Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
   (a) Opening of the second session of the Conference;
   (b) Election of officers;
   (c) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
   (d) Participation of observers;
   (e) Adoption of the report of the bureau on credentials;
   (f) General discussion.

2. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption
   (a) Working group on the review of the implementation of the Convention;
   (b) Expert consultation on the prevention of corruption;
   (c) Expert consultation on criminalization;
   (d) Expert consultation on international cooperation, including asset recovery.

3. Asset recovery.

4. Technical assistance.

5. Consideration of the issue of bribery of officials of public international organizations.

6. Consideration of notification requirements in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention (art. 6, para. 3; art. 23, para. 2 (d); art. 44, para. 6 (a); art. 46, paras. 13 and 14; art. 55, para. 5; and art. 66, para. 4).
Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the second session

By its resolution 58/4, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption, article 63 of which establishes a Conference of the States Parties to the Convention to improve the capacity of and cooperation between States parties to achieve the objectives set forth in the Convention and to promote and review its implementation. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of that article, the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Amman from 10 to 14 December 2006. In accordance with rule 3, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure for the Conference, adopted at the first session, the second regular session was to be held within one year after the first session. In its decision 1/1, the Conference, welcoming the offer by the Government of Indonesia to act as host of the second session, decided that its second session would be held in Indonesia in 2007.

Owing to difficulties in finding dates in 2007 that did not conflict with other commitments of the host Government or the Secretariat but allowed sufficient time for preparations for the session, the Government of Indonesia and the Secretariat sought the approval of the bureau of the Conference to hold the second session of the Conference from 28 January to 1 February 2008. The bureau concurred with those dates, and the Government of Indonesia and the Secretariat briefed the chairmen of the regional groups on the reasons for selecting those dates and subsequently informed States of the decision.

(b) Election of officers

In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure for the Conference, at the opening of each session a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur shall be elected from among the representatives of the States parties present at the session.

In accordance with the same rule, the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur shall serve as the officers of the session. In electing the officers of the session, each of the five regional groups shall be represented by one officer. The offices of the President and Rapporteur of the Conference shall normally be subject to rotation among the five regional groups.

In accordance with standard practice established for conferences held away from United Nations Headquarters at the invitation of a Government, the President is normally a representative of the host Government. The Conference followed that practice at its first session, where the representative of Jordan, a member of the Group of Asian States, was elected President. Should the Conference decide to follow that practice at its second session, the representative of Indonesia would be elected President of the Conference, meaning that the office would be occupied
again by a member of the Group of Asian States. Should the Conference decide to follow rule 22, the Group of Eastern European States would be expected to nominate the President and the Group of Asian States would be expected to nominate the Rapporteur.

Regional groups are urged to engage in consultations on the nomination of candidates to fill the elective offices well in advance of the beginning of the session, with a view to agreeing on a slate of candidates whose number is equal to the number of offices to be filled, thus allowing all officers of the second session of the Conference to be elected by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement of a secret ballot.

(c) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

At its first session, the Conference approved the draft provisional agenda for its second session (CAC/COSP/2006/L.20). In approving the provisional agenda, the Conference indicated its intention to devote more in-depth attention to expert consultations on the various chapters of the Convention. It also indicated its intention to consider in more detail matters related to technical assistance, asset recovery and the review of implementation.

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the proposed organization of work was prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the bureau of the Conference. Guidance in the process was provided by Member States on several occasions, including through consultations undertaken by the group of friends of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, an informal group co-chaired by the ambassadors of Argentina and France.

The organization of work is intended to facilitate consideration of the agenda items within the time and resources available to the Conference. Thanks to voluntary contributions received from several Member States, the resources available to the Conference at its second session will permit the holding of parallel meetings with simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations. The Conference will thus be able to hold a total of 18 meetings with simultaneous interpretation.

(d) Participation of observers

Rule 14 of the rules of procedure for the Conference provides that, subject to prior written notification to the Secretary-General, any State or regional economic integration organization signatory to the Convention in accordance with its article 67, paragraphs 1 and 2, shall be entitled to participate as an observer in the Conference and, accordingly, may take part in the deliberations of the Conference.

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure provides that any State or regional economic integration organization that has not signed the Convention in accordance with its article 67, paragraphs 1 and 2, may apply to the bureau for observer status, which shall be accorded unless otherwise decided by the Conference.

Rule 16 of the rules of procedure provides that, subject to prior written notification to the Secretary-General, representatives of entities and organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its
auspices, representatives of United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds, as well as representatives of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, shall be entitled to participate as observers in the deliberations of the Conference.

Rule 17 of the rules of procedure provides that relevant non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may apply to the bureau for observer status, which should be accorded unless otherwise decided by the Conference. Other relevant non-governmental organizations may also apply to the bureau for observer status. The secretariat shall circulate as a document a list of such organizations with sufficient information at least 30 days prior to the Conference. If there is no objection to a non-governmental organization being granted observer status, such status should be accorded unless otherwise decided by the Conference. If there is an objection, the matter will be referred to the Conference for a decision.

(e) Adoption of the report of the bureau on credentials

Rule 19 of the rules of procedure provides that the bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference. Rule 20 provides that, pending a decision of the bureau upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session. Any representative of a State party to whose admission another State party has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives of States parties until the bureau has reported and the Conference has taken its decision.

(f) General discussion

A sub-item entitled “General discussion” was included in the agenda to allow time for statements to be made on matters of a general nature that are related to the implementation of the Convention against Corruption and may be of interest to the Conference. Based on the experience gained at the first session of the Conference, it was felt that the organization of a general discussion would offer participants an opportunity to express their views in general terms in the plenary, while allowing more focused and interactive exchanges to take place under the substantive items of the agenda. A list of speakers was opened by the Secretariat on 3 December 2007 and all States were invited to indicate their intention to address the Conference under this item. The list of speakers will remain open until noon on 28 January 2008. Requests for inscription on the list will be included on a “first come, first served” basis on the understanding that priority will be given to representatives of ministerial or similar rank. Speakers are requested to limit their statements to five minutes.

2. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

(a) Working group on the review of the implementation of the Convention

Pursuant to article 63, paragraph 5, of the Convention, the Conference is to acquire the necessary knowledge of the measures taken by States parties in implementing the Convention – and the difficulties encountered by them in doing so – through
information provided by them and through such supplemental review mechanisms as may be established by the Conference.

At its first session, the Conference took an important decision by agreeing that it was necessary to establish an appropriate mechanism to assist it in reviewing implementation of the Convention (resolution 1/1). In the same resolution, the Conference underlined the characteristics that the review mechanism should have, namely: (a) it should be transparent, efficient, non-intrusive, inclusive and impartial; (b) it should not produce any form of ranking; (c) it should provide opportunities to share good practices and challenges; and (d) it should complement existing international and regional review mechanisms in order for the Conference to cooperate with them as appropriate and avoid duplication of effort.

Also in its resolution 1/1, the Conference established an open-ended, intergovernmental expert working group to make recommendations to the Conference at its second session on appropriate mechanisms or bodies for carrying out the implementation review. Pursuant to that resolution, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption held a meeting in Vienna from 29 to 31 August 2007.

At that meeting, the Working Group considered a number of proposals that the Conference may wish to discuss. Those proposals included the establishment of regional mechanisms that would report to the Conference as the global review mechanism, with the role of the Conference being to coordinate, ensure consistency in and oversee the quality and uniformity of the regional reviews. The proposals also included the observance of a set of principles in establishing an appropriate and effective review mechanism, namely: (a) reporting by all States parties, as called for by article 63; (b) review by experts from States parties; (c) establishment of one body (art. 63, para. 7); (d) a global system that utilized available regional mechanisms (art. 63, para. 4 (d)); (e) public reports (art. 63, para. 6); and (f) the use of a variety of sources and expertise.

The Working Group also discussed perceived areas of convergence: (a) all States parties must provide information on their implementation of the Convention as required by any review mechanism or body; (b) the review of implementation of the Convention would be carried out by the States parties; (c) the review of implementation of the Convention would benefit from the involvement of experts; (d) the review would include the identification of implementation gaps and of technical assistance needs as a way of promoting and facilitating implementation of the Convention by States parties; (e) the review would be non-adversarial in nature; (f) the review should not create a system having two or more tiers; (g) the operation of any review mechanism or body could be informed by taking into account the practices of other anti-corruption follow-up mechanisms and the results of the voluntary pilot programme; (h) any review mechanism or body should bear the characteristics set out in Conference resolution 1/1 and all States parties should enjoy equal footing in any review mechanism or body; (i) any review mechanism or body could identify good practices relevant to the Convention; and (j) any review mechanism or body must be flexible and capable of evolving.

The proposals were reflected in the report of the Working Group (CAC/COSP/2008/3) without endorsement and remained under discussion. Bearing
in mind that the global and sui generis nature of the Convention entailed the need for a new approach in designing methods to review its implementation, the Conference may wish to deliberate on those and any other proposals that may be submitted by States at the second session.

To assist the Conference in deciding on a feasible and appropriate review mechanism, the Working Group requested that the Secretariat prepare for the Conference, at its second session, a report containing a comparative analysis of methods employed by existing regional or sectoral mechanisms, based on an overview of those mechanisms, which had been prepared by the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/2006/5 and Corr.1). The analysis was to include conclusions on whether such mechanisms could contribute to the performance by the Conference of its mandated tasks for review of the implementation of the Convention.

Also in its resolution 1/1, the Conference requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to assist parties, upon request and as an interim measure and subject to the availability of voluntary contributions, in their analysis of implementation efforts. Thanks to the contributions made by several States, a pilot programme was launched with the main aim of testing methods for reviewing the implementation of the Convention. The pilot programme was conceived to address the need to better understand the various parameters at hand and to arrive at specific solutions for reviewing implementation. The Conference may wish to draw on the lessons learned from the pilot programme.

(b) **Expert consultations on the prevention of corruption**

In considering the sub-item entitled “Expert consultations on the prevention of corruption”, the Conference may wish to focus its review on the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, on preventive measures, bearing in mind the interdependence of the various chapters of the Convention and the fact that they were designed to form an integral whole. Owing to the broad scope of the chapter, only a few of its articles were included in the self-assessment checklist, namely the ones on anti-corruption policies and practices (art. 5), anti-corruption bodies (art. 6) and public procurement and management of public finances (art. 9). The Conference may wish to review the information provided by States parties and signatories as reflected in the analytical report prepared by the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/2008/2). The Conference may also wish to discuss more broadly the issues related to the implementation of the preventive measures included in the Convention. Similarly, the Conference may wish to deliberate on the effect of the lack of information from some States parties on the analysis of that information. In that connection, the Conference may also wish to consider whether the failure to provide information could be due to the lack of capacity in some States parties, and seek the most appropriate ways of addressing the matter in conjunction with the discussion under item 4 of the provisional agenda (Technical assistance).

Pursuant to Conference resolution 1/8, the Secretariat collected best practices in the fight against corruption. As many of the best practices reported by Governments concern preventive measures, the Conference may wish to discuss such best practices in preventing corruption.
(c) Expert consultations on criminalization

In reviewing the implementation of the criminalization provisions, the Conference may wish to give due consideration to cross-cutting topics. In determining the content of the self-assessment checklist, the Conference placed emphasis on the review of certain articles in chapter III of the Convention, on criminalization and law enforcement. More specifically, the Conference decided to include all mandatory criminalization provisions in the scope of the self-assessment, namely bribery of national public officials (art. 15), bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations (art. 16), embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion of property by a public official (art. 17), laundering of proceeds of crime (art. 23) and obstruction of justice (art. 25). In its resolution 1/3, the Conference appealed to States parties to adapt their legislation and regulations in order to comply with the obligation to establish as criminal offences the acts described in those articles. A summary of the responses received from Member States concerning their implementation of those provisions in national law is included in the analytical report prepared by the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/2008/2).

In their consultations, the experts may wish to focus on the challenges posed by the implementation of the criminalization provisions of the Convention. The experts may also wish to identify, discuss and review the ramifications of the various ways in which States have chosen to implement those provisions for their application in practice. In addition, the experts may wish to discuss the implications of choices made by States in implementing the criminalization provisions for other areas of national legislation (procedural laws, administrative legislation or regulations) or legislation for the establishment of jurisdiction.

(d) Expert consultations on international cooperation

At its first session, the Conference reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation and expressed the view that States parties should make every effort to avail themselves of the broad and comprehensive provisions of chapter IV of the Convention. The Conference decided to include in the self-assessment checklist only basic information on article 44 (Extradition) and article 46 (Mutual legal assistance) of the Convention owing to the broad scope of chapter IV, a thorough review of which would require much more attention, effort and time, especially in view of the need for States parties to accumulate more experience with the actual role of the Convention. That decision was also taken on the understanding that much more attention would be devoted to international cooperation at the second session of the Conference, with the presence of experts. The expert consultations are therefore designed to allow representatives of Governments to engage in in-depth dialogue and exchange experience and lessons learned from the application of the provisions contained in chapter IV. States are encouraged to include the relevant experts in their delegations.

It would be advisable for such experts to come to the Conference prepared to discuss concrete experiences in international cooperation under the Convention and to focus their contributions as much on the identification of successful practices as on the discussion of problems encountered. The experts may wish to analyse both successful experiences and problems faced and to formulate specific recommendations for the improvement of international cooperation under the
Convention. The Conference may wish to take into consideration the recommendation of the experts in its deliberations on the most appropriate approach to the review of the implementation of chapter IV of the Convention.

**Documentation**

Self-assessment of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: report of the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/2008/2)

Self-assessment of technical assistance needs for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: report of the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/2008/2/Add.1)


Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the compilation of best practices in fighting corruption (CAC/COSP/2008/8)

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the pilot review programme: an assessment (CAC/COSP/2008/9)

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on parameters for defining the review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/2008/10)

### 3. Asset recovery

Asset recovery was an issue of high priority for the Conference at its first session. That priority was reflected in the self-assessment checklist, which covered the following provisions of the Convention: prevention and detection of transfers of proceeds of crime (art. 52), measures for direct recovery of property (art. 53), mechanisms for recovery of property through international cooperation in confiscation (art. 54), international cooperation for purposes of confiscation (art. 55) and return and disposal of assets (art. 57).

The Conference may wish to examine the responses received from Member States on their implementation of those provisions as summarized in the analytical report prepared by the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/2008/2).

In its resolution 1/4, the Conference decided to establish an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the return of proceeds of corruption. The working group was mandated to assist the Conference in, inter alia, developing cumulative knowledge in the area of asset recovery, encouraging cooperation, facilitating exchange of information and identifying the capacity-building needs of States parties in that area. Pursuant to resolution 1/4, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held a meeting in Vienna on 27 and 28 August 2007.

The Conference may wish to devote attention to the consideration of the outcome of the meeting of the Working Group, in particular its recommendations, which include (CAC/COSP/2008/4, paras. 36-40 and 45-46): (a) the establishment of a database containing domestic legislation on implementing the asset recovery provisions of
the Convention as a practical tool to be used in asset recovery cases; (b) the preparation of model provisions and a practical handbook on asset recovery; (c) the expansion of the UNODC Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool in order to include asset recovery; (d) the preparation of a synopsis of all the various initiatives on asset recovery, including information on contact points, specialization and concrete areas of work; (e) the establishment of a global network of focal points on asset confiscation and recovery; and (f) the organization of annual meetings of asset recovery focal points, experts and competent authorities as a forum for peer training, exchange of knowledge, information-sharing and networking. The Conference may wish to give consideration to those and other proposals made by the Working Group, which are contained in the report on its meeting.

On 17 September 2007, UNODC and the World Bank launched the Stolen Assets Recovery (StAR) Initiative, a joint effort to help States operationalize the relevant provisions of the Convention. The StAR Initiative is aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to recover assets that are the proceeds of corruption by relying on and implementing the Convention. The Conference will be informed of progress in the implementation of the StAR Initiative and of the results of a ministerial panel on that initiative organized by the Secretariat and the World Bank, to take place during the Conference.

**Documentation**

- Report of the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held in Vienna on 27 and 28 August 2007 (CAC/COSP/2008/4)
- Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the joining of forces for successful asset recovery (CAC/COSP/2008/11)

### 4. Technical assistance

In its resolution 1/5, the Conference decided to establish an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group (a) to review needs for technical assistance; (b) to provide guidance on priorities; (c) to consider information, including that gathered through the self-assessment checklist approved by the Conference; and (d) to promote coordination of technical assistance. Pursuant to that resolution, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Technical Assistance held a meeting in Vienna on 1 and 2 October 2007 (CAC/COSP/2008/5).

The Working Group formulated specific recommendations that the Conference may wish to consider, including mainstreaming the provisions of the Convention into the anti-corruption work of States that is funded or to be funded by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies or other providers of technical assistance. In that connection, the Conference may wish to devote particular attention to the deliberations of the International Cooperation Workshop on Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Montevideo from 30 May to 1 June 2007 (CAC/COSP/2008/6). The Working Group also recommended the establishment, for use by practitioners, of an electronic repository of national anti-corruption measures and of legislation implementing the relevant provisions of the Convention.

Pursuant to the request by the Conference to collate and analyse information on technical assistance provided through the self-assessment checklist or other means,
the Secretariat included in the self-assessment checklist a request to States parties to indicate whether they were in need of technical assistance and, if so, what type of assistance they required. Based on a preliminary analysis of the responses received, the Working Group requested that a broadened analysis be presented to the Conference at its second session.

In discussing this item, the Conference may wish to devote specific attention to reviewing the analysis of the information gathered by way of the self-assessment reports. While recognizing the principle that needs and priorities for technical assistance can only be identified by the State requesting assistance, the Working Group noted that information on technical assistance needed to be gathered on the supply side of such assistance as well. The Conference may wish to examine possible ways of gathering information from assistance providers.

**Documentation**

Report on the meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Technical Assistance held in Vienna on 1 and 2 October 2007 (CAC/COSP/2008/5)


**5. Consideration of the issue of bribery of officials of public international organizations**

The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/4, requested the Conference to address the criminalization of bribery of officials of public international organizations, including the United Nations, and related issues, taking into account questions of privileges and immunities and of jurisdiction and the role of international organizations by, inter alia, making recommendations regarding appropriate action in that regard.

The Conference, in its resolution 1/7, requested UNODC to invite relevant public international organizations to participate with States parties in an open-ended dialogue on the issues of privileges and immunities, jurisdiction and the role of international organizations. That dialogue was held in Vienna on 27 September 2007.

Back to back with the dialogue, on 28 September 2007, a meeting was held on the institutional integrity initiative, an internal process in which, as a first step, organizations members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination would join forces to review their regulations and rules in the light of the principles of the Convention. The Secretariat will inform the Conference on progress achieved in that process.

While the discussion during the open-ended dialogue did not suggest that the current regime of privileges and immunities suffered from any shortcomings, the Conference may nevertheless wish to consider some of the recommendations emanating from the meeting on the institutional integrity initiative, including (a) requesting the Secretariat to facilitate the collection and analysis of information on the topic and issuing an information booklet for national authorities on procedural matters related to requesting a waiver of immunities and (b) encouraging
States parties to criminalize the passive bribery of officials of public international organizations and seeking ways to improve cooperation.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the question of the bribery of officials of public international organizations (CAC/COSP/2008/7)

6. **Consideration of notification requirements in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention (art. 6, para. 3; art. 23, para. 2 (d); art. 44, para. 6 (a); art. 46, paras. 13 and 14; art. 55, para. 5; and art. 66, para. 4)**

The Conference may wish to consider how best to ensure the availability of up-to-date information required in accordance with article 6, paragraph 3; article 23, paragraph 2 (d); article 44, paragraph 6 (a); article 46, paragraphs 13 and 14; article 55, paragraph 5; and article 66, paragraph 4, of the Convention.

**Documentation**

Conference room paper on the status of ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption as at 15 January 2008 and notifications

7. **Other matters**

In considering item 7 of the agenda, the Conference may wish to review progress made in the further promotion of the ratification of or accession to the Convention, in order to increase the number of parties thereto and thus contribute to universal adherence to the instrument.

8. **Provisional agenda for the third session**

The Conference is to consider and approve a provisional agenda for its third session, which will be drawn up by the Secretariat in consultation with the bureau.

9. **Adoption of the report on the second session**

The Conference is to adopt a report on its second session, the draft of which will be prepared by the Rapporteur.
## Annex

Proposed organization of work of the second session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to be held in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, from 28 January to 1 February 2008

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Monday, 28 January</td>
<td>10 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>1 (a)</td>
<td>Opening of the session</td>
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<td>1 (c)</td>
<td>Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</td>
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<td>Participation of observers</td>
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<td>1 (f)</td>
<td>General discussion (continued)</td>
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<td>Expert consultation on criminalization</td>
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<td>Review of implementation</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 30 January</td>
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<td>Informal consultations (continued)</td>
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<td>Thursday, 31 January</td>
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