 June 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on its twelfth meeting ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2021/L.1](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2021/L.1/Add.1](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2021/L.1/Add.2](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2021/L.1/Add.3](#) and [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2021/L.1/Add.4](#)), as orally amended.

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