



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

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## Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 14 to 16 June 2023

### 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. 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.

2. 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.

3. Pursuant to Conference resolutions 9/3 and 9/6, the topics for discussion at the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption were “Interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches”, “Strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption”, and “Good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies”.

### II. Organization of the meeting

#### A. Opening of the meeting

4. The Working Group held its fourteenth meeting, chaired by Amr Adel Hosny (Egypt), President-designate of the Conference at its ninth session, in Vienna from 14 to 16 June 2023.



5. The Working Group considered items 2 and 3 of its agenda jointly with the Implementation Review Group.
6. In opening the meeting, the Chair recalled Conference resolutions 3/2, 9/3 and 9/6 and welcomed States parties' commitment and efforts to provide information on good practices in the prevention of corruption to the secretariat as an international observatory.

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

7. On 14 June, 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) Thematic discussions on good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption:
      - (i) Interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches;
      - (ii) Strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption;
      - (iii) Good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies;
    - (b) Other recommendations.
  3. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.<sup>2</sup>
  4. Future priorities.
  5. Adoption of the report.

## **C. Attendance**

8. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal,

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 9/3, entitled "Follow-up to the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption, and the use of information and communications technologies"; and resolution 9/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption".

<sup>2</sup> Agenda item 3 was discussed jointly with item 6 of the agenda of the Implementation Review Group and is reflected in the report of the Implementation Review Group on its fourteenth session, held in Vienna from 12 to 16 June 2023.

Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

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

10. In accordance with rule 2 of its resolution 4/5, the Conference decided that intergovernmental organizations, entities of the United Nations and institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network may be invited to participate in the meetings of the Working Group.

11. Accordingly, the following Secretariat units, funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, international treaty organization and institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme, University for Peace, African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Basel Institute on Governance, College for Criminal Law Science of Beijing Normal University and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe, International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Criminal Police Organization, International Development Law Organization, Interparliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative.

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

### **III. Implementation of relevant Conference resolutions**

#### **A. Thematic discussions on good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption**

##### **1. Interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches**

14. The Chair introduced item 2 (a) (i), entitled “Interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches”, and invited the participants to provide observations and comments following the introductory presentation by a representative of the secretariat.

15. A representative of the secretariat presented the background paper on the interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/3) and noted that the submissions of States parties received after the deadline of 9 March 2023 had been posted on the United Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) web page of the Working Group and incorporated into the thematic compilation website developed by the secretariat. The representative thanked the States parties that had provided information on the interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches to corruption. That information had formed the basis for the background paper.

16. The submissions received by the secretariat had indicated a diverse range of approaches to, and challenges and opportunities presented by, the interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches to corruption. States parties had reported on the establishment of coordination mechanisms and procedures to amplify the impact of such approaches. Some coordination mechanisms were established in accordance with national anti-corruption strategies, while others were developed independently. States parties had also noted challenges in ensuring coordination and the sharing of information among corruption prevention bodies and law enforcement authorities, in particular in addressing the interlinkages between corruption and other forms of serious and organized crime. States parties acknowledged the role of enhanced awareness, education and effective reporting mechanisms, resulting in more effective law enforcement responses.

17. A panellist from Albania gave a presentation on the improvement of her Government's institutional framework to combat corruption, which was the result of adherence to anti-corruption conventions and the reform of the judicial system. She outlined the structure of her country's cross-cutting strategy against corruption and action plan for the period 2020–2023, which included provisions on public awareness and on the prevention and repression of corruption. She highlighted the role of the national coordinator against corruption, entrusted with responsibilities and functions pertaining to preventing and combating corruption, as well as coordinating various national institutions in enhancing synergies between the preventive and law enforcement approaches. She also elaborated on the cross-border anti-corruption initiatives, networks and projects in which Albania participated in order to promote international cooperation.

18. A panellist from Ecuador gave a presentation on a self-diagnosis methodology for mapping and mitigating institutional corruption risks that had been adopted by the country's secretariat of anti-corruption public policy in 2023. The methodology enabled public officials to identify corruption risks in all processes of their respective institutions. The data gathered using that methodology, both from publicly available information and from the public administration, allowed the creation of analytical frameworks. As a result, early warning signals of corruption could be identified, thus contributing both to preventive and law enforcement efforts. The speaker also highlighted the importance of the education of present and future generations as the first and most durable means of eradicating corruption. To that end, the secretariat of anti-corruption public policy had developed a virtual course on ethics, integrity and transparency in public management, which was aimed at fostering a culture of integrity among public officials.

19. A panellist from Austria indicated that the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption had been established in 2010 and entrusted with both preventive and law enforcement functions. He noted that the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption carried out analyses of corruption offences and developed tailor-made preventive measures under the framework of the national anti-corruption strategy. It was also mandated to investigate corruption allegations through its law enforcement operational service. The speaker mentioned that the national anti-corruption strategy adopted in 2018 had been developed with the participation of the public and private sectors and civil society. He also noted that it included a strategic framework, action plans and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption was also responsible for conducting training and awareness-raising activities, including through the organization of anti-corruption courses for public officials of the Ministry of Interior.

20. In the ensuing discussion, a number of issues related to the interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches to corruption were raised. Some speakers noted the important role played by education and awareness-raising in encouraging the reporting of corruption to appropriate preventive and law enforcement bodies. Several speakers also described measures taken to promote anti-corruption education at the primary and secondary levels and to engage communities with a view to fostering a culture of integrity. They also emphasized the

importance of effective mechanisms to encourage the reporting of corruption and the protection of reporting persons.

21. Speakers described the establishment of measures, policies and procedures to strengthen cooperation and the sharing of information and intelligence among preventive anti-corruption bodies and law enforcement authorities, in particular in the context of the investigation of economic crime and money-laundering. In some cases, it was noted that the requirement to share information and intelligence was mandated by law, while in others it was a matter of practice. Speakers also described how the use of technology and online platforms had helped to facilitate the provision of relevant information, including the asset and conflict-of-interest declarations of public officials and reports of suspected corruption.

22. Speakers reported on measures taken to enhance synergies between preventive and law enforcement approaches through the establishment of specialized anti-corruption bodies entrusted with dual mandates. It was noted that units within such bodies, such as knowledge hubs and centres of deterrence, had helped to enhance such synergies. It was also noted how specialized bodies responsible for the regular review and identification of corruption risks and vulnerabilities, including through anti-corruption audits, served both preventive and repressive objectives in countering corruption. One speaker noted that anti-corruption audits conducted by law enforcement authorities had proven effective in identifying irregular and corrupt activities in public institutions. Following the evaluation of such integrated approaches, it had been found that the integrity, transparency and overall effectiveness of public sector institutions had been enhanced.

23. Some speakers noted the usefulness of national anti-corruption strategies or policies in ensuring a comprehensive approach to preventive and law enforcement approaches to deter and prevent corruption. They emphasized the need to ensure objective database monitoring and the evaluation of such strategies in order to enhance their effectiveness and flexibility in implementation. Some speakers referenced the links between corruption and other types of serious criminal activity, including organized crime and terrorism. Those links reinforced the need for comprehensive approaches to preventing and investigating corruption.

24. The Chair thanked the speakers for their active participation in the discussion.

## **2. Strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption**

25. The Chair introduced item 2 (a) (ii), entitled “Strengthening 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 presentations delivered by the panellists.

26. The representative of the secretariat presented the background paper on strengthening the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/4](#)). The representative thanked those States parties that had provided information, which had formed the basis for the background paper. She noted that States parties had provided information on a wide range of practices, actions and initiatives to strengthen the role of supreme audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and to promote the independence and ability of such institutions to enhance transparency and accountability in the management of public finances. She further emphasized that States parties had stressed the importance of strengthening national, regional and global cooperation among authorities involved in the prevention of and fight against corruption and the need to enable supreme audit institutions to perform their functions during crises and emergencies.

27. The submissions received by the secretariat underscored the important role played by intergovernmental and regional bodies, such as the International

Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions and its regional organizations and the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, in promoting cross-border cooperation among supreme audit institutions and between such institutions and anti-corruption bodies.

28. A panellist from the United Arab Emirates described how financial and administrative independence had allowed the country's Supreme Audit Institution to carry out its functions without undue influence. He highlighted that the Supreme Audit Institution was responsible for ensuring compliance with the Convention and, in that capacity, had proposed the adoption or modernization of legislation and policies related to the prevention of and fight against corruption. He further stressed that the Supreme Audit Institution received reports of acts of corruption and financial irregularities and acted upon them while ensuring confidentiality and the protection of reporting persons. The panellist provided information on national inter-agency coordination mechanisms and his country's participation in the work of organizations that promoted international cooperation to prevent and fight corruption, such as the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions and UNODC. He concluded his presentation by commending the Abu Dhabi Declaration Programme of UNODC, funded by the United Arab Emirates, and the contribution it had made to promoting the role of supreme audit institutions in preventing and combating corruption and in enhancing collaboration between them and anti-corruption authorities, and encouraged other States parties to make use of the *Practical Guide on Enhancing Collaboration between Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in Preventing and Fighting Corruption*.

29. A panellist from Chile presented the policy for the prevention of and fight against corruption of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions, a regional organization of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions. The policy had been developed in consultation with citizens and on the basis of a preliminary study on the capacity of supreme audit institutions to prevent and fight corruption and their mandates, resources and experiences. The study suggested that supreme audit institutions in the Latin American and Caribbean region should, in addition to the performance of auditing functions, promote integrity and build the capacity of the public sector, provide legal opinions, identify good practices, establish mechanisms for reporting corruption and protecting reporting persons, and cooperate with civil society organizations and the private sector. As a result of the study, the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions had issued 84 recommendations to its members on how to strengthen external controls, build public sector capacity, support digital transformation and increase the participation of society. To monitor the implementation of those recommendations, the Organization had developed a follow-up mechanism for each of its members.

30. A panellist from the European Court of Auditors highlighted how the number and size of grants and subsidies issued under the budget of the European Union created the risk of fraud. He explained that the European Union had put in place a system that balanced the need for internal control and audit in order to safeguard its budget with the significant costs involved in conducting such audits. He stressed the importance of transparency, the regular publication of findings and technological advancements that helped detect irregularities and facilitated the work of internal control and external audit. He noted that the anti-corruption bodies of the European Union, including the European Anti-Fraud Office, were subject to audit by the European Court of Auditors, and recalled the peer reviews of supreme audit institutions. He further noted the importance of sanctions, such as blacklisting firms from public tenders, and indicated that the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office had improved the effectiveness and speed of enforcement of sanctions issued for fraud related to the European Union budget.

31. In the ensuing discussion, speakers underscored that legal, financial and operational independence were prerequisites for the effectiveness of supreme audit institutions. Measures to strengthen independence included long terms of office of

heads of institutions and appointment by Heads of State upon recommendation by parliaments or legislative bodies. Several speakers highlighted that supreme audit institutions had also made important contributions to transparency by publishing annual reports and audit findings, which allowed for open public debates among the media, civil society organizations, citizens and the academic and scientific communities.

32. Speakers provided information on their audit frameworks and highlighted recent reforms to strengthen the role, independence and effectiveness of supreme audit institutions and to enhance cooperation between them and anti-corruption bodies. Speakers indicated that, in addition to financial audits, supreme audit institutions had extended their work to performance and forensic audits, vulnerable processes, sectors and agencies, State-owned enterprises, authorities managing large amounts of public funds and programmes relating to the environment, education and poverty alleviation, thus contributing to greater accountability and transparency in the management of public resources. Speakers highlighted that supreme audit institutions had received, monitored and published information on procurement, as well as on the financing of political parties and election campaigns.

33. Speakers underscored that supreme audit institutions had contributed to strengthening accountability by issuing recommendations and monitoring their implementation and by imposing or recommending sanctions such as debarment from public procurement for companies responsible for acts of corruption and their subcontractors. In response to questions, panellists called upon Governments to make increased use of the technical knowledge and reports produced by supreme audit institutions to inform risk-based decision- and policymaking.

34. Several speakers made reference to the importance of effective cooperation between supreme audit institutions and other authorities, including preventive, law enforcement and judicial authorities. Some speakers noted the importance of awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives and highlighted the advantages of having in place comprehensive and continuous learning and training courses and programmes. Several speakers emphasized the important role played by international organizations and standards and noted that the involvement of anti-corruption and auditing authorities in international forums, including the Conference, was key to promoting cooperation, identifying and addressing common challenges and exchanging good practices to better prevent and combat corruption. One speaker referred to the High-Level Principles on Enhancing the Role of Auditing in Tackling Corruption, adopted by the Group of 20 in 2022.

### **3. Good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies**

35. The Chair introduced item 2 (a) (iii), entitled “Good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies”.

36. A representative of the secretariat presented the background paper on good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/2](#)) and thanked States parties for the information provided, which had formed the basis for the background paper. The information demonstrated a growing trend of periodically conducting evaluations of anti-corruption measures, although the aim of those evaluations varied and limited information had been provided on the methodologies and processes adopted. The responses indicated that all reporting States parties had adopted either legislation or policies that provided for the periodic evaluation of anti-corruption legal instruments and administrative measures, although most of those evaluations were aimed at assessing the extent of implementation of such instruments and measures rather than their effectiveness and impact. Overall, the submissions reflected a diverse range of international standards, methodologies and tools that could assist States parties in conducting such evaluations.

37. A panellist from Egypt outlined the methodology adopted by his country to monitor the national anti-corruption strategy, which drew on international experience and involved 104 focal points in various ministries, governorates, universities, law enforcement agencies and other entities. He described the participatory approach taken to the development in 2022 of the new strategy for the period 2023–2030 and noted that the final report on its implementation would be published and widely disseminated. The panellist explained that an electronic system had been developed to monitor progress in the implementation of the new strategy. He concluded by providing information on the practices adopted to assess the impact of anti-corruption laws.

38. A panellist from Italy outlined the two-level approach taken by the National Anti-Corruption Authority to evaluate and monitor the implementation of its latest national anti-corruption plan at the central level and of integrity plans at the municipal level. The panellist explained that the national anti-corruption plan contained indicators and targets that made it possible to measure the achievement of its strategic objectives. The municipal-level integrity plans, which were based on the national anti-corruption plan, contained objectives, measurement indicators and targets for corruption risks specific to each local administration or body, and they established responsibilities and timelines for the achievement of objectives. He noted that the indicators were specific to each sector. For example, in respect of public procurement, there were indicators on contract splitting and cost deviation, which were to be used at the national and local levels. The speaker indicated that the National Anti-Corruption Authority had been working on an online dashboard tool, which aggregated objectives and indicators of the central and municipal-level plans and could be used to identify trends, raise red flags and provide early warnings, thus creating evidence-based indicators to measure the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures.

39. A panellist from the Republic of Korea presented the comprehensive integrity assessment methodology recently adopted by the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission. The new methodology integrated two forms of assessment: the integrity assessment and the anti-corruption initiative assessment, which were based on surveys conducted among a range of actors on their perceptions and experiences of receiving services from specific public institutions and involved qualitative and quantitative assessments of anti-corruption efforts made by public institutions. The overall grading of each institution was calculated by aggregating the points received for perceived and experienced integrity levels and anti-corruption efforts, and subtracting points for any instance of corruption. The speaker explained that that approach was aimed at providing a more accurate analysis of the levels of corruption in public institutions and, consequently, promoting the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in the public sector.

40. A panellist from the Republic of Moldova delivered a presentation on the anti-corruption proofing methodology for legislation and institutional integrity assessments. She explained that the proofing methodology for draft normative acts had been introduced and made mandatory in 2016. In 2021, a total of 2,555 vulnerabilities to corruption had been identified in draft laws, including a lack of clarity in administrative procedure and ambiguous wording that left room for interpretation. Those vulnerabilities had been addressed by issuing recommendations, the implementation of which was verified through an electronic system that compared the draft text with the enacted law. The speaker also explained that institutional integrity assessments were conducted to identify potential challenges that could affect the integrity of public sector entities. The institutions assessed were then issued with recommendations, which were integrated into their integrity plans, and their implementation was verified by the National Anti-Corruption Centre.

41. In the ensuing discussion, speakers described various methods to assess the implementation of anti-corruption strategies, including surveys of a broad range of stakeholders and reviews facilitated by international organizations. One speaker



recognized the challenges inherent in designing anti-corruption strategies whose impact could be accurately measured.

42. Many speakers recognized the potential use of information and communications technologies to facilitate data-based evaluations of the effectiveness of anti-corruption policies and legislation. One speaker referred to the use of artificial intelligence to conduct periodic assessments aimed at detecting potential corruption risks in legislation, such as the provision of excessive discretion to certain public officials, the absence of clearly established time frames and burdensome criteria.

43. One speaker highlighted his country's experience in conducting evaluations of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures; those evaluations were carried out through a systematized process that involved supervision, inspection, broad consultations with relevant parties and research. The evaluations were subsequently used to produce recommendations that resulted in revisions of and improvements to relevant legislation and policies.

## **B. Other recommendations**

44. The Chair introduced the discussion under agenda item 2 (b), entitled "Other recommendations".

45. A representative of the secretariat provided an oral update on the implementation of Conference resolutions 9/3 and 9/6, focusing on corruption prevention, and provided an overview of the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the period from March 2022 to May 2023. The representative informed the Working Group that a written report on the implementation of those resolutions, covering the period from October 2021 to September 2023, would be submitted to the Conference at its tenth session.

46. During the period from March 2022 to May 2023, UNODC had implemented multiple technical assistance activities at the global, interregional, regional and national levels. The Office had continued to serve as an international observatory and promote the implementation of the Convention, providing assistance to States parties in establishing or strengthening their capacity, institutions and legal and policy frameworks for preventing and combating corruption. In particular, assistance had been provided with regard to strengthening the reporting of corruption and the protection of reporting persons, strengthening the integrity of public procurement and the proper management of public finances, strengthening cooperation between anti-corruption bodies and supreme audit institutions, promoting the integrity of the judiciary and the prosecution service, preventing corruption in the private sector, promoting education and youth engagement and encouraging the participation of society. The representative noted that the delivery of technical assistance had remained flexible and responsive to States parties' emerging challenges and needs. He paid particular attention to the work of UNODC in emerging areas such as safeguarding sport from corruption and economic crime, addressing corruption that facilitated crimes that affect the environment, assessing the gender dimension of corruption, preventing and combating corruption in the health sector and during emergencies and crisis response and recovery, and mainstreaming anti-corruption measures into peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.

47. UNODC had also developed a number of knowledge products and resources, available on its website, and had expanded its catalogue of e-learning tools and programmes.

48. UNODC had enhanced its technical assistance delivery by expanding its regional platform approach and the network of regional anti-corruption hubs. During the reporting period, two additional regional anti-corruption platforms had been established, in West Africa and the Sahel and in Central America, bringing the total number to seven, with two additional regional platforms foreseen for the Caribbean region and Central Asia in 2023. Following the establishment of the first hub in

Mexico for Central America, the Caribbean and South America in September 2022, additional hubs were being set up, in Kenya to coordinate and provide technical assistance to States parties in Africa, and in Colombia for countries of the Southern Cone of Latin America.

49. A panel discussion was organized during joint meetings with the Implementation Review Group on article 12 of the Convention and paragraphs 11, 13 and 19 of the political declaration<sup>3</sup> and its chapters on technical assistance and information exchange. A detailed report on that panel discussion can be found in the report on the fourteenth meeting of the Implementation Review Group.

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

50. The Chair introduced the discussion under item 4, entitled “Future priorities”, and drew the attention of the participants to the implementation of the mandates and the future priorities of the Working Group.

51. A representative of the secretariat recalled Conference resolution 9/6, in which the Conference had reconfirmed the mandate of the Working Group, and welcomed the efforts and commitment of States parties to continue to exchange information on good practices in preventing corruption.

52. The representative indicated that, in determining its future priorities, the Working Group might wish to consider the following: (a) topics discussed by the Working Group at its fourteenth meeting; (b) the multi-year workplan on the follow-up to the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021, as well as topics previously identified by the Conference and by the Working Group and yet to be thoroughly considered; and (c) information emerging from the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

53. In the ensuing discussion, one speaker, underscoring the importance of the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector in the prevention of and fight against corruption, recommended that the Working Group discuss the implementation of article 13, on the participation of society, and in particular its paragraph 1 (d), on the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption. The speaker also suggested, as a future priority, a focus on article 14, on measures to prevent money-laundering. Moreover, the speaker noted that the Conference had adopted an increasing number of resolutions on the prevention of corruption, thus reducing the ability of the Working Group to address emerging topics and topics it considered a priority. He suggested that such resolutions be limited and consolidated in the future.

54. Several speakers underlined the importance of further follow-up to the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption.

55. One speaker suggested that the Working Group consider article 12, on the private sector, in connection with article 9, paragraph 1, on public procurement, and how the use of information and communications technologies facilitated the prevention of corruption.

56. One speaker suggested that the Working Group focus on the use of civil and administrative measures to counter corruption. The speaker further suggested that the Working Group focus on the implementation of article 8, paragraph 5, on interest and asset declaration systems. The speaker also emphasized the importance of article 13, paragraph 1 (c), on the promotion of education, awareness-raising and training. In

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<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution S-32/1, annex.

that connection, the speaker provided information about an annual youth competition aimed at raising awareness among young people of the threat posed by corruption.

57. One speaker proposed, in view of the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the Convention, the collection of information, based on submissions by States parties, on challenges and good practices in implementing the Convention.

## **V. Conclusions and recommendations**

58. The Working Group recommended further consideration of and follow-up to the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption, in line with the multi-year workplan for the period 2024–2026 for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference.

59. The Working Group also recommended the following for future consideration: article 8, paragraph 5 (Codes of conduct for public officials); article 12 (Private sector); article 13, paragraph 1 (c) and (d) (Participation of society); and article 14 (Measures to prevent money-laundering).

60. The Working Group encouraged States parties to continue to provide information to the secretariat on good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and the effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies; on interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches; and on how to strengthen the role of supreme audit institutions, and to that end it requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to gather and systematize such information.

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

61. On 16 June 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on its fourteenth meeting ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/L.1](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/L.1/Add.1](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/L.1/Add.2](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/L.1/Add.3](#), [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/L.1/Add.4](#) and [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/L.1/Add.5](#)), as orally amended.

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