



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

Distr.: General
8 December 2006

English
Original: Spanish

First session
Amman, 10-14 December 2006

Note verbale dated 7 December 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guatemala to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and has the honour to transmit to the Office a copy of the Guatemala Declaration for a Corruption-Free Region and to request that the Declaration be circulated as an official document of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its first session.

Guatemala Declaration for a Corruption-Free Region

The Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA), meeting on 15 November 2006 in Guatemala City, Republic of Guatemala, on the occasion of the Twelfth International Anti-Corruption Conference,

Convinced that the promotion of ethical values, transparency and accountability in public administration are bastions for strengthening democratic institutionality and human development in the region,

Considering that corruption is an obstacle which hampers efforts towards development, good governance and the fight against poverty,

Convinced that the combating and eradication of corruption is an essential prerequisite for guaranteeing a better quality of life for peoples and increasing the confidence of citizens in public institutions,

Taking into account the fact that the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Corruption are legally binding international instruments in our countries for the fight against corruption,

Reiterating our political will to continue the fight against corruption and to promote structural reforms which will generate the conditions for transparent,



efficient and effective State management, in accordance with domestic legal regulations and the international instruments, agreements and treaties in force in the States Parties,

Convinced that cooperation between the States Parties is indispensable to prevent and to combat corruption,

Taking into account the provisions of articles 3 (b) and 15 of the Tegucigalpa Protocol and article 5 of the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America, which set forth the intention to eradicate corruption, and the formulation of a political will in that regard, in the context of the strategic principles that will govern Central American integration, on the part of the Heads of State and Government of the countries of SICA,

Determined to adopt measures and carry out actions for the purpose of implementing the following anti-corruption commitments by the year 2010,

DECLARE THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Designing and implementing national plans, in cases where this has not been done, in order to promote transparency in public administration, with the cooperation of the different political, social and economic sectors;
2. Proposing and promoting, in countries where this has not yet been done, the approval of a regulatory framework to guarantee citizens free access to public information in the possession of the State in a truthful and timely manner, and with no limitations except those provided for in the Constitutions of the various countries;
3. Ensuring that State institutions submit mandatory accounts on a periodical basis, in order to make visible the proper administration of resources by public servants;
4. Strengthening and institutionalizing the entities responsible for the formulation of policies and plans to promote transparency and combat corruption, in accordance with the international agreements and treaties in that field;
5. Implementing the legal norms on public contracting, in countries where this has not yet been done, based on efficient and effective systems which optimize and render transparent the procedures for the procurement of goods and services by the State;
6. Prioritizing actions designed to prevent corruption in the management of social programmes and funds, in order for social investment to have a greater impact on poverty reduction;
7. Promoting, in the relevant countries, the elaboration, approval and implementation of norms of conduct to regulate ethical behaviour in the public and private sectors, including measures to prevent and monitor potential conflicts of interest and to punish effectively those who fail to comply with such norms;
8. Promoting, in countries where this has not yet been done, effective regulations, procedures and mechanisms for reporting acts of corruption, and measures to protect witnesses and other persons involved in proceedings, to facilitate the investigation and the punishment of illegal conduct;

9. Allocating resources for the implementation of education and awareness-raising programmes for citizens to promote a culture of ethical values in society;
10. Promoting the application of regulations and adopting procedures to prevent transnational corruption;
11. Promoting the strengthening of high-level monitoring bodies to ensure that they are effectively independent, with functional and financial autonomy;
12. Promoting the adoption of regulations establishing systems for the monitoring of electoral and political funding;
13. Continuing the process of civil service reform in public administration so that States Parties have public servants with reliable standards of performance and efficiency who can ensure the fulfilment of the functions of the State and the sustainability of public policies;
14. Requesting the bodies responsible for promoting transparency and combating corruption in the various countries, in coordination with the Secretary General of SICA, to monitor the implementation of the commitments undertaken in this Declaration.

Done in Guatemala on 15 November 2006.

[Signed]

JOHN BRICEÑO
(Deputy Prime Minister of Belize)

[Signed]

OSCAR ARIAS
(President of the Republic of
Costa Rica)

[Signed]

ELIAS ANTONIO SACA GONZALEZ
(President of the Republic of El Salvador)

[Signed]

OSCAR BERGER PERDOMO
(President of the Republic of
Guatemala)

[Signed]

JOSE MANUEL ZELAYA ROSALES
(President of the Republic of Honduras)

[Signed]

ENRIQUE BOLAÑOS GEYER
(President of the Republic of
Nicaragua)

[Signed]

MARTIN TORRIJOS ESPINO
(President of the Republic of Panama)

[Signed]

LUIS MANUEL PIANTINI
(Ambassador, Representative of
the Dominican Republic)