



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 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of relevant Conference resolutions:
other recommendations**

Status of implementation of Conference resolutions 9/3 and 9/6, on the prevention of corruption

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its ninth session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted resolution 9/3, entitled “Follow-up to the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption, and the use of information and communications technologies”. In that resolution, the Conference requested the secretariat to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the relevant subsidiary bodies established by it. In its resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, the Conference requested the secretariat to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings.

2. The present background paper provides the requested information on the implementation of resolutions 9/3 and 9/6 to serve as a basis for discussion in the Working Group in order to enable it to discharge its mandate effectively. The paper provides an account of all initiatives that have been undertaken at the global, regional and national levels by States parties, with the support of the secretariat, to implement those resolutions during the reporting period (October 2021 to February 2022). Information on work carried out before October 2021 is available in document [CAC/COSP/2021/12](#), which was submitted to the Conference at its ninth session.

* [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/1](#).



II. Update on the status of implementation of resolutions 9/3 and 9/6

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

1. Reporting on the implementation of resolutions 9/3 and 9/6 by States parties

3. In its resolution 9/6, 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. In its resolution 9/3, the Conference invited States parties to further share their experience in ensuring proper management of public finances and public property, and exchange information on the role of their supreme audit institutions in this regard, also utilizing the meetings of the Working Group. States parties are therefore invited to share information about their efforts to implement those resolutions at the meeting of the Working Group.

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

4. In its resolution 9/6, the Conference welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Working Group to facilitate the sharing of information between States parties on their initiatives and good practices and acknowledged that the Group should continue its work to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption. 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 sharing information, and 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. Accordingly, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to gather and make available through the thematic website of the Working Group¹ all information provided by States parties ahead of each meeting of the Working Group. That information included presentations made at meetings, relevant reports and links to additional resource material.

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

6. UNODC continued to promote adherence to the Convention. During the reporting period, Suriname acceded to the Convention, bringing the number of States parties to 189.

7. Under the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, UNODC supported focal points and government experts from Belize, Chad, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Nicaragua and Saint Lucia in the preparation of responses to the self-assessment checklist.

¹ Available at 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

8. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to support the formulation and revision of anti-corruption legislation. In Viet Nam, UNODC supported a legislative drafting workshop on the revision of the Law on Inspection (No. 56/2010/QH12) in October 2021 and two sessions of a high-level conference on the introduction of a law on lobbying in November and December 2021.

9. Through the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association, UNODC provided technical support for the development of the whistle-blower protection bill in Kenya. At the time of writing, the bill is undergoing the second reading in Parliament.

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

10. UNODC supported the development of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Federated States of Micronesia, which the President signed in December 2021. In February 2022, UNODC took initial steps to support the development of a national anti-corruption strategy in the Cook Islands and, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a national strategy on the prevention of and fight against corruption in Mali.

11. In December 2021, Vanuatu attributed additional anti-corruption authority to the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the Office of the Ombudsman. This decision was based on the outcome of study that UNODC had conducted earlier in the year.

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

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

12. In its efforts to support the reform of the national asset declaration system in Senegal, UNODC provided comments on a draft law and its implementation decree at a workshop organized by the National Office for the Fight against Fraud and Corruption in October 2021.

13. In February 2022, the Office of the Comptroller General of Ecuador completed the digitalization of a conflicts-of-interest simulator created with the support of UNODC. The simulator will be used by national public officials.

14. Also in February 2022, UNODC, under the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, held two training sessions for ethics officers from the nine provinces of South Africa on a risk-based analysis of financial disclosures.

(b) Reporting of corruption and protection of reporting persons

15. UNODC organized national workshops on good practices in the protection of reporting persons in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Paraguay in October 2021, and in Botswana and Ethiopia in November 2021. At the workshops, the existing frameworks for the protection of reporting persons were analysed, and measures to strengthen them were identified. At the end of 2021, UNODC provided support to the Health Professions Council of South Africa with a view to establishing a safer and more inclusive corruption reporting channel.

16. In Ghana, in cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, and in Ethiopia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, UNODC provided advice and drafting support for the development of legislative and policy frameworks on the protection of reporting persons.

17. In October 2021, UNODC supported a workshop for the Kenyan Parliamentary Justice Committee, the Legal Affairs Committee and the Kenya Young

Parliamentarians Association. The aim of the workshop was to share international good practices on reporting mechanisms.

18. In January 2022, UNODC organized a workshop on whistle-blower protection in South Sudan, supporting the revision of the corruption reporting policy of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the drafting of a reporting policy for the National Revenue Authority.

(c) Procurement and public finances

19. In the Philippines, UNODC continued to support efforts to strengthen the public procurement framework. In November 2021, UNODC and the Open Contracting Partnership, a not-for-profit organization, organized a workshop on the application of open data in public procurement. A letter of agreement between UNODC and the Government Procurement Policy Board Technical Support Office was signed in February 2022 to mark the initiation of a project designed to automate the submission and publication of reports on public procurement through a web application.

20. Between August 2021 and February 2022, in cooperation with the Corruption Eradication Commission of Indonesia, UNODC conducted a study on the analysis of big data in order to identify fraud and corruption in public procurement. The recommendations of the study are being utilized to develop software that will enable the Commission to conduct analysis of digital procurement data at the national and local levels.

21. In October and November 2021, UNODC organized a multi-stakeholder consultation with representatives from 10 institutions and non-governmental organizations in Timor-Leste to map potential risks of corruption, particularly in public procurement in the health sector.

22. In December 2021, UNODC met with the National Treasury in South Africa to review and strengthen the requirements for tenderers to submit mandatory declarations of interest through a standard form. The form is part of a suite of standard bidding documents that are being digitalized.

23. At the regional level, in November 2021, UNODC delivered a workshop for representatives of the Governments of Chile, Colombia and Paraguay on good practices related to the use of data and the identification of red flags and of risks of corruption in the procurement of goods and services necessary to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. UNODC also held a virtual consultation with those Governments to develop a better understanding of how to enhance inclusivity and gender-sensitive approaches to public procurement, including in times of crisis. A survey on those topics was conducted among the relevant authorities of Chile, Colombia and Paraguay in December 2021. The results of the survey will inform the delivery of technical assistance by UNODC.

24. UNODC continued to implement 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”, and resolution 9/3. In October 2021, UNODC hosted a meeting of experts for the development of a practical guide on enhancing collaboration between supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption authorities. The experts continued to provide substantive input throughout the development of the guide.

25. With the aim of collecting experiences and lessons learned during the pandemic, in November 2021 UNODC organized a meeting of experts aimed at developing a rapid response guide on expedited procurement.

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

1. Designation of competent authorities

26. As of June 2021, the Secretary-General had received notifications from 120 States parties designating a total of 190 competent authorities that might assist other States parties in developing and implementing specific measures for the prevention of corruption, as required under article 6, paragraph 3, of the Convention. An updated list is available to competent authorities and government agencies in the online directory of competent national authorities under the Convention (www.unodc.org/compauth_uncac/en/index.html).

2. Support for anti-corruption agencies

27. In October 2021, UNODC delivered a training course on the management of risks of corruption to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana.

28. In November 2021, in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Samoa and the Samoa Public Service Commission, UNODC supported a meeting on the right to information. The meeting was also attended by the Right to Information Unit of Vanuatu, the New Zealand Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

29. In the same month, a delegation of anti-corruption practitioners and government officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in a study visit to UNODC headquarters. Subsequently, four anti-corruption tools developed by UNODC were translated and distributed to all relevant authorities by the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and the Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

30. In December 2021, UNODC supported the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission of Kenya in a series of activities to mark International Anti-Corruption Day. Such activities included panel discussions and forums to sensitize the public and promote media engagement. A forum on the roles and responsibilities of government officials in preventing and combating corruption brought together a wide range of national anti-corruption stakeholders.

31. In January 2022, UNODC, together with UNDP, delivered a capacity-building programme on integrity and anti-corruption in Ecuador. The programme was attended by the President, several ministers and 570 government officials.

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

32. UNODC continued to promote the coordination of anti-corruption initiatives at the global, regional and national levels. At the regional level, UNODC continued to support States parties in their efforts to fast-track the implementation of the Convention. The success of that approach was recognized by the Conference of the States Parties at its ninth session. In its resolution 9/4, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption at regional levels”, the Conference acknowledged the important contribution made by UNODC through the development of technical assistance programmes, and welcomed its initiative to adopt a regional approach in its anti-corruption technical assistance delivery, including through the creation of regional platforms across the world to fast-track the implementation of the Convention. In the same resolution, the Conference requested UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance to States parties, including through the regional platforms approach.

33. In October 2021, UNODC delivered a workshop on inter-agency coordination in Zimbabwe to support the Government’s plan to establish a national anti-corruption

coordinating committee. To promote South-South cooperation, relevant authorities from Kenya were invited to share their experiences in promoting inter-agency coordination. Workshops on the same topic were conducted in Namibia and Zambia in February 2022 under the regional platform for Southern Africa to fast-track the effective implementation of the Convention.

34. In February 2022, in the framework of the regional platform for Southern Africa, UNODC organized a regional workshop entitled “Transforming societies through anti-corruption innovation in public procurement and whistle-blower protection”. The workshop was held in South Africa and was attended by representatives of Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The participating countries agreed on a list of steps to be taken in order to enhance whistle-blower protection and transparency in public procurement in the region.

35. In December 2021, UNODC launched a network of anti-corruption practitioners of States participating in the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative, namely, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Georgia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. The network is designed to enhance the capacity of participating countries to prevent corruption in large-scale international investment projects and promote international cooperation. The objectives of the network will be achieved through peer-learning, training, development and the dissemination of knowledge products.

36. In coordination with the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat, UNODC continued to provide technical support for the implementation of the regional anti-corruption road map, known as Teieniwa Vision. The road map also provides a regional coordination platform for the Pacific region to address the recommendations emanating from the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention collectively and in a coordinated manner.

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

1. Judicial integrity

37. The Global Judicial Integrity Network, which is supported by UNODC, continued to create experience-sharing and peer support opportunities for judges and judiciaries worldwide and to disseminate information about the Network in numerous forums. As of February 2022, more than 70 jurisdictions worldwide had become training sites for the implementation of the Network’s Judicial Ethics Training Package. The Network continued to raise awareness and promote experience-sharing about various thematic areas, including the use of social media by judges, gender-related judicial integrity issues, increasing public trust in the judiciary and exploring the links between the physical and mental well-being of judges and judicial integrity. The Network website (www.unodc.org/ji) continued to be enriched with new resources, including opinion pieces, webinars and training tools.

38. In October 2021, UNODC delivered a workshop on judicial integrity and the implementation of article 11 of the Convention in the Central African Republic. The workshop, which was delivered under a joint project with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), focused on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, and the guidance provided by the Global Judicial Integrity Network on gender-related judicial integrity issues and the use of social media by judges. The preliminary results of an assessment of the implementation of article 11, supported by UNODC, were presented and discussed.

39. In December 2021, UNODC, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Saudi Human Rights Commission co-organized a virtual training on good governance and the rule of law for the

protection of human rights and the promotion of an independent and fair judiciary in Saudi Arabia.

40. In the same month, UNODC addressed an event entitled “The role of judicial ethics in an interconnected world”. The event was organized by the Judicial Ethics Commission of Spain and focused on the ethical use of social media by judges.

41. In January 2022, with support of UNODC, the Judiciary of the Plurinational State of Bolivia completed an assessment of corruption risks.

2. Prosecutorial integrity

42. In February 2022, the Attorney General of the Plurinational State of Bolivia started to update the code of ethics with the support of UNODC.

3. Integrity in the prisons

43. In October 2021, under a joint project with MINUSCA, UNODC facilitated an assessment of risks of corruption in the prison system in the Central African Republic. The workshop delivered a list of measures to mitigate such risks in priority areas and a plan to implement them.

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

44. UNODC continued to contribute to the work of the B20 Integrity and Compliance Taskforce under the Group of 20 presidency of Italy (in 2021) and Indonesia (in 2022). UNODC provided expertise and resources to support the development of a policy paper on integrity and compliance.

45. The Office continued to cooperate with the United Nations Global Compact. UNODC delivered a training course on international anti-corruption standards and good practices at an event organized by the Global Compact Local Network in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in October 2021. UNODC participated in various meetings and workshops organized by the Global Compact, aimed at updating the mechanism known as “Communication on progress” for companies to report on their efforts to implement the 10 principles of the Global Compact.

46. In November 2021, UNODC participated in the virtual annual community meeting of the World Economic Forum Partnering against Corruption Initiative. The meeting gathered members of the community, international organizations, civil society and governments to discuss business integrity. In November 2021, UNODC participated in the eleventh steering committee meeting of the Alliance for Integrity.

47. In October 2021, UNODC supported the launch of the of the Blue Company Project, an initiative by private entities in East Africa to encourage the business community to fight corruption and promote a clean business environment. The initiative currently includes more than 500 companies in the East African region.

48. In October 2021, UNODC held meetings with public and private sector stakeholders in Argentina, Chile and Peru to identify measures to increase transparency of beneficial ownership.

49. In October 2021, in partnership with the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, UNODC conducted two hybrid workshops in Samoa on the theme “Business integrity for young entrepreneurs”, aimed at promoting integrity and corruption-free business practices among young entrepreneurs.

50. In November 2021, UNODC, in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Agency, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights and Legitimate Interests of Entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan, organized a business forum entitled “Integrity in the business community of Uzbekistan”.

51. In the same month, UNODC participated in a meeting with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines on how to strengthen transparency of beneficial ownership and support the Commission's efforts to better collect and share information on beneficial ownership.
52. On International Anti-Corruption Day, 9 December 2021, UNODC supported the global not-for-profit Association for Corporate Investigators in the delivery of a webinar to discuss the role of corporate investigators in the prevention of corruption.
53. In February 2022, UNODC held meetings with public and private sector stakeholders in Mexico and Colombia to take stock of progress in the implementation of the regulations on transparency of beneficial ownership.
54. In the same month, UNODC published a virtual library of national regimes to regulate the liability of legal persons and corporate compliance in South America and Mexico. The library was developed with the support of 10 States parties and validated by them.
55. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to conduct activities aimed at enhancing business integrity in Myanmar through the development of a model code of conduct for business, and of an online game known as "Serious game", to raise awareness of corruption risks in the private sector.

G. Promoting education and knowledge of the prevention of corruption

56. In December 2021, UNODC launched the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative to further promote the role of education and youth in preventing and countering corruption in line with the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, held in June 2021 (resolution [S-32/1](#), annex).

1. Academia

57. Under the GRACE initiative, UNODC organized an international academic symposium in the margins of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties in December 2021, offering a forum for members of the UNODC academic network, other academics and experts to exchange knowledge and good practices related to anti-corruption education and research. The symposium concluded with the adoption of an outcome document with recommendations on how UNODC could support academic teaching and research on anti-corruption.
58. As of October 2021, some 7,650 students from universities in Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan had been taught the UNODC university integrity modules. In addition, 15 business practitioners had delivered guest lectures in those countries to provide real-life case studies and make the teaching more practice-oriented. During the reporting period, contextualized university modules on ethics, integrity and anti-corruption continued to be taught to students in Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan.
59. In December 2021, UNODC organized an anti-corruption workshop for university lecturers from Brazil, China, India and the Russian Federation to enhance their capacity to develop anti-corruption curricula and use the educational materials and tools produced by UNODC.
60. In October 2021, UNODC, together with the National University of Samoa Media and Journalism Programme and the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalist Network, delivered a training course for students of journalism on the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption and mechanisms to protect reporting persons.

2. Other work with young people

61. In December 2021, UNODC, under the GRACE initiative, launched a call for applications for membership in a youth integrity advisory board, known as YouthLED. The board, consisting of up to 25 individuals aged between 18 and 30 and representing all regions, will advise UNODC on strategies to engage young people in effective and anti-corruption efforts.

62. In October 2021, UNODC organized a virtual anti-corruption hackathon for young software developers from Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. The objectives of the hackathon were to promote the use of information and communications technologies to prevent and combat corruption in Africa by leveraging innovation and engaging youth. In Senegal, UNODC organized a closing ceremony for the Senegalese section of the hackathon, in partnership with the National Office for the Fight against Fraud and Corruption.

63. On the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day in December 2021, UNODC supported the Réseau Ivoirien des Jeunes Leaders pour l'Intégrité in organizing a citizens' action week in Côte d'Ivoire. UNODC facilitated a discussion between young people from different sectors of society and the Minister of Good Governance, Strengthening of Capacities and the Fight against Corruption on the contributions of young people to the fight against corruption. A short movie on fraud in the education system was screened at a school in Adzopé, and this was followed by a debate.

64. In December 2021, in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Tuvalu, UNODC organized a webinar to promote youth integrity through sport.

65. Under the GRACE initiative, UNODC organized a workshop for youth, delivered together with Save the Children Egypt, in the margins of the fourth edition of the World Youth Forum, held in Egypt in January 2022. The workshop gathered approximately 60 young people from all over the world, with the aim of teaching them how to recognize corruption and empowering them to act as agents of positive change in their communities.

3. Publications and online tools

66. 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 website² and are also clustered thematically on the web page of the Working Group.³

67. A United Nations-wide policy paper entitled "Corruption and COVID-19: challenges in crisis response and recovery", developed by the United Nations Global Task Force on Corruption under the co-leadership of UNODC, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and UNDP, was launched in October 2021.

68. In November 2021, UNODC published a paper entitled "Corruption risks in public procurement in the context of COVID-19 in Pacific island countries". The paper outlined how regimes regulating procurement systems in Pacific island countries have changed as a result of COVID-19 and explored the challenges and increased risk of corruption associated with the pandemic.

69. In November 2021, *The COVID-19 Pandemic: Exacerbating the Threat of Corruption to Human Rights and Sustainable Development in Pacific Island Countries* was published. The publication illustrates how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the threat posed by corruption to human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Pacific region.

² See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/index.html.

³ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/working-group-on-prevention.html.

70. Also in November, UNODC and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) published *Legal Approaches to Tackling the Manipulation of Sports Competitions: Resource Guide*. A study entitled *Tackling Bribery in Sport: An Overview of Relevant Laws and Standards* was launched by Task Force 4 of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport, which is co-chaired by UNODC and IOC. On International Anti-Corruption Day, the UNODC *Global Report on Corruption in Sport* was launched, highlighting for the first time the global scale of corruption in sport.

71. In December 2021, UNODC launched a report entitled *Preventing and Combating Corruption as it Relates to Crimes that Have an Impact on the Environment: An Overview*. The report analyses the relationship between corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment and describes efforts made to prevent and counter corruption related to such crimes. In the same month, a report entitled “Wildlife crime: key actors, organizational structures and business models” was published.

72. Also in December, UNODC published a paper entitled “Crises and corruption: emergency responses during COVID-19: experiences and lessons learned”, which is based on regional surveys conducted at the outset of the pandemic. The aim of the surveys was to gather information on governments’ initial responses to the crisis, including the type of emergency relief packages adopted, the associated risks of their misuse and fraud and the involvement of anti-corruption and oversight bodies in implementing and monitoring such packages.

73. During the reporting period, the publication entitled *The Time is Now: Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Corruption* was translated into Arabic, French, Spanish and English Braille.

74. The UNODC publications were widely disseminated at relevant events, including conferences, workshops, training sessions and country visits. They are also available on the UNODC website.⁴

H. Other preventive work and emerging topics

1. Parliaments

75. In the margins of the ninth session of the Conference, UNODC organized a high-level event entitled “The role of national parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and fighting corruption”. The event highlighted the vital role that national parliaments and other legislative bodies play in preventing and combating corruption and focused on the challenges faced and the progress made in implementing Conference resolution 8/14, entitled “Promoting good practices in relation to the role of national parliaments and other legislative bodies in preventing and combating corruption in all its forms”. The event showcased the measures and activities undertaken by parliamentarians from various jurisdictions concerning the development of internal procedures to strengthen integrity and accountability in the work of legislative bodies and the promotion of open parliament initiatives.

76. Also in the margins of the Conference, the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption, in partnership with UNODC, held the ninth Forum of Parliamentarians under the theme “Implementing integrity”.

2. Environment

77. UNODC continued to implement resolution 8/12, entitled “Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment”, and supported the assessment and management of risks of corruption in the wildlife, forest and fisheries sectors.

⁴ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/publications.html.

78. In October 2021 and February 2022, jointly with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana, UNODC facilitated two workshops to finalize a plan to mitigate risks of corruption for the Ministry for Fisheries and Aquacultural Development of Ghana. The plan addresses corruption risks that had been identified and prioritized earlier in the process.

79. In February 2022, jointly with African Parks, UNODC supported the Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in developing a detailed plan to mitigate risks of corruption that had been identified and prioritized earlier in the process. UNODC continued to partner with the Virunga Foundation to manage risks of corruption in the Virunga National Park. Expert advisers were placed in the park to support and strengthen the capacity of the Park's management in areas identified as priorities.

80. UNODC continued to support the management of risks of corruption in Kenya by assisting the Kenya Wildlife Service in the development of an internal whistle-blower and complaint management system. In October 2021, UNODC supported a regional meeting of wardens to discuss security challenges. UNODC continued to support the management of risks of corruption in the Kenya Forest Service by: (a) developing the institution's code of conduct, the whistle-blower policy and the corruption prevention policy, which were launched in December 2021; (b) conducting a regional analysis of livelihood opportunities for the Community Forest Associations early in 2022; (c) providing advice on how to strengthen the institution's communication policy; and (d) supporting the induction of 254 new staff in November 2021.

81. UNODC continued to assist States parties in identifying cases where financial investigations should be undertaken and provided mentorship for investigators to strengthen the use of financial investigation techniques. During the reporting period, support was provided to Uganda.

82. UNODC co-organized or participated as a speaker in several events addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment, namely: an event organized by the Wildlife Justice Commission, Belgium, France and UNODC in the margins of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties, entitled "Tackling corruption linked to environmental crime"; expert discussions on crimes that affect the environment under the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in February 2022; and a meeting of the task force of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on illegal trade in specimens of tree species covered by the Convention in February 2022.

3. Safeguarding sport from corruption

83. UNODC played a leading role in supporting the development of the Group of 20 High-Level Principles on Tackling Corruption in Sport, adopted under the Italian presidency of the Group in October 2021.

84. In November 2021, UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding with IOC and participated in the fourth edition of the International Forum on Sport Integrity.

85. UNODC delivered several workshops jointly with the IOC and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). These included a virtual regional awareness-raising workshop for representatives of Governments and sports organizations in Africa in October 2021, and a national workshop in North Macedonia in January 2022. In December 2021, in the margins of the ninth session of the Conference, UNODC, IOC and FIFA organized a side event on tackling corruption in sport.

86. In October and November 2021, UNODC collaborated with FIFA to implement the FIFA Global Integrity Programme by delivering 10 virtual capacity-building workshops on tackling competition manipulation for integrity officers of the FIFA Confederation of African Football, the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football and government representatives.

87. In addition, UNODC briefed the International Tennis Integrity Agency in October 2021; gave a presentation at a workshop of the South Asian Football Federation and a seminar of the Executive Master in Global Sport Governance in November 2021; and contributed to an integrity initiative of the International Testing Agency in preparation for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games in January 2021.

4. Journalists

88. In October 2021, together with the Media Association of Tonga, UNODC supported a webinar on public reporting. A seasoned journalist and media owner shared his experiences in transparency in public reporting and the role of the media in exposing corruption.

89. Also in October, jointly with the Fijian Media Association, UNODC organized a webinar on money-laundering and actions taken in Fiji and other Pacific countries to counter it. The webinar was addressed by the head of the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit.

90. In November 2021, in the framework of the International Festival for Freedom of Expression in Burkina Faso, UNODC supported a meeting of the general assembly of the Norbert Zongo Cell for Investigative Journalism in West Africa (CENOZO) and a regional training session for its members. UNODC continued to support CENOZO in the establishment of a comprehensive database of company records. The database will provide comprehensive information on companies which have been awarded of public contacts in West Africa.

5. Civil society

91. On International Anti-Corruption Day, UNODC supported three awareness-raising events organized by civil society organizations in Chad, Mali and the Niger. The events focused on the promotion of integrity and public trust in security forces.

6. Gender

92. Since mid-2021, UNODC has been cooperating with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice in Ghana and the Ghana Statistical Service to carry out a survey on the different impacts that corruption has on men and women. This approach builds on lessons learned from the analysis of the gender dimension of corruption in Nigeria, contained in the UNODC publication *Gender and Corruption in Nigeria*, and on the UNODC flagship publication *The Time is Now: Addressing the Gender Dimensions of Corruption*. Nigeria has indicated its intention to conduct another corruption survey between 2022 and 2023. An analysis of the gender dimension of corruption will continue to be provided, building also on the methodology which is being used in Ghana. Other States parties have approached UNODC showing interest in corruption surveys which address the gender dimension.

93. In October 2021, UNODC organized a round table on the gender dimensions of corruption in Côte d'Ivoire, which resulted in a set of recommendations on how to advance the theme nationally.

94. A round table and a panel discussion on the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in drug, crime and corruption policies, with the participation of approximately 30 women leaders, were held during the Executive Director's visit to Uzbekistan in November 2021.

95. Cooperation with the Women Development Organization, a specialized institution of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, was established in 2021. UNODC supported the development of a policy paper entitled "Women as agents for change in the fight against corruption", which outlines the work programme and objectives of the Organization. In November 2021, UNODC participated in the launch of the Women Development Organization funding vehicle, a multi-partner trust fund, and supported the participation of the Organization in a side event at the ninth session

of the Conference of the States parties, entitled “Shaping the future: anchoring gender in our anti-corruption efforts”.

7. Health

96. UNODC continued to support public health organizations in the assessment and management of corruption risks. In October 2021 and February 2022, jointly with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana, UNODC facilitated two workshops to finalize a plan to mitigate risks of corruption for the Ghana Health Service. The plan addresses risks that had been identified and prioritized earlier in the process.

97. UNODC initiated an assessment of the risks of corruption in the National Department of Health in South Africa. In Timor-Leste, UNODC and the Commission against Corruption produced a baseline assessment of risks of corruption in the health-care sector in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in December 2021. The assessment contains recommendations on how to address gaps in the regulatory and institutional frameworks. UNODC is supporting the implementation of those recommendations.

98. Ghana, with the support of UNODC, organized a side event entitled “Stop the virus, stop corruption, speak up!”, in the margins of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties. The event highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated risks of corruption in health systems worldwide and underscored the need to strengthen transparency and integrity in public health organizations with a view to responding more effectively and rapidly to health crises.

99. In 2021, UNODC undertook a joint study with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission of Kenya on corruption in the Kenyan health sector, focusing on procurement and financial management practices in 24 counties. The study is set to be launched in April 2022.

8. Mainstreaming anti-corruption measures in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts

100. UNODC has placed an anti-corruption adviser in the Office of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, allowing for greater integration of anti-corruption measures in United Nations peacebuilding efforts in Somalia.

101. UNODC, jointly with the Department for Peace Operations, gave a presentation on how to mainstream anti-corruption measures in peace operations and post-conflict settings at a virtual conference organized by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on the occasion of its annual “Defence Leadership in Building Integrity” course in October 2021. The course is designed for executives and leaders of the defence and security sectors and focuses on their role in promoting, leading and implementing sustainable reform and good governance. The event brought together participants from Georgia, Iraq, Ireland, Morocco, Mongolia, Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tunisia, Ukraine and the African Union.

102. UNODC also continued to implement anti-corruption projects in partnership with MINUSCA in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

III. Delivery framework and resources

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

104. Several global, regional and national programmes and projects enabled UNODC to provide specialized guidance, advice and expertise, upon request from States parties. Some of key global and regional programmes and projects include:

- (a) 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;
- (b) The Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime;
- (c) The global programme on strengthening criminal justice cooperation along trafficking routes (CRIMJUST);
- (d) The UNODC Pacific project.

105. In addition to specialized staff located at headquarters, UNODC regional and national anti-corruption advisers have been instrumental in delivering successful technical assistance initiatives. Their contributions to the implementation of resolutions 9/3 and 9/6 are reflected throughout the present paper.

106. During the reporting period, a global adviser was based in Vienna, while experts and advisers providing regional coverage were stationed in Fiji (for the Pacific), Mexico (for Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean), Senegal (for West and Central Africa), South Africa (for Southern Africa), Thailand (for South and South-East Asia) and Uzbekistan (for Central Asia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). In addition, country advisers were located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Papua New Guinea and Somalia. The process to recruit regional advisers to be placed in Serbia (for South-Eastern Europe) and the United Arab Emirates (for Gulf Cooperation Council countries) and a county-level adviser for Mali commenced.

107. UNODC is in the process of establishing inter-regional anti-corruption hubs of international and national experts to reinforce the presence of anti-corruption expertise in the field, complementing current efforts at the global, regional and national levels. A strengthened field-based capacity will enable UNODC to respond more rapidly to increasing requests from States parties for guidance, technical support and capacity-building. In September 2021, UNODC launched its first anti-corruption hub in Mexico to coordinate and deliver technical assistance to States parties in Central America, the Caribbean and South America. The hub builds on the experience gained under the regional platform for South America and Mexico to fast-track the implementation of the Convention and contributes to the implementation of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022–2025. UNODC is in the process of establishing a second anti-corruption hub for Africa, based in South Africa, thus contributing to the implementation of its Strategic Vision for Africa 2030. Subject to the availability of resources, a third hub will be established in Asia.

108. The demand for the expertise and technical assistance of UNODC, including with regard to preventing corruption, has steadily increased, in part as a result of the substantive focus of the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism on preventive measures.

109. Against this backdrop, increased and long-term support from donors and development partners is essential to continuing the work of the advisers and the staff located at headquarters who provide specialized anti-corruption expertise.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

110. The Working Group is invited to consider progress and challenges regarding the implementation of resolutions 9/3 and 9/6, as described in the present background paper, 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 those resolutions.

111. 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 global, inter-regional, regional and national 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.
