



General Assembly

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High-level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption

(Merida, Mexico, 9-11 December 2003)

Provisional agenda

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2. Organizational matters:
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 - (b) Election of other officers;
 - (c) Rules of procedure;
 - (d) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
 - (e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference: report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
3. The United Nations Convention against Corruption: follow-up activities and future work for its effective implementation.
4. Signature of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
5. Adoption of the report of the Conference.



Annotations

1. Opening of the Conference

Pursuant to the acceptance by the General Assembly, in its resolution 57/169 of 18 December 2002, of the offer of the Government of Mexico to host a high-level political conference in Merida, Mexico, for the purpose of signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the High-level Political Conference will be held in Merida, Mexico, from 9 to 11 December 2003.

The Conference will be opened at the Centro de Convenciones Mérida Siglo XXI in Merida on Tuesday, 9 December 2003, at 10 a.m.

2. Organizational matters

(a) Election of the President of the Conference

It is standard practice at United Nations conferences hosted by a Member State to elect a representative of that country President of the Conference.

(b) Election of other officers

Given the fact that the Conference in Merida represents the culmination of a process of negotiation carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption, it is recommended that, with the exception of the President, the bureau of the Conference be composed of representatives of the States constituting the bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee. Thus, the remaining members of the bureau of the Conference would be as follows: Vice-Presidents: the representatives of Austria, Hungary, Jordan, Mauritius, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Rapporteur: the representative of Poland.

As a tribute to the memory of the late Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Hector Charry Samper (Colombia), and in recognition of his contribution to the advancement of the negotiation process, it is also recommended that the Conference confer on the representative of Colombia the position of Honorary President.

(c) Rules of procedure

The Conference is convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/169. In view of this, and considering its nature, the Conference may wish to have the rules of procedure of the Assembly apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to its proceedings.

(d) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

In its resolution 57/169, the General Assembly requested the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Secretariat to work with the Government of Mexico, in consultation with Member States, in formulating proposals for the organization of the Conference so that it might provide opportunities for high-level delegates to consider issues connected with the Convention, in particular follow-up activities for its effective implementation and for future work in the area of fighting corruption.

The provisional agenda for the Conference and the proposed organization of work were finalized following consultations held in Vienna with representatives of Member States.

At the first plenary meeting of the Conference, there will be an opening ceremony to provide an opportunity for heads of State or Government to address the Conference and to sign the Convention. In view of this, and in order to ensure the most efficient use of the time available to the Conference, delegations are requested to take their seats promptly at 9.45 a.m.

The Conference will proceed to consider organizational matters, such as rules of procedure and election of officers. At the plenary meetings, on 9 to 11 December 2003, high-level representatives will have an opportunity to address the Conference.

In order to comply fully with the requirements of resolution 57/169, the Government of Mexico, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, will organize four side events during the Conference. The side events are designed to offer additional opportunities to delegations, as well as to representatives of intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and the media, to exchange views about future action against corruption, especially in the context of implementation of the Convention.

The proposed organization of work, which also contains details on the topics of the side events, is contained in the annex to the present document.

(e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference: report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of each delegation participating in the Conference shall be submitted either to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna not later than one week before the opening of the Conference (2 December 2003) or to the Secretary of the Conference in Merida at the time of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the head of State or Government or by the minister for foreign affairs.

The Executive Director shall examine the credentials of representatives participating in the Conference and report thereon to the Conference.

3. The United Nations Convention against Corruption: follow-up activities and future work for its effective implementation

In its resolution 57/169, the General Assembly indicated that the organization of the Conference should provide opportunities for high-level delegates to discuss issues connected with the Convention, in particular follow-up activities for its effective implementation and future work in the area of fighting corruption. To that end, the high-level representatives are invited to include in their statements proposals for follow-up activities and future work, paying particular attention to requirements and plans for the expeditious ratification of the Convention.

4. Signature of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Heads of State or Government, ministers for foreign affairs indicating their readiness to sign the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other officials with full powers will be invited by the depositary to sign the Convention. Upon presentation and acceptance of the full powers, the official concerned will be informed thereof and arrangements will be made for the actual signing to take place.

Heads of State or Government and ministers for foreign affairs are recognized as authorized to sign the United Nations Convention against Corruption without having to present full powers. Any other official wishing to sign must first present full powers, issued by the head of State or Government or by the minister for foreign affairs of the State concerned, naming the official and the Convention to be signed and duly authorizing the official to sign the instrument. The full powers for the signature of the Convention in Merida shall be submitted to the Legal Officer representing the depositary at the Conference, who will be available from 8 December 2003 until the closure of the Conference.

5. Adoption of the report of the Conference

The report to be adopted in Merida will reflect the procedural aspects of the Conference and list the signatures to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. A summary of statements made by heads of State or Government and other government representatives addressing the Conference will be included in the final report to be issued in the official languages of the United Nations after the Conference and submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003.

Annex

Proposed organization of work for the High-level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption

(Merida, Mexico, 9-11 December 2003)

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Side event</i>
Tuesday, 9 December		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	<p>Opening of the Conference</p> <p>Heads of State or Government begin signature of the United Nations Convention against Corruption</p> <p>Election of the President of the Conference</p> <p>Election of other officers</p> <p>Rules of procedure</p> <p>Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p> <p>Statements by heads of State or Government and other government representatives</p>	
3-6 p.m.	<p>Statements by heads of State or Government and other government representatives (continued)</p> <p>Signature of the Convention (continued)</p>	Preventive measures against corruption: the role of the private and public sectors (Salon Mérida)
Wednesday, 10 December		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	<p>Statements by heads of State or Government and other government representatives (continued)</p> <p>Signature of the Convention (continued)</p>	The role of civil society and the media in building a culture against corruption (Salon Mérida)

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Side event</i>
3-6 p.m.	Statements by heads of State or Government and other government representatives (continued) Signature of the Convention (continued)	Legislative measures to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Salon Mérida)
Thursday, 11 December		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Statements by heads of State or Government and other government representatives (continued) Signature of the Convention (continued)	Measures to fight corruption in national and international financial systems (Salon Mérida)
3-6 p.m.	Statements by heads of State or Government and other government representatives (conclusion) Signature of the Convention (conclusion) Closure of the Conference	