



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

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**Report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United  
Nations Convention against Corruption on its seventh  
session, held in Vienna, from 6 to 10 November 2017**

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## **I. Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

### **A. Resolutions**

1. At its seventh session, held in Vienna, from 6 to 10 November 2017, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted the following resolutions:

#### **Resolution 7/1**

#### **Strengthening mutual legal assistance for international cooperation and asset recovery**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

*Recalling* that under chapter V of the Convention the return of assets of illicit origin derived from acts of corruption, is a fundamental principle of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>1</sup> and States parties are obliged to afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance with regard to the return of these assets;

*Recognizing* that those who engage in corrupt acts, whether natural or legal persons, consistent with domestic law and the requirements of the Convention, should be held accountable and prosecuted by their domestic authorities, and that all efforts should be made to conduct a financial investigation into assets illegally acquired by them and to recover such assets through domestic confiscation proceedings, international cooperation for purposes of confiscation or appropriate direct recovery measures;

*Recalling* further article 30 of the Convention, obligating States parties in accordance with their legal system and constitutional principles, to take such measures as may be necessary for the effective prosecution, adjudication and sanctioning of the offences established in accordance with the Convention and bearing in mind that its application facilitates successful implementation of chapters IV and V of the Convention;

*Recalling* further article 31 of the Convention obligating States Parties, in accordance with their legal system and constitutional principles, to establish measures to freeze, seize, and confiscate the proceeds of crime derived from acts of corruption or property whose value corresponds to such proceeds and property in offences established in accordance with the Convention;

*Recalling* article 46 of the Convention, in which States parties are mandated to afford one another the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings in relation to the offences covered by the Convention;

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

*Recalling further* its resolution 6/4 of 6 November 2015, in which it urged Member States, where appropriate and consistent with their national legal systems, to provide each other with the widest possible assistance in investigations of and proceedings in civil and administrative matters relating to corruption offences, committed by natural or legal persons, including, if appropriate, through mutual legal assistance, for the detection of corruption offences, the identification, freezing and confiscation of assets, and the other purposes established in article 46, paragraph 3, of the Convention;

*Recalling* its resolution 6/2 of 6 November 2015, in which it directed the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery to initiate the process of identifying best practices for identifying victims of corruption, initiate the process of identifying best practices and developing guidelines for proactive and timely sharing of information in accordance with article 56 of the Convention and collect information regarding States parties' use of settlements and other alternative mechanisms with a view to considering the feasibility of developing guidelines to facilitate a more coordinated and transparent approach, and noting with appreciation the thematic discussions held by the Working Group on those topics;<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 6/3 of 6 November 2015, in which it encouraged States parties to make widely available information on their legal frameworks and procedures, including those used in settlements and alternative legal mechanisms, in a practical guide or other format designed to facilitate use by other States, and encouraged States parties and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue sharing experiences and building knowledge on the management, use and disposal of frozen, seized, confiscated and recovered assets, and to identify good practices as necessary;

*Recalling further* the meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery in Vienna, on 25 and 26 August 2016 and on 24 and 25 August 2017, and all the deliberations;

*Recalling further* the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,<sup>3</sup> in which Member States stated that they would strive to implement effective measures to detect, prevent and counter corruption, as well as the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption, and to strengthen international cooperation and assistance to Member States to assist in the identification, freezing or seizure of such assets, as well as in their recovery and return, in accordance with the Convention, in particular chapter V thereof, and in that regard continue to discuss innovative modalities to improve mutual legal assistance in order to speed up asset recovery proceedings and render them more successful;

*Recalling* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>4</sup> in which the international community was encouraged to develop good practices on asset return;

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<sup>2</sup> See [CAC/COSP/WG.2/2016/4](#) and [CAC/COSP/WG.2/2017/4](#).

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/174](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

*Taking note* of the outcome of the international expert meeting on the management and disposal of recovered and returned stolen assets, including in support of sustainable development, held in Addis Ababa, from 14-16 Feb 2017<sup>5</sup>;

*Recalling* Conference Resolutions 4/2 of 2011, 5/3 of 2013, 6/2 and 6/3 of 2015;

*Noting* with concern that a large proportion of the proceeds of corruption emanating from offences established under the Convention, including domestic bribery, foreign bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion of property, trading in influence, abuse of functions, illicit enrichment, bribery in the private sector, money laundering, concealment and obstruction of justice, are yet to be returned or disposed of to the requesting States parties, their prior legitimate owners and victims of the crimes;

*Stressing* the need for countries to ensure, in accordance with national legislation, that there are adequate mechanisms in place to manage and preserve the value and condition of assets pending the conclusion of confiscation proceedings and, where appropriate, non-conviction-based proceedings to recover identified proceeds of crime;

*Taking note* with appreciation of the Lausanne Process Initiative, and welcoming the fulfilment of the mandate from resolutions 5/3, 6/2 and 6/3, to develop practical guidelines and a step by step guide for the efficient recovery of stolen assets, in close cooperation with the International Center for Asset Recovery and with support of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, which provides effective and coordinated approaches to asset recovery for practitioners from requesting and requested States;

*Recognizing* the critical importance of effective international cooperation in efforts to combat corruption, and noting the obstacles to international cooperation posed by unduly extensive requirements for the execution of incoming requests for mutual legal assistance;

*Concerned* about the practical difficulties that both requested and requesting States face in international cooperation and asset recovery;

*Noting with concern* that the huge cost of recovery of assets in some State parties has made such recovery difficult and has thus led to the abandonment of some cases in which the return of proceeds of crime was sought;

*Encouraging* States parties to enhance collective efforts to strengthen international cooperation and also encouraging requested States parties to respond to requests for mutual legal assistance, pursuant to article 46 of the Convention, in the absence of dual criminality;

*Noting* with appreciation also the technical resources produced by UNODC and the joint UNODC-World Bank StAR Initiative as well as the International Center for Asset Recovery;

*Bearing in mind* that the fundamental purposes of the Convention are:

- (a) To promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively;

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<sup>5</sup> See CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.7

- (b) To promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in asset recovery;
- (c) To promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property;
  - 1. *Urges* all States Parties, within the framework of the Convention, and in accordance with domestic legislation, to take concrete measures and to strengthen cooperation to hold any legal or natural person who has committed or is liable for an act of corruption accountable and recover the proceeds of crime by denying safe havens to such legal or natural persons and the proceeds of their crimes;
  - 2. *Urges* States Parties, where appropriate and in accordance with their domestic legal principles, to remove barriers to asset recovery, including by simplifying legal procedures while preventing their abuse, and processing requests for assistance without delay, in order to enhance international cooperation under chapters IV and V of the Convention, acknowledging the fundamental principles of due process of law, in criminal proceedings and in civil or administrative proceedings to adjudicate property rights;
  - 3. *Invites* States parties in the case of domestic criminal investigations and prosecutions of offences established in accordance with the Convention to consider limiting, where appropriate and in accordance with their domestic legal systems and constitutional principles, any immunities or jurisdictional privileges accorded to their public officials for the performance of their functions, in a manner that would not affect the efficiency of the performance of these public officials;
  - 4. *Also urges* States parties to use the Convention as a legal basis for mutual legal assistance, particularly in the absence of bilateral or other multilateral treaties, in accordance with article 46, paragraph 7, of the Convention;
  - 5. *Calls upon* all States parties within the framework of the Convention and domestic laws and procedures, to prevent, criminalize, investigate, prosecute and punish acts of corruption covered by the Convention including by enforcing appropriate measures required to sanction these acts in the public and private sector, including the liability of legal persons that violate national anti-corruption laws, as well as their executives, employees, intermediaries, and other individuals;
  - 6. *Also calls upon* States parties, consistent with article 52 of the Convention, to take measures and, where appropriate, strengthen regulations, in accordance with their domestic law, to require financial institutions within their jurisdiction, to conduct enhanced scrutiny of accounts maintained by or on behalf of individuals that are or have been entrusted with prominent public functions and their family members and close associates;
  - 7. *Further calls upon* States parties, in line with articles 12, 14, 40, and 52 of the Convention, to take appropriate measures consistent with domestic law and international standards including where appropriate the Financial Action Task Force recommendations, to promote transparency of legal persons, including by collecting information on beneficial ownership, and overcoming undue obstacles that may arise out of the application of bank secrecy laws, and preventing the transfer of proceeds of crime and identifying suspicious financial transactions through effective due diligence practices;

8. *Encourages* States parties to make full use of the possibility to conclude agreements or mutually acceptable arrangements for the return and final disposal of confiscated property pursuant to article 57 para 5 of the Convention, and to consider the sustainable development goals in the use and management of recovered assets, while fully respecting the principles of sovereign equality and the territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States under Article 4 of the Convention;
9. *Calls upon* States parties not to refuse cooperation for mutual legal assistance for the recovery of assets under Chapter V on the sole ground of the nationality of the offender, especially in cases of dual nationality of that offender, or any unrecognized grounds by the Convention;
10. *Invites* States parties to in accordance with their national legal systems and relevant international legal obligations, effectively manage assets, including confiscated assets, to ensure that such assets do not inappropriately lose value pending their return or disposal;
11. *Also calls upon* States parties to take concrete steps to ensure that there are adequate mechanisms in place to manage and preserve the value and condition of assets pending the conclusion of confiscation proceedings in another State and to allow or expand cooperation in the enforcement of foreign seizure and restraint orders and confiscation judgments, including through awareness-raising for judicial authorities and through measures to permit, where possible under national law, recognition of non-conviction-based seizure and freezing orders and confiscation judgments;
12. *Calls upon* States parties to afford one another the widest measure of cooperation in line with article 51 of the Convention and to make increased efforts to ensure the return or disposal of confiscated property in accordance with article 57 by taking measures to the greatest extent possible within their domestic legal systems, to:
- (a) Prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner the international transfer of proceeds of crime derived from corruption;
  - (b) Identify, trace, seize, recover and return the proceeds of crime derived from corruption, including measures to enhance compliance by bank and designated non-bank financial institutions;
  - (c) Whenever necessary, with the aim of reaching enforceable judgements, ensure that any discretionary legal powers under its domestic law relating to the prosecution of persons for offences established in accordance with the Convention are exercised to maximise the effectiveness of law enforcement measures in respect of those offences;
13. *Encourages* States Parties to make use of the non-binding Lausanne guidelines for the efficient recovery of assets and its supporting step-by-step guide, available online, when implementing the Convention's obligation on international cooperation for asset recovery;
14. *Calls upon* States parties to continue the exchange of best practices and precise information on successful cases of cooperation between different States parties relating to the implementation of asset recovery-related provisions of the Convention;

15. *Stresses* the importance, in accordance with article 61, paragraph 2, of the Convention, to develop and share statistics, analytical expertise concerning corruption and information with a view to developing, insofar as possible, common definitions, standards and methodologies, as well as information on best practices to prevent and combat corruption;

16. *Noting* that, under article 57 paragraph 4 of the Convention, where appropriate, unless State parties decide otherwise, the requested State party may deduct reasonable expenses incurred in investigation, prosecution, or judicial proceedings leading to the return or disposition of confiscated property, and urges States parties to waive or reduce such expenses to the barest minimum, in particular where the requesting State is a developing country, bearing in mind that the return or disposal of illicitly acquired assets contributes to sustainable development;

17. *Encourages* States parties and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue sharing experiences on the management of frozen, seized and confiscated assets, identify best practices as necessary, building on existing resources, and consider developing non-binding guidelines on this issue;

18. *Calls on* States parties to continue their efforts on developing good practices on asset recovery, which contributes to the achievement of the SDGs and encourages UNODC to identify good practices and challenges on asset recovery;

19. *Calls for* enhanced inter-agency cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to trace and recover assets and return or dispose of them in line with article 57 of the Convention;

20. *Calls upon* States parties which use electronic tools and systems for processing and tracking international requests for assistance, to continue to share with the Secretariat, for further dissemination, information on such tools and systems;

21. *Urges* States Parties, without prejudice to domestic legal and administrative systems and procedures, to:

(a) cooperate closely with one another and to exchange information and coordinate measures, at early stages of an investigation as appropriate for the purpose of identification and parallel investigation and prosecution, as relevant, of offences under the Convention, in accordance with article 48;

(b) to consider sharing without prior request information relating to criminal matters, to enable assistance, in accordance with chapter IV;

(c) to endeavour to take measures to permit them to forward information on proceeds of crime, to facilitate recovery of assets through criminal, civil or administrative proceedings in accordance with article 56 and chapter IV of the Convention;

22. *Requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with States parties and taking into account, among other things, the information being gathered during the first and second review cycles of the Implementation Review Mechanism, panels and studies to continue to collect information on the legal framework, legal procedures and judicial actions taken by States parties to recover proceeds of crime derived from corruption under the Convention, and *encourages* States parties to make widely available information in this regard, in order to share good practices;

23. *Urges* States parties to ensure that the information provided on their central and competent authorities, in line with article 46, paragraph 13, of the Convention is up to date, in order to enhance dialogue on mutual legal assistance;
24. *Also urges* States parties to consider, where possible, adopting and making publicly available guidelines and procedures on mutual legal assistance and other forms of international cooperation, including information on relevant civil and administrative proceedings pursuant to article 43 of the Convention, and to consider conducting consultations in appropriate cases, as requesting and requested countries, prior to initiating or refusing mutual legal assistance in conformity with the Convention and domestic legislation, and to consider including the practice of the spontaneous sharing of information in new bilateral and regional treaties on mutual legal assistance;
25. *Requests* the Secretariat to include a specific section dedicated to the domestic civil and administrative proceedings of States parties related to the investigation of corruption offences in the legal library available through the Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;
26. *Requests* UNODC and invites the StAR Initiative to continue to provide and develop capacity building initiatives on asset recovery including knowledge products and technical tools upon request and subject to extrabudgetary resources in response to technical assistance needs identified during country reviews.
27. *Welcomes the* recommendations of the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting on international cooperation, invites States parties to consider implementing them, invites the meeting to propose future agenda topics, and decides that the meeting should continue its work by exchanging information on best practices and challenges on, inter alia,:
- (a) common reasons for refusals and delays in MLA request related to corruption offences under the Convention with a view to proposing innovative solutions;
  - (b) international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings tackling cases of corruption and possible measures to protect confidentiality of the information provided in the context of assistance in criminal, civil and administrative measures.
28. *Welcomes* the outcome of the meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, invites the Working Group to propose future agenda topics and decides that the Working Group should continue its work by, inter alia:
- (a) Continuing its efforts in gathering information and conducting enhanced analysis on best practices for the identification and compensation of all different types of victims in accordance with the Convention, including, as necessary, by soliciting information from States parties facilitating exchanges among experts, and organizing expert panels, among other things, while taking into consideration similar work of prior meetings of the Working Group, expert panels and discussions;
  - (b) Conducting analysis on third-party challenges and their impact on asset recovery under Chapter V;

(c) Continuing to collect data in on best practices with a view to developing non-binding guidelines concerning the timely sharing of information to enable States parties to take appropriate action, in accordance with article 56 of the Convention;

(d) Conducting an analysis of how communication and coordination between various asset recovery practitioner networks could be improved with a view to developing guidelines for the proactive and timely sharing of information among States parties in accordance with article 56 of the Convention;

29. *Urges* the Secretariat to continue its efforts to identify synergies between the subsidiary bodies of the Conference, while respecting the mandates of those groups;

30. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue within existing resources, collecting statistics, or other relevant information on the use of the Convention as a legal basis for mutual legal assistance, unless a bilateral and regional arrangement applies, by using the relevant results from the Implementation Review Mechanism, and, where appropriate, and consistent with domestic legal system, in relation to civil and administrative proceedings and asset recovery, and make the information available to the Conference;

31. *Requests* the Secretariat, within existing resources, to assist the Group on Asset Recovery and the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the performance of their functions, including by providing interpretation services in the six official languages of the United Nations;

32. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

## **Resolution 7/2**

### **Preventing and combating corruption in all its forms more effectively, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets, based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, in accordance with the Convention**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

*Recognizing* that combating corruption in all its forms is a priority and *reiterating* its concern of the seriousness of the problems and threats posed by corruption,

*Recalling* the third preambular paragraph of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in which concern is expressed about cases of corruption that involve vast quantities of assets, which may constitute a substantial proportion of the resources of States,

*Recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/208 and *concerned* about the negative impact corruption can have on the enjoyment of human rights, and *recognizing* also that corruption may disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged individuals in society,

*Noting with concern* that corruption can exacerbate poverty and inequality,

*Recalling* that the return of assets is a fundamental principle of the Convention,

*Underlining* that preventing and countering corruption in all its forms require States parties to address cases of corruption, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets,

*Welcoming* the *Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons* published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,<sup>6</sup>

*Stressing* that corruption is a transnational phenomenon that affects all societies and economies, making international cooperation to prevent and control it essential including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets,

*Noting with regret* the risks that persons accused of crimes of corruption may escape justice and thus elude the legal consequences of their actions and may successfully hide their assets,

*Highlighting* the importance of ensuring integrity throughout the entire criminal justice system without prejudice to judicial independence and in accordance with the fundamental principles of legal systems of States parties,

*Acknowledging* the important role that public officials play in fostering rejection of corruption,

*Noting with appreciation* the important role of civil society, academia, the private sector and media in identifying, detecting and reporting on cases of corruption,

1. *Urges* States parties to redouble ongoing efforts to prevent and combat corruption in all its forms and regardless of scale, based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>2</sup> including by fostering the rejection of corruption;

2. *Also urges* States parties to increase their efforts and take measures to prevent and counter corruption, giving the necessary focus to, among others, acts of corruption that involve vast quantities of assets, without undermining their commitment to prevent and counter corruption at all levels and all forms and thereby contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>7</sup>, especially Goal 16, by efficiently and effectively implementing the Convention;

3. *Further urges* States parties to continue to apply the Convention, in accordance with its terms, to prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption offences established in accordance with the Convention, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets, and to freeze, seize, confiscate and return proceeds of offences, in accordance with the Convention, as well as to consider measures criminalizing the attempt to commit such offences, including when organized criminal groups are involved;

<sup>6</sup> New York, 2015 (Publishing production: English, Publishing and Library Section, United Nations Office at Vienna)

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

4. *Urges* States parties to ensure that anti-corruption bodies and specialized authorities have the necessary independence, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal system, to enable them to carry out their functions effectively and free from any undue influence;
5. *Calls upon* States parties to take measures to ensure that legal and natural persons are held accountable for corruption offences, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets and encourages States parties to consider legal aspects of asset recovery;
6. *Encourages* States parties that have not already done so to consider establishing effective financial disclosure systems for appropriate public officials, consistent with article 52, paragraph 5, of the Convention, and to consider taking such measures as may be necessary to permit their competent authorities to share that information, consistent with the requirements of domestic law, with other States parties when necessary to investigate, claim and recover proceeds of offences;
7. *Also encourages* States parties to promote, in accordance with article 12, subparagraph 2 (c), of the Convention and fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems, the transparency among private entities, including where appropriate, measures regarding the identity of legal and natural persons involved in the establishment and management of corporate entities;
8. *Invites* States parties to share best practices in the identification of legal and natural persons, involved in the establishment of corporate entities, including shell companies, trusts and other similar arrangements which may be abused to commit or conceal crimes of corruption or to hide, disguise or transfer their proceeds of corruption to countries that provide safety to the corrupt and/or their proceeds;
9. *Calls upon* States parties to ensure, consistent with the principles of their domestic legal systems, to take appropriate measures to promote transparency and accountability in the management of public finances, by inter alia envisaging such measures as timely reporting on revenues and expenditures;
10. *Encourages* States parties to strengthen cooperation in criminal matters, in accordance with chapter IV of the Convention, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets;
11. *Urges* State parties to afford one another the widest measures of mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings in relation to corruption, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets, and *invites* States parties to consider, where appropriate, adopting such measures as may be necessary to enable them to provide a wide scope of assistance in the absence of dual criminality, in accordance with article 46 of the Convention;
12. *Urges* States parties to take measures, consistent with the Convention, to prevent the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets, including to prevent the financial institutions from all involved parties from being used to transfer or receive proceeds of corruption, as well as to assist in their recovery and to return such assets to the requesting State;
13. *Encourages* State parties that have not yet done so to consider the Convention as a legal basis for extradition in respect of offences covered by the Convention, when

possible in their domestic legal system, and to endeavour to conclude bilateral extradition agreements and arrangements to carry out or to enhance the effectiveness of extradition;

14. *Reaffirms* the commitment that the return of assets is a fundamental principle of the Convention, and *urges* all State parties to implement the Convention to afford one another the widest measures of cooperation and assistance in asset recovery, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets, by, inter alia, facilitating effective asset recovery, thus denying safe haven to the proceeds of crime, and *invites* States parties to give special consideration to returning assets to the requesting State party, returning such property to its prior legitimate owners or compensating the victims of the crime, within the framework of the Convention;

15. *Reiterates* that State parties should work towards denying safe haven to persons who have committed offences under chapter III of the Convention and the proceeds of their crimes consistent with domestic law;

16. *Expresses concern* over financial flows of proceeds of corruption, corruption and money-laundering, and urges States parties to combat those offences and to strive to eliminate incentives for the transfer abroad of the proceeds of corruption thereby denying safe havens to the corrupt or their proceeds;

17. *Further urges* States parties to promote, within their means and in accordance with fundamental principles of their domestic laws, the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and private sector, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption;

18. *Encourages* States parties to consider establishing and developing confidential complaint systems, whistle-blower programmes and, where appropriate, effective witness protection measures, and to increase awareness of such measures;

19. *Further invites* States parties to provide information, on a voluntary basis, on experiences and best practices on criminal and civil measures and remedies to enhance international cooperation and asset recovery related to corruption, including, among others, when it involves vast quantities of assets and requests UNODC to compile the information provided by States parties, within existing resources.

### **Resolution 7/3**

#### **Promoting technical assistance to support the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3/1 of 13 November 2009 and 6/1 of 6 November 2015,

*Acknowledging* that the fight against all forms of corruption requires a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach, including regulatory frameworks and strong, specialized independent institutions at all levels,

*Recognizing* the important role that technical assistance plays in the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>8</sup>

*Reaffirming* its resolution 4/1 of 28 October 2011, in which it recommended that all States parties, where applicable, identify technical assistance requirements in their responses to the comprehensive self-assessment checklists, preferably prioritized and related to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention examined during a given review cycle,

*Welcoming* the promotion of anti-corruption technical assistance as a component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>9</sup> and as a means of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

*Welcoming also* the update on the technical assistance needs identified by States parties through the review process, as provided to the Implementation Review Group at its eighth session, held in Vienna from 19 to 23 June 2017, and in the analytical reports on technical assistance prepared by the Secretariat,<sup>10</sup>

*Acknowledging* that a large number of States parties continue to request technical assistance for the implementation of the Convention,

*Recognizing* the importance of coordination among donors, technical assistance providers and recipient countries in order to leverage resources, increase efficiencies, avoid duplication of effort and meet the needs of recipient countries,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 3/4 of 13 November 2009, in which it endorsed country-led and country-based, integrated and coordinated technical assistance programme delivery as an effective vehicle for furthering the implementation of the Convention,

*Bearing in mind* the important role of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in capacity-building and technical assistance, upon the request of the recipient country,

*Reminding* States parties of their obligation under article 60 of the Convention, which states that States parties shall, according to their capacity, consider affording one another the widest measure of technical assistance, especially for the benefit of developing countries, in their respective plans and programmes to combat corruption,

1. *Urges* States parties and other technical assistance providers to generate and disseminate knowledge on the substantive aspects of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
2. *Encourages* States parties to continue to afford one another, according to their capacity, the widest measure of technical assistance, especially for the benefit of developing countries, including in the form of material support, capacity-building and

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<sup>8</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>10</sup> [CAC/COSP/2017/3](#) and [CAC/COSP/2017/7](#).

training, upon request, consistent with chapter VI of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

3. *Urges* States parties to exchange expertise, including with technical assistance providers, experiences and lessons learned with respect to providing technical assistance in the areas of combating and preventing corruption in relation to the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of addressing the technical assistance priorities identified in the country reviews, and invites technical assistance providers to consider those priorities either for new technical assistance programmes or for incorporation into ongoing programmes;

5. *Encourages* States parties, donors and technical assistance providers to use the Convention and, as appropriate, other relevant international instruments as a framework for country-level dialogue to facilitate programme delivery;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance dialogue, foster coordination and promote synergies with bilateral and multilateral assistance providers and donors to respond to the technical assistance needs of States parties more effectively, including the needs identified through the review process, as well as by encouraging South-South cooperation through regional coordination;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, in close cooperation with multilateral and bilateral assistance providers, to provide technical assistance to States parties, in particular developing countries, upon request and subject to extrabudgetary resources, with a view to advancing the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Welcomes with appreciation* the organization by the Secretariat, consistent with paragraph 32 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, of periodic training courses for experts who participate in the review process;

9. *Invites* States parties, in completing the self-assessment checklist, to continue to identify technical assistance needs required for the implementation of the articles of the Convention and provide information regarding technical assistance already being provided;

10. *Encourages* States parties to continue voluntarily sharing information on the provision of technical assistance and their needs for such assistance, including those needs identified through the review process, and to consider providing such information to the Secretariat for publication on its website;

11. *Encourages* States parties under review and, upon request, the Secretariat, to consider coordinating the official in-country publication and launch of the executive summary of the country review, to include technical assistance needs, and invites States parties under review to inform both local representatives of international, bilateral and multilateral technical assistance providers and donors, and individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations, academia and community-based organizations, about their technical assistance needs;

12. *Encourages* States parties to incorporate the priority technical assistance needs contained in the review reports into their national anti-corruption strategies and accompanying implementation plans;
13. *Urges* States parties and other donors to continue to provide resources for the technical assistance efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, consistent with its mandate, in order to further the implementation of the Convention, and to continue to provide coordinated technical assistance, upon request, including through relevant international and regional organizations and bilateral technical assistance programmes;
14. *Encourages* States parties and other national, regional and international donors to accord high priority to anti-corruption technical assistance in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention in a sustainable and coordinated manner that contributes to the complementarity of programmes and avoids duplication of effort;
15. *Reiterates* the importance of the Implementation Review Group considering, on the basis of the outcome of the review process and consistent with the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism, priority areas for the provision of technical assistance, as well as consolidated information on trends in technical assistance required and provided, encourages States parties to continue to voluntarily provide the Implementation Review Group, consistent with the agreed terms of reference, with information on the current, anticipated and unmet technical assistance needs, including those needs identified through the review process, and also encourages States parties to use this information to inform technical assistance programmes;
16. *Recommends* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime take into account the priority areas for technical assistance identified during the course of the Implementation Review Mechanism in the development, implementation and, if required, revisions of its thematic, regional and country programmes;
17. *Invites* States parties to consider working with other stakeholders, as appropriate, including the private sector, academia and civil society, in the development and implementation of technical assistance programmes, upon the request of the recipient country, and based on the needs required for the implementation of the articles of the Convention;
18. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

#### **Resolution 7/4**

#### **Enhancing synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

*Recognizing* the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>11</sup> as the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and acknowledging the need to continue to promote its ratification or States' accession to it and its full and effective implementation,

*Recalling* its resolution 6/1 of 6 November 2015, in which it called upon the Secretariat to continue exploring and, where appropriate, enhancing synergies, in coordination and cooperation with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption, in full accordance with paragraphs 5, 27 (c) and 31 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, paragraph 6 of the guidelines for governmental experts and article 64 of the Convention, and to report to the Implementation Review Group on actions undertaken in that regard,

*Taking into consideration* that the strengthening of synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption can take place only within their mandates and the limits of the specificities of those mechanisms and their respective terms of reference and the practices developed in the course of operation of such mechanisms,

*Noting* the increasing adherence of countries to different international and regional instruments in the fight against corruption and criminal activities with similar thematic areas of focus, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>12</sup> as well as the potential future development of review mechanisms for such instruments,

*Noting also* the initiative by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to organize, as a peer-learning exercise in September 2016, a joint workshop on enhancing synergies and sharing good practices in the conduct of anti-corruption reviews, in cooperation with the secretariats of the Organization of American States, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Council of Europe,

*Taking note* of the conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on enhancing synergies in the cooperation with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption,

*Noting with appreciation* potential measures to further enhance coordination among the secretariats of international, multilateral anti-corruption review mechanisms by sharing good practices relating to organizational aspects, schedules of reviews and guidance produced by those secretariats,

*Bearing in mind* that, consistent with the Convention against Corruption, in particular article 63 thereof, the purpose of the Implementation Review Mechanism is to assist States parties in their implementation of the Convention,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat, within its mandate outlined in Conference of the States Parties resolution 6/1 and in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>1</sup> and the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, to continue its dialogue with States parties and

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<sup>11</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption, with a view to facilitating and enhancing synergies, where appropriate, enhancing the performance of the review mechanisms and, in consultation with States parties, developing and disseminating anti-corruption tools and products, avoiding duplication of effort, limiting the burden on States parties that are reviewed under different review mechanisms with similar thematic areas and ensuring the cost-effectiveness of the mechanisms, and also requests the Secretariat to report back to the Implementation Review Group on progress made in this regard;

2. *Invites* the Secretariat, as necessary and in consultation with States parties, to explore the possibility of cooperation arrangements, including memorandums of understanding, in line with the terms of reference, regarding enhancing synergies between multilateral review mechanisms on anti-corruption with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms for the purpose of avoiding duplication of effort, and requests the Secretariat to report to the Implementation Review Group on progress made in this regard;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect information from and share information with other secretariats, while upholding the confidential nature of that information, including on the costs of the different mechanisms, and also calls upon the Secretariat to share its good practices on facilitating synergies in the field of reviews of implementation of international anti-corruption legal instruments;

4. *Calls upon* States parties that are members of different multilateral review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption to encourage, within their respective organizations and with the governing bodies of those organizations, efficient and effective cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of those review mechanisms and the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties, while respecting the mandates of all review mechanisms;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat, within existing resources, to undertake the activities outlined in this resolution and to report on the work undertaken to the Implementation Review Group.

## **Resolution 7/5**

### **Promoting preventive measures against corruption**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

*Concerned* about the seriousness of the problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law,

*Highlighting* the prominence that the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>13</sup> has given to the prevention of corruption as part of a comprehensive approach to fighting corruption by having its entire chapter II devoted to measures to prevent corruption,

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<sup>13</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

*Welcoming* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>14</sup> and recalling that the 2030 Agenda addresses the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

*Welcoming also* the progress made by States parties and the Secretariat of the United Nations in the implementation of its resolutions 5/4 of 29 November 2013 and 6/6 of 6 November 2015, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”,

*Underlining*, in view of the ongoing review of chapter II, one of the chapters under review during the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the importance of building legislative and institutional frameworks consistent with the requirements of that chapter and in accordance with the fundamental principles of each State party’s legal system,

*Recalling* its resolution 3/2 of 13 November 2009, by which it established an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group to advise and assist it in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption,

*Welcoming* the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016 and from 21 to 23 August 2017,<sup>15</sup>

*Acknowledging* the crucial importance of technical assistance in building institutional and human capacity in States parties so as to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of chapter II of the Convention,

*Welcoming* the work done by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime towards the establishment of the Global Judicial Integrity Network and to provide assistance to States parties to promote the integrity and accountability of criminal justice systems, in accordance with the Convention Against Corruption and consistent with the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,<sup>16</sup> adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

*Acknowledging* the importance of both the public and private sectors in preventing and combating corruption and in promoting a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability consistent with Conference resolution 4/3 of 28 October 2011, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, and recalling Conference resolution 6/5 of 6 November 2015, entitled “St. Petersburg statement on promoting public-private partnership in the prevention of and fight against corruption”,

*Recalling* the importance of States parties taking appropriate measures, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of domestic law, to

<sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>15</sup> See [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2016/5](#) and [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2017/4](#).

<sup>16</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental and community-based organizations, the private sector and academia, in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption,

1. *Encourages* States parties to promote universal adherence to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and urges all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as soon as possible;
2. *Calls upon* States parties to continue implementing and to reinforce the effective implementation of the preventive measures outlined in chapter II of the Convention and in the resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties;
3. *Decides* that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, at its next intersessional meetings, should include as the topic for 2018 the use and effectiveness of asset declaration systems and conflicts of interest (article 7, paragraph 4, and article 8, paragraph 5, of the Convention) and as the topic for 2019 lessons learned on the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies (article 5), while recognizing the recommendation by the Working Group to leave room within its agenda to add or amend topics of discussion to maximize the cross-fertilization of the discussions held by the Working Group and the Implementation Review Group;
4. *Calls upon* States parties to ensure that anti-corruption bodies have the necessary independence and competence, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, as well as the material resources and specialized staff, and the training that such staff may require to carry out their functions effectively and free from undue influence, in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and to take note of the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies, developed by the International Conference on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies, held in Jakarta on 26 and 27 November 2012;
5. *Reminds* States parties of their commitment under article 6 of the Convention, which states that each State party shall, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, ensure the existence of a body or bodies, as appropriate, that prevent corruption by such means as:
  - (a) Implementing the policies referred to in article 5 of the Convention and, where appropriate, overseeing and coordinating the implementation of those policies;
  - (b) Increasing and disseminating knowledge about the prevention of corruption;
6. *Encourages* States parties, in accordance with their domestic law, to consider taking measures to encourage cooperation between their competent authorities and the private sector and to endeavour to periodically evaluate these measures in order to better prevent and detect corruption;
7. *Also encourages* States parties to consider, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, promoting the development of standards and procedures designed to safeguard the integrity of relevant private entities, including codes of conduct for the correct, honourable and proper performance of the activities of business and all relevant professions, and the

prevention of conflicts of interest, and for the promotion of the use of good commercial practices among businesses and in the contractual relations of businesses with the State;

8. *Reiterates* the importance of continuing to strengthen public-private partnerships in the prevention of and fight against corruption by, inter alia, encouraging the exchange of relevant experience and good practices in this area;

9. *Encourages* States parties to promote, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, the adoption, maintenance and strengthening of systems that promote transparency and prevent conflicts of interest and, where appropriate, to make use of innovative and digital instruments in this field;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of including the prevention of corruption in the broader development agenda, including through the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and other relevant Goals contained in Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>2</sup> and through other initiatives aimed at strengthening the coordination and exchange of such information with development partners;

11. *Encourages* States parties, without prejudice to judicial independence and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to take measures to strengthen integrity and to prevent opportunities for corruption among members of the judiciary, including by developing rules with respect to the conduct of members of the judiciary and, as appropriate, by developing innovative ways of enhancing judicial integrity, and welcomes in this regard the ongoing development of the Global Judicial Integrity Network;

12. *Also encourages* States parties to take measures within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption;

13. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue, within its existing mandate and in close cooperation with multilateral, regional and bilateral assistance providers, recognizing the importance of cooperation, including South-South cooperation, to provide technical assistance to States parties, in particular developing countries, upon request and subject to extrabudgetary resources, with a view to advancing the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, including in the form of tailored assistance for participation in the review process for chapter II;

14. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report, within existing resources, on the implementation of the present resolution to the Conference at its eighth session and to its relevant subsidiary bodies;

15. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

## **Resolution 7/6**

## **Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

*Concerned* about the seriousness of the threats that corruption poses to the stability of societies by eroding the legitimacy and effectiveness of key public institutions and the values of democracy and by jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law,

*Highlighting* the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>17</sup> and the prominence it has given to the prevention of corruption as part of a comprehensive approach to fighting corruption by having its entire chapter II devoted to measures to prevent corruption,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 6/1 of 6 November 2015, in which it launched the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the review of chapter II (Preventive measures),

*Underlining*, in view of the ongoing review of the implementation of chapter II of the Convention during the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, the importance of building legislative and institutional frameworks and capacities consistent with the requirements of that chapter,

*Recalling* its resolution 5/6 of 29 November 2013, entitled “Private sector”, and resolution 6/5 of 6 November 2015, entitled “St. Petersburg statement on promoting public-private partnership in the prevention of and fight against corruption”,

*Welcoming* the progress made by States parties and the Secretariat in the implementation of Conference resolutions 5/4 of 29 November 2013 and 6/6 of 6 November 2015, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, and underlining the need to maintain efforts in that regard,

*Acknowledging* the crucial importance of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, in strengthening structural, institutional and human capacity and thereby facilitating implementation of the provisions of chapter II of the Convention,

1. *Encourages* States parties to promote universal adherence to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and urges all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as soon as possible;
2. *Calls 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 of the States Parties;
3. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption to facilitate the sharing of information between States parties on their initiatives and good practices relating to the topics

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<sup>17</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

considered at the meetings of the Working Group held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016 and from 21 to 23 August 2017;

4. *Underlines* the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group at the above-mentioned meetings, and encourages States parties to implement them as appropriate;

5. *Decides* that the Working Group should continue its work to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption and should hold at least two meetings prior to the eighth session of the Conference;

6. *Welcomes* the commitment made and efforts undertaken by States parties to provide information on good practices in preventing corruption that is gathered, systematized and disseminated by the Secretariat in the performance of its functions as an international observatory, requests States parties to continue sharing information, and requests 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;

7. *Highlights* the importance of the Secretariat's work, in accordance with the agreed terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, on the preparation of thematic reports on the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, as well as supplementary regional addenda, and requests the Secretariat to share those reports with the Working Group;

8. *Encourages* States parties to develop, revise and update, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, national anti-corruption strategies and/or action plans addressing, inter alia, the needs identified during their country reviews and to promote such strategies and/or action plans as a tool for country-led and country-based, integrated and coordinated technical assistance programming and delivery;

9. *Calls upon* States parties to take measures to enhance integrity, transparency, accountability and the rule of law in public administration, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, including through the promotion of effective public service delivery, the use of information and communications technologies and the establishment of measures and systems to facilitate the reporting of incidents that may be considered to constitute offences established in accordance with the Convention;

10. *Urges* States parties to promote the integrity and accountability of their criminal justice systems, in accordance with the Convention and consistent with subparagraph 5 (d) of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,<sup>18</sup> adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, while bearing in mind the independence of the judiciary, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, and notes with appreciation the assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to States

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<sup>18</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/174](#), annex.

parties, upon request, to strengthen integrity and anti-corruption measures in institutions of the criminal justice system;

11. *Calls upon* States parties to strengthen measures to prevent corruption in the public procurement process and the management of public finances, as well as to ensure adequate access to information, and to promote, as appropriate, the involvement of the private sector in the prevention of corruption;

12. *Also calls upon* States parties to use the Convention as a framework for the development of tailored anti-corruption safeguards, including in specific vulnerable areas, and requests the Secretariat to assist States parties in doing so, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

13. *Reiterates* the importance of efforts by States parties to promote, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems, the measures outlined in article 12 of the Convention, which are designed to prevent and, if appropriate, combat corruption involving the private sector, and requests the Secretariat to continue to assist States parties, upon request, in those efforts;

14. *Encourages* States parties, with the assistance of the Secretariat and in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations, where appropriate, to continue strengthening public-private partnerships in the prevention of and the fight against corruption by, inter alia, facilitating the adoption of domestic legislation or regulations implementing article 12 of the Convention, where appropriate and necessary, organizing opportunities for the exchange of relevant experience and good practices in this field and raising awareness of the principles of the Convention within the private sector;

15. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime under its Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, supported by Qatar, on judicial integrity and education through its Education for Justice initiative, and requests the Office to continue, in close consultation with States parties, its efforts to promote education on the rule of law, anti-corruption and crime prevention and criminal justice in collaboration with other international organizations, as well as with other relevant partners;

16. *Requests* States parties to promote training and education on the prevention of corruption, welcomes the achievements made under the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, in cooperation with relevant partners, to develop comprehensive academic and other educational materials in the field of anti-corruption for universities and other institutions and to support States parties in this field;

17. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide and develop capacity-building initiatives, including new knowledge products, guidance notes on implementation of article 6 of the Convention and technical tools, upon request and subject to extrabudgetary resources, on measures to prevent corruption, to identify comparative good practices, and to facilitate the exchange of expertise and lessons learned among States parties;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of including the prevention of corruption in the broader development agenda, including through the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and other relevant goals of Transforming our world: the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>19</sup> and through other initiatives aimed at strengthening the coordination and exchange of such information with development partners;

19. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue, in close cooperation with multilateral and bilateral assistance providers, to provide technical assistance to States parties, particularly developing countries, upon request and subject to extrabudgetary resources, with a view to advancing the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, including in the form of tailored assistance for participation in the review process for chapter II;

20. *Notes* that a large number of States parties have informed the Secretary-General of the designation of competent authorities that may 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, and calls upon States parties that have not yet done so to provide that information and to update existing information as necessary;

21. *Underlines* the importance of providing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with sufficient and adequate funding to be able to respond to the increasing demand for its services, and encourages Member States to make adequate voluntary contributions to the account referred to in article 62 of the Convention, operated within the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund,<sup>20</sup> for the provision to developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the technical assistance that they may require to improve their capacities to implement chapter II of the Convention;

22. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at its intersessional meetings and to the Conference at its eighth session;

23. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

## **Resolution 7/7**

### **Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

*Recalling* its resolution 6/9 of 6 November 2015, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”, and taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretariat on the status of its implementation,<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>20</sup> See General Assembly resolution 58/4.

<sup>21</sup> [CAC/COSP/2017/9](#).

*Concerned* about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law,

*Emphasizing* the importance to Member States of the Sustainable Development Goals, contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, recalling that Sustainable Development Goal 16 is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and acknowledging that efforts to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>22</sup> also contribute to the achievement of that Goal,

*Highlighting* that the fight against corruption should be a priority for the international community, including small island developing States,

*Recognizing* that small island developing States have specific contextual characteristics that necessitate affordable and sustainable anti-corruption reform, as well as tailored technical assistance,

*Welcoming* the progress made by small island developing States in giving effect to the Convention against Corruption, while recognizing that greater efforts must still be made to achieve the effective implementation thereof,

*Recognizing* that small island developing States have the same legal obligations as all States parties to the Convention, despite generally having smaller administrative capacities and limited resources,

*Highlighting* the importance of building integrity and of preventing and eliminating corrupt practices in public institutions, and the public sector, given the severe impact of corruption on the efficiency of public services, citizens' confidence in public institutions and the cost of public transactions,

*Noting* that, while the implementation of the Convention is the responsibility of States parties, promoting integrity, transparency and accountability and preventing corruption are responsibilities to be shared by all sectors of society involved in the fight against corruption, as corruption not only affects Governments, but can also have a significant negative impact on the private sector and civil society by impeding economic growth, harming consumers and businesses, distorting competition and presenting serious health, safety, legal and social risks, and underlining the necessity of increasing the efforts of States parties, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention, to prevent and fight corruption involving the private sector, as highlighted in Conference resolution 6/5 of 6 November 2015,

*Highlighting* the need to improve anti-corruption frameworks and to strengthen governance systems in ocean and land resources management to protect the environment and livelihoods of small island developing States and to strengthen and build the resilience of small island developing States to the impacts of climate change,

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<sup>22</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Small Island Developing States Anti-Corruption Research Platform by the Independent Commission against Corruption of Mauritius, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for the purpose of research and the sharing of best practices specific to small island developing States,

*Recalling* the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>23</sup> the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, which is of significance to the Pacific island countries,

*Welcoming* the work of the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, which, as a result of close cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Development Programme, may serve as a model for collaboration on anti-corruption issues among United Nations entities,

*Recognizing* the important role of regional and international partnerships and the relevance of peer-to-peer learning among small island developing States,

1. *Welcomes* the accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>2</sup> by Belize in December 2016 and Niue in October 2017, and urges small island developing States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;
2. *Calls upon* States parties that are small island developing States to enhance their active participation in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to make every effort to implement the recommendations arising from the reviews;
3. *Urges* States parties and interested donors, including development partners, to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement the Convention, including those aspects that will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16;
4. *Encourages* States parties and interested donors, including development partners, upon request, and with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue supporting the implementation of anti-corruption reforms in small island developing States through the provision of technical assistance at the bilateral, regional and international levels, including by addressing technical assistance needs identified through the Implementation Review Mechanism;
5. *Encourages* States parties and interested donors with relevant expertise applicable to the contexts of small island developing States to share their best practices with small island developing States, upon request, through existing and future bilateral, regional and international cooperation mechanisms;
6. *Encourages* small island developing States to further share with each other information, research and best practices specific to small island developing States on the implementation of the Convention;
7. *Also encourages* small island developing States to continue efforts aimed at building integrity and preventing and eliminating corruption in the public and private sectors, and invites other States parties and interested donors to support small island

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<sup>23</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

developing States at their request in this regard, including with the assistance of other development partners and relevant United Nations agencies, within their existing mandates;

8. *Urges* small island developing States to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks as part of their steps to enhance good governance in the area of land and ocean resources management, with the aim of building resilience to the impacts of climate change in small island developing States, with the support of the international community and relevant United Nations bodies;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit to the Conference of the States Parties a report on the progress made and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Encourages* small island developing States to consider the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretariat on the status of implementation of Conference resolution 6/9;<sup>1</sup>

11. *Recognizes* the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of Conference resolution 6/9, and urges States parties to continue supporting technical assistance efforts focused on the needs of small island developing States, including assistance with ratification of or accession to the Convention, as well as meeting the legislative and other technical requirements to effectively implement the Convention, upon request, and with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

12. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

## **Resolution 7/8**

### **Corruption in sport**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

*Recognizing* the important role played by the United Nations Convention against Corruption<sup>24</sup> in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against corruption in all its forms,

*Noting* that sport plays a key role in the cultural, educational, social and economic spheres,

*Concerned* that corruption can undermine the potential of sport and its role in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>25</sup>

*Noting with great concern* the risk that corruption and economic crime, including money-laundering, pose to sport,

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<sup>24</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>25</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

*Recognizing* that corruption in sport undermines the fundamental principles of Olympism, as reflected in the Olympic Charter,

*Affirming* the invaluable contribution of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, acknowledging the opportunities provided by past Olympic and Paralympic Games, welcoming with appreciation all upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, and calling upon States parties that will host such Games and other major sporting events in the future, as well as other States parties, to enhance measures to address the risks of corruption related to such events,

*Acknowledging* the important role played by States parties, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the fight against corruption in sport,

*Noting* that, while the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption is the responsibility of States parties, the promotion of integrity, transparency and accountability and the prevention of corruption in sport are responsibilities to be shared by all relevant stakeholders,

*Highlighting* in this context the contributions of sport-related organizations and the role of the athletes, the media, civil society, academia and other private sector entities in the fight against corruption in sport, and also highlighting the key role of public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder approaches in this regard,

*Referring* to the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime signed in May 2011, which provides a framework for cooperation between these organizations in the fields of preventing and fighting corruption in sport, and taking note of their joint publication entitled *Model Criminal Law Provisions for the Prosecution of Competition Manipulation*,

*Recognizing* the crucial role of the United Nations in combating and preventing corruption in sport and promoting integrity in sport,

*Also recognizing* the contributions that other intergovernmental organizations and forums<sup>26</sup> make in the fight against corruption in sport and the promotion of integrity in sport,

*Concerned* that the challenge posed by corruption could in some cases undermine the potential of sports to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women,

*Recalling* its resolution 6/6 of 6 November 2015, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, in which it recognized the importance of protecting integrity in sport by promoting good governance in sport and mitigating the risk of corruption that sport faces globally, requested the Secretariat to continue, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, partners and donors, to develop studies, training materials, guides and tools for

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<sup>26</sup> Such as the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. See, inter alia, the Group of 20 Leaders’ Declaration of 8 July 2017.

Governments and sports organizations to enable them to further strengthen measures in that area, and acknowledged the work that had already been done by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in that regard,

*Recalling also* the Kazan Action Plan, adopted on 15 July 2017 by the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in particular its main policy area III of the Conference of Ministers Sport Policy Follow-up Framework, on protecting the integrity of sport,

*Recalling further* its resolution 5/4 of 29 November 2013, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, in which it strongly encouraged States parties to mitigate the global risk of corruption in the organization of large-scale sporting events and welcomed the initiative to establish a global alliance for integrity in sports,

*Recognizing* the existence of multi-stakeholder partnerships to combat and prevent corruption in sport, and noting the contributions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to those partnerships,

*Taking note* of the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, in particular its substantive discussions on anti-corruption in sport and the conclusions and recommendations adopted at its meeting held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016,<sup>27</sup> and taking note also of the related guidance material developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, namely the *Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons*, the *Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Investigation of Match-Fixing* and *The United Nations Convention against Corruption: A Strategy for Safeguarding against Corruption in Major Public Events*,

1. *Affirms* the relevance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption to promoting integrity, transparency and accountability and preventing corruption, also in sport;
2. *Calls upon* States parties to enhance their efforts to prevent and fight corruption in sport, and in this regard stresses the importance of robust legislative and law enforcement measures, and also calls upon States parties to improve cooperation, coordination and exchange of information in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems;
3. *Also calls upon* States parties to strengthen and further coordinate efforts, in accordance with their legal systems, to effectively mitigate the risks of corruption in sport, including through multi-stakeholder global and national partnerships;
4. *Recognizes* the importance for States parties, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to take appropriate measures within their means, and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of corruption and to raise public

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<sup>27</sup> See [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2016/5](#).

awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of the challenge posed by corruption to sport;

5. *Encourages* States parties, bearing in mind in particular articles 8, 32 and 33 of the Convention and in conformity with national legislation and in the context of sport, to consider establishing and developing, where appropriate, confidential complaint systems, whistle-blower protection programmes, including protected reporting systems, and effective witness protection measures, and to increase awareness of such measures;

6. *Also encourages* States parties, in accordance with their national legislation, to address the challenge that corruption in sport could in some cases pose to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

7. *Urges* States parties to encourage all relevant stakeholders, in particular the organizers of major sporting events, to bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Convention when organizing major public events and to use such events to promote and support efforts to address related corruption risks;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *The United Nations Convention against Corruption: A Strategy for Safeguarding against Corruption in Major Public Events*, and invites organizers of major sporting events to make use of that publication, as well as of its support tool;

9. *Invites* States parties, in accordance with their national legislation, to encourage relevant stakeholders related to sport to promote ethical practices and transparency, ensure that necessary resources and specialized staff are in place, develop internal controls, design targeted training programmes, implement internal mechanisms for reporting acts of corruption and cooperate with official investigations;

10. *Also invites* States parties, when reviewing their national legislation, to consider the problems and issues of illegal betting, competition manipulation and other offences related to sport when associated with corruption, and in that regard takes note with appreciation of the joint publication by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Olympic Committee of the booklet and study entitled *Model Criminal Law Provisions for the Prosecution of Competition Manipulation*;

11. *Further invites* States parties to provide information to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the issues contained in this resolution, in the interests of identifying appropriate technical assistance needs and, together with the Office, to consider the possibility of whether and how the Office can assist in collecting appropriate information on institutional policy and programme-related developments regarding efforts to prevent and fight corruption in sport and what the result of such activities could be;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat, within its mandate, to continue, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, partners and donors and in close consultation with States parties, to develop studies, training materials, guides and tools for Governments and sports organizations, and to disseminate information and good practices to further strengthen measures against corruption in sport;

13. *Invites* sports organizations to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;
14. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes identified in the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

## **B. Decisions**

2. At its seventh session, the Conference adopted the following decision:

### **Decision 7/1**

#### **Work of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference**

*The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,*

- (a) Recalls its resolution 6/1 of 6 November 2015, in which it requested the Implementation Review Group to consider adopting a multi-year workplan to continue its analytical work during the period 2016–2019, requested the Secretariat to structure the provisional agendas of the Implementation Review Group and of other subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions, while respecting their mandates, and requested the Implementation Review Group to submit, to the Conference for its consideration and approval at its seventh session, a set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;<sup>28</sup>
- (b) Takes note of the set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention,<sup>29</sup> as reviewed by the Implementation Review Group at its resumed eighth session;
- (c) Endorses the multi-year workplan adopted by the Implementation Review Group at its resumed seventh session<sup>30</sup> and the schedule of meetings approved by the extended Bureau at its meeting on 27 August 2017;
- (d) Invites States parties represented at the meetings of the Implementation Review Group to share their impressions on the implementation of the workplan and on any impact of the workplan on the attendance of experts, and requests the Secretariat to report on those contributions to the Conference at its eighth session.

## **II. Introduction**

3. In its resolution 58/4, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Convention entered into force on 14 December

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<sup>28</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>29</sup> [CAC/COSP/2017/5](#).

<sup>30</sup> [CAC/COSP/IRG/2016/9/Add.1](#), annex I.

2005. In article 63, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was established, 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.

### **III. Organization of the session**

#### **A. Opening of the session**

4. The Conference held its seventh session in Vienna, from 6 to 10 November 2017. The Conference had resources at its disposal to provide for 10 meetings with interpretation into the official languages of the United Nations.

5. The outgoing President of the Conference commended the important work undertaken since the sixth session of the Conference. He stated that nearly all the country reviews under the first cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption had been completed, and he highlighted the progress made under the second cycle. He made reference to the impact of the Implementation Review Mechanism, which had led countries to improve domestic legislation, provide better protection for whistle-blowers and witnesses and create a more reliable legal basis for international cooperation in criminal matters. Conference resolution 6/5, entitled “St. Petersburg statement on promoting public-private partnership in the prevention of and fight against corruption”, had also led to improved cooperation with the private sector the Siemens Integrity Initiative had initiated new activities with the private sector, a code of conduct for small and medium-sized enterprises had been developed and a recent expert group meeting had explored improvements in beneficial ownership transparency. He stressed that the fight against corruption, as reflected in the St. Petersburg statement, required the active cooperation of all States parties.

6. The President of the Conference at its seventh session highlighted the importance of transparency and integrity of public administration for the credibility and legitimacy of the State, public ethics, justice and development. Political commitment of all States was needed to strengthen cooperation in preventive measures, simplify the proceedings for tracing, freezing, confiscating and recovering assets and eliminate safe havens and banking secrecy. She commended the Implementation Review Mechanism for being a useful tool for thoroughly analysing achievements, challenges and good practices in the implementation of the Convention. The President considered the Conference especially important with regard to asset recovery, because divided views still existed on many aspects of that important area, and more efficient coordination for day-to-day work on asset recovery was needed. Information-sharing on the location of alleged proceeds of corruption had to be improved, so that requesting States could initiate asset recovery action. Furthermore, practitioners needed to be made more familiar with the requirements of asset recovery in other jurisdictions. Civil society also had an important role to play in the fight against corruption.

7. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) delivered a message to the Conference from the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General stressed the ubiquitous nature of corruption and its negative impact

on human lives and societies. He highlighted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could only be implemented with strong institutions based on the rule of law and supported by the public. He considered that the steps taken to combat high-level corruption in many countries were encouraging and he offered the ongoing support of the United Nations to States in their efforts to build a culture of integrity and the rule of law. He called for the active engagement of business and financial communities, civil society and young people, as well as government, corporate, religious and cultural leaders.

8. The Executive Director of UNODC, in his own remarks, made reference to the second edition of the publication *State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption*, which reflected the implementation of the Convention based on the information generated during the first review cycle, demonstrating the implementation efforts, good practices and challenges identified. In the context of the Implementation Review Mechanism, a great majority of States had undertaken steps for legislative reform, noted the overall positive impact of the Mechanism on national anti-corruption efforts and reported an increase in their exchanges in matters of extradition and mutual legal assistance, using the Convention as a legal basis. The private sector and civil society were increasingly taking part in the country reviews. He highlighted that the insights generated by country reviews could also help guide technical assistance delivery and monitor progress towards achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 16. The achievement of Goal 16 was also supported by the joint UNODC-World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (STAR) Initiative. The Executive Director mentioned a number of initiatives undertaken by UNODC to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, including the development of a guide on strategies for corruption risk mitigation, the establishment of the Global Judicial Integrity Network as part of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration and the publication of a handbook on anti-corruption measures in prison, as well as initiatives on Education for Justice, and to prevent and counter corruption and combating wildlife crime, corruption in sports and corruption helping to fuel violent extremism.

9. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, underlined the role of the Conference and recalled the 2030 Agenda, as well as the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in April 2015. He welcomed the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, stressed the importance of preventive measures and welcomed action taken by States in the areas of awareness-raising, education and initiatives aimed at mobilizing young people. He expressed regret over the continued existence of barriers to asset recovery, such as lack of political will, unnecessary delays, procedural complexities, bureaucratic hurdles and legal barriers in requested States, as well as the high cost of asset recovery. He urged all States parties to facilitate the expeditious return of stolen assets, including those assets that had not been accounted for and that were found in safe havens, and requested the Secretariat to provide technical assistance in that regard. He considered the use of civil and administrative proceedings an effective tool for asset recovery and highlighted the need for regular follow-up to the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference. He noted with

satisfaction the functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism and highlighted the need to provide technical assistance, upon request, to meet the needs identified in the reviews. He emphasized that the Implementation Review Mechanism required sustainable and predictable funding from the regular budget of the United Nations, in accordance with its terms of reference. He called upon all States parties to avoid unilateral actions and sanctions that might weaken the international cooperation framework and States parties' capabilities to fight corruption.

10. The representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, stated that the region had given priority to the fight against corruption. That had been demonstrated by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, in particular through the specialized high-level meetings on prevention and the fight against corruption, and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. He called for the generation of synergies between the Convention, the regional anti-corruption instruments and other relevant international forums. He reiterated the commitment of the Group to the Implementation Review Mechanism and its spirit of cooperation and trust, which had established a genuine community of anti-corruption experts. He called on States to open a channel through which they could report on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations made in the first cycle, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Mechanism, and highlighted capacity-building and the coordination of technical assistance at the regional and global levels, as well as South-South cooperation. With regard to prevention, he highlighted, inter alia, the participation of the private sector, academia and civil society, access to information, awareness-raising and education and the strengthening of political will to achieve swift and unconditional asset recovery and return. Among the important requirements mentioned for successful asset recovery were civil and administrative proceedings, a better mutual understanding of the legislation and proceedings on asset recovery, early freezing measures and relevant networks. He recognized the work undertaken by UNODC, including through the StAR Initiative, in that regard. He highlighted that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States continued to be fully committed to the work carried out under the Convention and considered that UNODC had an important role in supporting States parties in achieving the reduction of corruption and in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He further highlighted the importance of the participation of civil society in the fight against corruption, in accordance with article 63 of the Convention.

11. The representative of Angola, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, reaffirmed the commitment of the African States to combating corruption and illicit financial flows. She expected tangible results to be achieved from the Implementation Review Mechanism, especially its second review cycle, and highlighted the need for technical assistance in that regard. The representative noted the detrimental effect that the lack of financial resources had had on assisting developing countries in undertaking the review and called upon donors to make available greater unearmarked extrabudgetary contributions. She reiterated the importance of developing effective policies and practices to prevent corruption and emphasized the issue of asset recovery, in particular the repatriation of stolen assets to the countries of origin. She noted with appreciation relevant international meetings and initiatives on asset recovery, while at the same time highlighting challenges in the recovery of stolen assets, such as differences in legal systems, multi-jurisdictional complexity, lack of political will and cooperation, and cumbersome procedures. She urged all States

parties to eliminate safe havens and lift bank secrecy to facilitate asset return, and she stressed the need for strengthened international cooperation in realizing the objectives of the Convention.

12. The representative of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States, emphasized the importance of preventing and combating corruption and reaffirmed the Group's collective efforts in that regard in order to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16. He acknowledged the universality of the Convention against Corruption and welcomed with satisfaction the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism. He stated that challenges remained for the Mechanism because of a lack of resources and he called on States to provide the necessary funding. The representative underlined the importance of preventing corruption and recognized the positive impact of the Marrakech declaration<sup>31</sup> and its follow-up resolutions<sup>32</sup>. He acknowledged the significance of asset recovery and stressed the need for enhanced international cooperation. He also underscored the importance of technical assistance and requested the continued provision of capacity-building. Lastly, he stressed the importance of international cooperation, in particular the use of civil and administrative proceedings, and encouraged States parties and UNODC to step up efforts to address corruption-related challenges.

13. The representative of the European Union noted the threats posed by corruption to democracy, security and social development, and he highlighted the importance that combating corruption had on the agenda of the European Union. He reported on the measures taken by the European Union to tackle corruption, as well as on its cooperation projects and its forthcoming financial contribution to the Implementation Review Mechanism. He shared the experience of the European Union in witness protection, beneficial ownership identification, mutual recognition of freezing orders, non-conviction-based confiscation, public procurement, trade and investment policies and information-sharing. He stated that the Implementation Review Mechanism should be transparent, efficient, inclusive and cost-efficient and create further synergies with other anti-corruption review mechanisms. He also highlighted the importance of civil society organizations in promoting the objectives of the Convention and encouraged their participation and involvement in the second review cycle. The representative reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to promoting international cooperation and building global partnerships with UNODC and other stakeholders.

## **B. Election of officers**

14. At its 1st meeting, on 6 November 2017, the Conference elected by acclamation Thelma Esperanza Aldana Hernández de López (Guatemala) as President of the Conference.

15. At the same meeting, the following three Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur were elected by acclamation:

*Vice-Presidents:* Vivian N.R. Okeke (Nigeria)

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<sup>31</sup> Conference of the States Parties resolution 4/3.

<sup>32</sup> Conference of the States Parties resolutions 5/4 and 6/6.

Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain)  
Abu Zafar (Bangladesh)

*Rapporteur:* Anna Popova (Bulgaria)

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

16. Also at its 1st meeting, the Conference adopted the following agenda for its seventh session:

1. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Opening of the seventh 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.
3. Technical assistance.
4. Prevention.
5. Asset recovery.
6. International cooperation.
7. Other matters:
  - (a) Implementation of article 63, paragraphs 4 (c) and (d), concerning cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations; as well as appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for combating and preventing corruption, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work;
  - (b) Status of ratification of and notification requirements under the Convention.
8. Provisional agenda for the eighth session.
9. Adoption of the report.

### **D. Attendance**

17. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the seventh session of the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia,

Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

18. The Syrian Arab Republic, a State signatory to the Convention, was represented by an observer.

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

20. The following Secretariat units, United Nations entities, funds and programmes, institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented by observers: Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, UNDP, United Nations Global Compact, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Basel Institute on Governance, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

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

22. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Council of Europe (Group of States against Corruption), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Public Law Organization, International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, International Organization for Migration, League of Arab States, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies and World Customs Organization.

23. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented by observers: Africa Culture

International, African Youth Movement, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Center for International Human Rights, Centre d'observation et de promotion de l'état de droit, Environmental Investigation Agency, Geopolitikai Tanács Közhasznú Alapítvány, Global Financial Integrity, Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption, HEDA Resource Centre, International Council of Women, Organização das Famílias da Ásia e do Pacífico, Parliamentarians for Global Action, Socialist International Women, Transparency International, United Cities and Local Governments, World Wide Fund for Nature International and Zonta International.

24. In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the Secretariat circulated a list of relevant non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that had applied for observer status. Invitations were subsequently sent by the Secretariat to relevant non-governmental organizations. The following other relevant non-governmental organizations were represented by observers at the seventh session of the Conference: African Institute of Corporate Citizenship; Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; Anti-Corruption Front; Anti-Corruption Organization, Cameroon; Association de lutte contre le racisme, l'ethnocentrisme et le régionalisme; Bahrain Transparency Society; British School of Outdoor Education; Centre d'étude et de recherches en sciences sociales; Centre de recherche et d'action pour la paix; Centre for Sustained Dialogue Nigeria; Centre for Youth Initiative on Self-Education; Civil Forum for Asset Recovery; Climate and Environmental Development Initiatives, Nigeria; Coalition contre la corruption en Mauritanie; Coalition for Integrity and Accountability (AMAN); Coalition of the Civil Society Friends of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (also known as the UNCAC Coalition); Committee for Democracy and Rights of the People; Cooperacion y Desarrollo, Equatorial Guinea; Development Animation Programme; EARTH (Empathetic Activism Related to Humanity), India; Environment for Life; Forum du Justiciable; Friends of the Uth for Service, Empowerment and Development; Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime; Global Network for Good Governance; Independent Service Delivery Monitoring Group; Iniciativa para Democracia e Cidadania; Institute of Regional and Political-economical Problems; Instituto de Directores de Moçambique; Integrity Nigeria; Integritätsmonitoring Anti-Korruptions-Initiative für Nigeria; International Academy of Organizational Behaviour Management; International Agency for Crime Prevention, Criminal Law and Jurisdiction; International Forum on Crime and Criminal Law in the Global Era of the China Behaviour Law Association; Interregional Public Organization for Promoting the Improvement of Public Administration and Anti-Corruption Policy "Sodejstvie"; Libyan Transparency Association; Local Community Development Association; Mouvement pour la lutte contre l'injustice; National Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development; Observatoire de lutte contre la corruption et les malversations économiques; Pan African Lawyers Union; Programme d'appui aux actions rurales de développement industriel et commercial; Royal Integrity and Accountability Organization; Réseau national de lutte anti-corruption; Sajha Foundation; Sanctity Transparency and Peace Initiative; Society for Human Rights and Prisoners' Aid; Socio-Legal Aid Research and Training Centre; Solidarity Development Organization, Cameroon; United for the Protection of Human Rights, Women and Children Affairs, Sierra Leone; United Youth for Growth and Development; Welfare Association for the Development of Afghanistan; Wildlife Justice Commission; and Women Protection Organization.

25. The Conference on the recommendation of its Bureau decided at its 5th meeting to fully apply rule 17 paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference when extending invitations to other relevant non-governmental organizations.

### **E. Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials**

26. Rule 19 of the rules of procedure provides that the Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials of representatives 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.

27. The Bureau informed the Conference that, of the 158 States parties represented at the seventh session, 156 States were in compliance with the credentials requirements. Two States parties, namely, Colombia and Mauritania, were not in compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure. The Bureau emphasized that it was the obligation of each State party to submit the credentials of representatives, in accordance with rule 18, and called on those States parties that had not yet done so to provide the Secretariat with original credentials as soon as possible but not later than 17 November 2017.

28. The Bureau reported to the Conference that it had examined the written communications received and found them to be in order.

29. The Conference adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials at its tenth meeting, on 9 November 2017.

### **F. Documentation**

30. At its seventh session, the Conference had before it documents prepared by the Secretariat. A list of documents and conference room papers is contained in annex II to the present report.

### **G. General discussion**

31. At the 1st to 7th meetings, on 6 and 8 November 2017, the Conference of the States Parties considered agenda item 1 (f), entitled "General discussion". The President of the Conference and Mr. Zafar, in his capacity as Vice-President of the Conference, co-chaired the discussion.

32. Speakers stressed the transnational nature of corruption and its devastating effects on political, economic and social development, as well as on democratic governance, the rule of law, human rights, equality (including gender equality) and security. Speakers noted that corruption impeded sustainable development, drained necessary resources from public services, increased political instability, undermined democratic institutions, contributed to conflict, facilitated environmental damage and impeded the ability of States to deliver public services and to address climate change and poverty. Speakers emphasized the linkages between corruption and organized crime, terrorism and other serious criminal activity.

33. Speakers welcomed the States parties that had recently ratified or acceded to the Convention, emphasizing that the Convention remained the comprehensive global legal framework for the prevention and fight against corruption. They considered the Conference and its subsidiary bodies as important forums for exchanging experiences and good practices, strengthening their shared commitment and reaching consensual decisions for the future. Several speakers referred to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal 16, which provided a welcome impetus in the fight against corruption by linking anti-corruption efforts with the broader, cross-cutting objectives of sustainable development.

34. Speakers also referred to a number of other international and regional documents, bodies and forums. The Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, was identified as an important milestone for strengthening the rule of law, justice and equality, as well as for countering corruption. Speakers referred to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption as regional instruments to prevent and combat corruption. General Assembly resolution 71/208, entitled “Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, was also highlighted. The Anti-Corruption Network of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Group of States against Corruption, the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), and the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network were also noted, as were the efforts of the Group of Twenty (G-20) Anti-Corruption Working Group in fighting corruption and the commitment of the G-20 to lead by example in enhancing the transparency and inclusivity of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

35. A number of speakers reported on positive outcomes from undergoing and participating in country reviews. Some speakers reported on the establishment of bodies or committees to further the implementation of the Convention as part of the follow-up to the review process, including in some cases the participation of civil society and the strengthening of existing institutions such as anti-corruption agencies, supreme audit institutions and the office of the ombudsman. Speakers called for measures to ensure stable, reliable sources of funding for the operation of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

36. Many speakers reported on the positive reforms that their countries had implemented as a result of recommendations emerging from the first review cycle, including the adoption or amendment of relevant criminal legislation, efforts to strengthen the rule of law, the establishment of specialized anti-corruption courts, the strengthening of witness and whistle-blower protection programmes and the adoption of measures to facilitate access to justice and increase transparency in the criminal justice sector. States noted the adoption of enhanced penalties for corruption crimes, including increased sentences of incarceration and the lengthening of statutes of limitations and the disqualification of offenders from holding future public office. One speaker referred to the inclusion of specific anti-corruption clauses in the awarding and implementation of public contracts. Another speaker reported measures

to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to gather relevant statistics and produce reports on the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures.

37. Many speakers welcomed the launch of the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism and reported activities and proactive measures to support the self-assessment process in advance of the review, including efforts to identify challenges and gaps. Some speakers referred to specific measures taken prior to the second cycle to prevent and detect money-laundering and financing of terrorism, increase transparency of beneficial ownership and strengthen regulation of financial institutions and the elimination of tax havens and facilitation payments. Speakers emphasized that the Mechanism was a useful, transparent process that was both inclusive and impartial.

38. Speakers described the work of national bodies, committees and specialized agencies to develop, launch and implement national policies and strategies aimed at strengthening integrity and countering corruption. Speakers stressed that in many cases such policies and strategies were grounded in national sustainable development strategies and national visions adopted in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Speakers described the inclusion in such strategies of recommendations from the first review cycle as well as priorities and challenges identified through national consultation processes involving stakeholders from the public and private sectors and civil society.

39. Many speakers highlighted that their Governments required technical assistance in order to be able to effectively implement the Convention. Country-led, integrated and coordinated approaches to technical assistance, based on the sharing of information and international good practices, were also welcomed. Many speakers noted with appreciation the tools developed and the assistance provided by UNODC, the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the joint UNODC-UNDP United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project and called upon UNODC to continue to support such efforts. Speakers highlighted the need for technical assistance in relation to legislative reform, capacity-building, conducting financial investigations, establishing and strengthening systems on declarations of assets and interests, asset recovery and the management of seized assets. Speakers also underlined the importance of technical assistance to support the implementation of the Convention in small island developing States.

40. Speakers concurred that all sectors of society had to work together for the fight against corruption to be successful. A number of speakers commended the participation of non-governmental organizations in preventing and combating corruption. Several speakers acknowledged the importance of involving different elements of societies and highlighted the role of youth, academia, parliamentarians, religious groups and the media in preventing and raising awareness of corruption. In that context, several speakers reported on legislative reforms to facilitate the participation of civil society in the fight against corruption.

41. Some speakers noted the collaboration of their Governments with the private sector, including in the form of public-private partnerships, while others specifically referred to the need to protect entrepreneurs from extortion, fraud and corruption. Speakers underlined the important role of the private sector in the prevention of corruption and described measures that States had taken in that regard, including through the development and distribution of guides for private sector companies

operating at the national and international levels to promote and strengthen corporate responsibility. Speakers also reported on measures to strengthen fair competition and increase transparency in public procurement processes. The need to fight corruption in the defence industry, the health sector and in sport was also stressed.

42. A number of speakers referred to the measures undertaken in their countries to prevent corruption, including adopting and implementing comprehensive national anti-corruption strategies and plans, and the establishment and strengthening of anti-corruption bodies. The development of codes of conduct and integrity, including at the national and institutional levels, was also reported, as was the adoption of leadership codes. Speakers described the establishment of the posts of ethics and integrity officers in the public sector. The responsibilities of such officers could include applying ethics compliance tools or overseeing a gift registry. Speakers noted the role of accountability mechanisms in ensuring that such codes and standards were followed, particularly in criminal justice institutions such as the police, the prosecution and the judiciary. In that regard, reference was made to the efforts of UNODC to establish the Global Judicial Integrity Network.

43. Some speakers noted measures taken to implement asset-disclosure systems, prevent corruption and conflicts of interest in public procurement and increase transparency and accountability in the management of public finances. The training of officials through specialized institutions and courses was also underlined as a key activity to enhance prevention efforts. In addition, education at all levels on corruption and ethics was highlighted by several speakers as critical to instilling the values of integrity, honesty and accountability in children and youth, with a view to supporting the building of a culture of lawfulness and the prevention of corruption. Speakers highlighted efforts by UNODC to develop and introduce anti-corruption curricula at the university level.

44. Speakers noted the importance of establishing mechanisms, in particular hotlines and online portals, for reporting instances of corruption. Measures and campaigns to increase public awareness of the negative impacts of corruption on society were described, and the importance of holding offenders accountable was emphasized. One speaker noted the establishment of a platform to facilitate dialogue between government institutions and the general public on preventing and countering corruption. Another speaker referred to the right of corruption victims to lodge civil reparation claims as a part of criminal proceedings. Speakers also referred to mechanisms for reporting corruption by public officials or by those working in the financial service and banking sectors. Several speakers described mechanisms for ensuring the protection of whistle-blowers and reporting persons.

45. Several speakers called for the development and implementation of comprehensive corruption risk assessments for public and private sector institutions. Some speakers emphasized the need to identify methodologies and analytical tools for the measurement of both corruption and the progress made in addressing it. Other speakers reported sector-specific approaches to the identification and management of risks of corruption. One speaker called for the development and adoption of objective, international transparency indicators that were not based on public perceptions but on analytical data and evidence.

46. Speakers highlighted the importance of involving local governmental institutions in the prevention of corruption, and some speakers described the

development of toolkits for use by national and local government bodies to complement anti-corruption efforts taking place at the national level. Some speakers noted the important roles of coordination and cooperation among stakeholders in establishing common and effective approaches to the prevention of corruption, including through the convening of public councils to share views and insights between the general public and government institutions. One speaker noted the creation of an alliance for transparency, comprising representatives from the public sector and civil society. Speakers described measures to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of public service delivery through public administration reform, open government initiatives, e-government, access to public information and one-stop shops easily accessible to the public.

47. Ending impunity was considered to be one of the most important aims of the fight against corruption. Some speakers reported on the establishment of specialized anti-corruption investigation authorities, including financial investigation units, auditor offices and general inspectorates, as well as anti-corruption courts and adjudicative bodies. One speaker referred to the establishment of special courts to resolve disputes involving foreign investment groups. Speakers noted the need to strengthen the capacity of investigative and law enforcement bodies, as well as public prosecution, in order to better investigate and prosecute corruption cases, and noted also the importance of ensuring the integrity and independence of the judiciary. Some speakers noted the role of specialized anti-corruption bodies with jurisdiction to conduct corruption investigations. One speaker described a national law that subjected serious corruption crimes to universal jurisdiction. Another speaker stressed the need to tackle large-scale corruption, which permeated the highest level of decision-making. Another speaker stressed that successful international cooperation on asset recovery would only be possible if requested countries made genuine efforts to understand the challenges faced by requesting countries with a view to assisting them and most importantly maintained open channels of effective communication.

48. Some speakers shared experiences of successful asset recovery and extradition cases, as well as challenges in the identification, seizure and return of stolen assets. The assistance provided in specific cases through the StAR Initiative and by INTERPOL was noted. Speakers noted the lengthy and burdensome extradition process, and called upon States to assist in facilitating and simplifying mutual legal assistance and extradition, including by using as a legal basis the provisions of chapter IV of the Convention. One speaker called for the adoption of a model agreement on mutual legal assistance to facilitate asset recovery. Another speaker called for the development of an international instrument on asset recovery and possibly mutual legal assistance and noted that that the development of an international instrument on asset recovery would be useful. Other speakers emphasized that the United Nations Convention against Corruption provided an effective global framework for mutual legal assistance, extradition and asset recovery cooperation and that the creation of new legal instruments was unnecessary. Other speakers reported on measures to facilitate and strengthen the confiscation, forfeiture and return of proceeds of crime and corruption. Speakers underlined the importance of the identification and interdiction of illicit financial flows across international borders, and one speaker called for the establishment of an international mechanism to facilitate the sharing and reporting of information in that regard. Some speakers also emphasized that in the fight against corruption no place should be out of bounds, no ground left unturned and no tolerance be given to corruption.

49. Many speakers referred to the importance of sharing experiences, information and good practices, including through regional organizations, initiatives and networks and of multi-stakeholder approaches. Regional bodies or forums were identified as playing an important role in building consensus and fostering strong political will in the fight against corruption. One speaker noted the upcoming Summit of the Americas, to be held in Lima in April 2018, and would have as its central theme the eradication of corruption. One speaker highlighted the exchange of information and criminal intelligence through the Association of Pacific Island Financial Intelligence Units. Speakers also noted the importance of bilateral and regional agreements and memorandums of understanding to facilitate transnational criminal investigations and the sharing of good practices. Numerous speakers highlighted the need to promote cooperation and the sharing of experiences or knowledge at the bilateral and international levels.

50. A representative of the Sovereign Order of Malta emphasized that the implementation of the Convention was a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals that addressed organized crime and combating terrorism. A representative of the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora underlined that corruption facilitated wildlife crime and trafficking and also underlined the importance of joint and concerted efforts to prevent and fight such corruption. The representative of UNDP emphasized the partnership of UNDP and UNODC to assist States parties in the implementation of the Convention and described national and regional anti-corruption initiatives. A representative of IACA described the work of the Academy and its ongoing activities and programmes. The representative of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance stressed that corruption undermined democratic political processes and institutions and emphasized the need to increase transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties. A representative of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption discussed how partnerships between parliamentarians and other stakeholders could support the fight against corruption. A representative of Transparency International described the important role that civil society played in the prevention of and fight against corruption. The Chair of the UNCAC Coalition underlined the importance of civil society participation in anti-corruption meetings and initiatives at both the national and international levels. The representative of the World Customs Organization (WCO) described the Organization's activities, instruments and tools to promote integrity and accountability in the customs sector. A representative from the Libyan Transparency Association described activities at the national level to promote integrity, transparency and accountability and to counter corruption.

#### **IV. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and technical assistance**

51. At its 10th meeting, on 9 November 2017, the Conference considered agenda item 2, entitled "Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption", and agenda item 3, entitled "Technical assistance".

52. The President of the Conference chaired the discussion. In her introductory remarks, she recalled Conference resolution 3/1, which marked the historic adoption of the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism, and resolution 4/1, in which the

Conference had endorsed the work of the Implementation Review Group. She reiterated that one of the purposes of the Mechanism was to help States parties to identify and substantiate specific technical assistance needs and to promote and facilitate the provision of such assistance. She recalled decision 5/1, in which the Conference had tasked the Group with collecting and discussing relevant information on the assessment of the performance of the Mechanism, following the completion of the first review cycle. She also referred to resolution 6/1, in which the Conference had launched the second cycle of the Mechanism, had encouraged States parties to continue sharing information on good practices, experiences and relevant measures taken after the completion of their country reviews, including information on technical assistance and had requested the Group to analyse that information and to submit to the Conference, for consideration and approval at its seventh session, a set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned from the country reviews of the first review cycle. She also referred to the schedule of meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference for the period 2018–2019 ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2017/CRP.2](#)).

53. A representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the outcome of the resumed eighth session of the Implementation Review Group, as well as the progress made in the conduct of the first and second cycle reviews. The representative also provided an overview of the key thematic findings on implementation emerging from the first review cycle, as presented in the note by the Secretariat containing a set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention during the first review cycle ([CAC/COSP/2017/5](#)), which had been discussed during the Group's resumed eighth session.

54. To facilitate the deliberations on the thematic outcomes of the first review cycle, a representative of the Secretariat presented the second edition of the study entitled *State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Criminalization, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation*, which had been launched during the current session. The representative noted that the study was the result of extensive work to analyse and synthesize the outcomes of the first cycle reviews of States parties and that, while the first edition of the study had covered the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention by 68 States parties, the second edition covered the implementation of those chapters by 156 States parties. Speakers noted that the study provided a wealth of important and useful information on successes, challenges, good practices and trends identified in the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention based on the outcomes of the first review cycle, as well as an overview of the continuously improving quality of country review reports. The study thus served as an important reference document and tool in furthering States' efforts to implement the Convention. One speaker reported on how the individual recommendations and good practices had been addressed in detail in his country's domestic legal and institutional framework. Another speaker welcomed the development of a similar analysis for the outcomes of the second review cycle.

55. A representative of the Secretariat, in introducing the document entitled "Analysis of good practices, experiences and relevant measures taken by States parties after completion of the country reviews during the first cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption" ([CAC/COSP/2017/12](#)), noted that the document provided an overview of progress made

in the first cycle reviews and included information relating to 95 States parties that had finalized their first cycle reviews.

56. During the ensuing discussion, speakers shared experiences, challenges and good practices in the country reviews of the first review cycle, as well as measures taken to address the outcomes and conclusions emerging from the reviews and in preparation for the second cycle. Some speakers referred to the development and strengthening of national laws to prevent and counter corruption in areas such as asset confiscation and the liability of legal persons; other speakers reported on the creation or strengthening of oversight bodies and mechanisms to enhance inter-agency cooperation. Some speakers emphasized the important role of civil society and the private sector in efforts to combat corruption and their participation in the country review process. Speakers underscored their continued appreciation for the impact of the Implementation Review Mechanism and the exchange of experiences among States parties in the context of the reviews. Speakers also underscored the importance of adherence to the terms of reference and the guiding principles of the Mechanism. One speaker highlighted the innovative use of information technology and data in the course of his country's review and in monitoring the implementation of review recommendations by relevant government agencies according to agreed deadlines.

57. Speakers also addressed prominent issues pertaining to the operation of the Implementation Review Mechanism, such as challenges in completing the self-assessment checklist, the capacity of governmental experts and delays encountered during the reviews, which had direct implications for resources. A representative of the Secretariat reminded States parties to make efforts to adhere to the timelines set forth in the terms of reference, in particular for the second review cycle. Speakers expressed their commitment to addressing the outcomes and conclusions of the Mechanism, despite the difficulties encountered, and to contributing to discussions that would further improve its effectiveness and efficiency. Some speakers offered concrete suggestions in that regard, such as focusing review reports on essential facts. Some speakers urged States parties to disclose their full country review reports, in order to maximize the potential of country reviews; that would ensure the provision of technical assistance responsive to the needs identified during the reviews while avoiding duplication of efforts in assistance delivery.

58. With regard to the second cycle reviews, a representative of the Secretariat noted that, because of the limited number of completed reviews, it was too early to come to any clear conclusions on thematic findings or to identify regional trends. Those States parties which had been reviewed so far had received recommendations to strengthen their systems for the recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion and retirement of public officials pursuant to article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention. With regard to asset recovery, States parties were encouraged to address gaps relating to politically exposed persons pursuant to article 52 of the Convention. Many of the good practices identified so far pertained to different aspects of preventing corruption in the public sector (article 7).

59. A representative of the Secretariat provided the Conference with an overview of the budgetary information related to the first and second cycles of the Implementation Review Mechanism ([CAC/COSP/2017/13](#)), which had been presented to the Implementation Review Group at its resumed eighth session.

60. A representative of the Secretariat expressed the Secretariat's appreciation for the voluntary contributions made by States to support the Implementation Review Mechanism and drew the attention of the Conference to the extrabudgetary funding gap.

The representative informed the Conference that, by taking into account pledges that UNODC had received after 31 July 2017, the funding gap had been reduced to \$1,676,600 in relation to the operation of the first two years of the second cycle. The Conference was informed that, in addition to securing full financing for the first two years of the second cycle, financing for the third year of the second cycle, to be launched in June 2018, as well as for the fourth and fifth years of that cycle, needed to be raised.

61. The Secretariat noted its view that there was a worrying trend of States parties hard-earmarking pledges for the Implementation Review Mechanism by specifying by when and for what specific purpose or for which region or countries the pledged funds had to be used. The Secretariat noted that such conditions complicated the operation of the Mechanism and recalled that the budget of the Mechanism should ensure the efficient, continued and impartial functioning of the Mechanism in line with Conference resolution 3/1.

62. The Secretariat informed the Conference that, given the overall financial situation, the cost-cutting measures that it had implemented following the related discussion at the resumed seventh session of the Implementation Review Group and had presented in detail at both the eighth session and the resumed eighth session of the Group, continued to be in place.

63. The Secretariat informed the Conference that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly were reviewing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 submitted by UNODC, which included three additional posts to support the second cycle of the Review Mechanism, to be financed from the regular budget of the United Nations. Should the General Assembly approve the new posts, it would reduce the need for extrabudgetary funding for the second cycle of the Mechanism by approximately \$560,000 per year.

64. The Secretariat noted that pending a decision by the competent bodies and the General Assembly on the programme budget for the upcoming biennium, it would continue to use the current estimates of the requirements for the second review cycle, including for calculating the funding shortfall, and that the Secretariat would submit a revised cost projection for the second cycle at the ninth session of the Implementation Review Group.

65. One speaker expressed his country's continuing support for the mixed funding model and at the same time expressed concern at the Mechanism's rising costs since its inception, while recalling the continued financial support provided by his country and encouraging other donors to provide more voluntary funding to the Mechanism in order to ensure that the mandates entrusted to the Secretariat were sustainable and ensure the smooth operation of the Mechanism in line with its terms of reference.

66. A representative of the Secretariat provided an overview of the technical assistance needs identified in the context of the country reviews, as presented in the note by the Secretariat containing an analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews during the first implementation review cycle (CAC/COSP/2017/7). That note contained an analytical overview of the technical assistance needs identified over the past five years (2013–2017).

67. The Secretariat then provided an update of technical assistance provided since the sixth session of the Conference, as contained in document CAC/COSP/2017/3. To

respond to the increasing number of requests for technical assistance at the national, regional and global levels, UNODC had leveraged its network of national and regional anti-corruption advisers, supported by UNODC headquarters, and sought to cooperate and coordinate with other technical assistance providers. Technical assistance covered included support for ratification of and accession to the Convention, follow-up to the recommendations and gaps identified by the Implementation Review Mechanism, regional platforms for fast-tracking implementation of the Convention, legislative assistance, criminalization of corruption offences, international cooperation and asset recovery.

68. Speakers underlined the important role of technical assistance in countering corruption and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers welcomed the technical assistance provided by UNODC in support of anti-corruption efforts, including during and in follow-up to the first cycle, and emphasized the continued importance of such technical assistance during the second review cycle. In that context, the representative of the World Bank noted that the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative was ready to provide support to States parties in the area of asset recovery, and encouraged States parties to provide extrabudgetary resources for that purpose.

69. Speakers highlighted the important role of the Mechanism as a tool for identifying technical assistance needs and praised the Mechanism for providing a valuable platform for peer-learning and the sharing of experiences. Echoing the Secretariat's intervention, speakers noted that technical assistance should be country-led and country-based. Several speakers underlined the importance of coordination of technical assistance, in particular at the country level. Speakers encouraged States to raise the technical assistance requirements identified through the Review Mechanism during in-country meetings with donors, international organizations, development banks and civil society. Some speakers emphasized the need for technical assistance on legislative drafting, asset recovery, the prevention of money-laundering and capacity-building for law enforcement authorities, including the use of special investigative techniques, based on international best practices for sharing information and expertise.

70. Some speakers noted the importance of bilateral and multilateral technical assistance, including through civil society organizations. One speaker reported on valuable expertise on legislative reform provided by neighbouring States parties. Another speaker encouraged the United Nations system to continue to mainstream anti-corruption activities in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Efforts to integrate technical assistance in anti-corruption into other forms of technical and development assistance, including criminal justice reform and combating organized crime, were noted by one speaker.

71. One speaker highlighted the online training opportunities provided by UNODC and encouraged an analysis of their use to ensure that the training provided was equally applicable in all regions. Speakers considered that the Convention provided a useful framework for the delivery of technical assistance and encouraged UNODC to report regularly to donors and at the sessions of the Implementation Review Group on needs identified and technical assistance delivery.

## **V. Prevention**

72. At its 7th to 9<sup>th</sup> meetings, on 8 and 9 November 2017, the Conference considered agenda item 4, entitled “Prevention”.

73. The President of the Conference and two Vice-Presidents of the Conference, Ms. Okeke and Mr. Zafar, chaired the discussion. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Zafar, recalled the resolutions dealing with preventive measures that had been adopted by the Conference at its sixth session, namely resolutions 6/5, 6/6, 6/7, 6/8, 6/9 and 6/10. He acknowledged the efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, which, in its meetings in 2016 and 2017, had addressed the following topics: the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention; the protection of integrity in sport; education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts; and integrity in criminal justice institutions.

74. A representative of the Secretariat updated the Conference on progress made in the implementation of resolution 6/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”. She provided information on the technical assistance initiatives of UNODC at the national, regional and global levels to support States parties in the prevention of corruption, including support for the development of national anti-corruption strategies, capacity-building for anti-corruption bodies and other practitioners, targeted legislative assistance, support for the strengthening of integrity in the justice sector and the promotion of anti-corruption education. She announced the launch by UNODC of a new handbook on anti-corruption measures in prisons and highlighted the support given by the Office to civil society and efforts to raise public awareness of corruption and to promote the role of the private sector in preventing corruption.

75. The representative of the Secretariat also updated the Conference on the progress made in the implementation of resolution 6/9, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”. She underlined the importance of the participation of small island developing States in the Implementation Review Mechanism and the sharing of best practices in anti-corruption reform. She provided information on the technical assistance initiatives of UNODC, States parties and other donors to support small island developing States in the prevention of corruption.

76. Several speakers reported on their activities to prevent corruption, particularly the enactment, revision and updating of anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering legislation, including in relation to the protection of whistle-blowers and reporting persons, the liability of legal persons and the establishment of anti-corruption agencies. One speaker noted the possibility of using tax reforms to promote transparency.

77. Some speakers noted efforts to strengthen the integrity of the public sector through the training and education of public officials, the development and implementation of codes of ethics and the adoption and improvement of electronic asset declaration systems. Several speakers highlighted the need to facilitate the reporting of corruption cases by citizens and public officials.

78. Speakers highlighted initiatives to draft and implement comprehensive national anti-corruption strategies that included wide-ranging measures to prevent corruption. Some speakers also reported on corruption risk assessments conducted at different levels of government, as well as on efforts to measure the effectiveness of risk

mitigation measures that had been adopted. One speaker noted the establishment of integrity assessments for both public officials and institutions.

79. One speaker reported on the establishment of an international partnership against corruption in sports, led by a group of international organizations, countries and the International Olympic Committee.

80. Some speakers reported on measures to promote integrity in the judiciary. One speaker underscored measures that had been adopted to safeguard judicial independence, in particular relating to the appointment of judges. Speakers also informed the Conference about the adoption of codes of ethics for court personnel, measures to improve court and case management procedures and internal control systems for the judiciary. One speaker referred to the drafting of transparency principles for the judiciary to assist in the implementation of article 11 of the Convention.

81. Several speakers underscored the role of the private sector in preventing corruption and the need to promote coordinated action. One speaker reported on the adoption of codes of ethics for the private sector, while other speakers highlighted reforms undertaken to increase transparency in the private sector.

82. Several speakers described recent reforms to promote access to public information by the adoption of legislation to ensure freedom of information, the proactive disclosure of information through online transparency portals and the establishment of independent bodies to monitor, promote and facilitate access to information.

83. Many speakers emphasized the need for the inclusion of civil society organizations, academia, private sector, media and other stakeholders in the wide range of initiatives and mechanisms necessary for the implementation of chapter II of the Convention. Speakers noted the positive role of civil society organizations, as well as the opportunities for partnerships, in preventing corruption.

84. Several speakers emphasized the importance of education at all levels for the prevention of corruption and described efforts in their countries to integrate anti-corruption into the curricula of public and private schools and universities. One speaker underscored the need for promoting a culture of lawfulness for the effective prevention of corruption. Speakers informed the Conference about the creation of learning centres and open libraries to increase opportunities for anti-corruption learning and education. One speaker welcomed the Education for Justice initiative, established by UNODC. Many speakers reported on campaigns to raise awareness, especially through the use of social media, about anti-corruption efforts, in particular their potential to reach the general public.

85. Some speakers highlighted new uses of information and communications technologies, including social media and mobile telephone applications, to increase the participation of citizens, identify innovative solutions to prevent corruption and promote transparency and accountability, including in relation to overseeing the implementation of social policies and monitoring the quality of public services. In particular, some speakers reported on the adoption of electronic payment systems as a means of preventing funds from being diverted by public officials and the establishment of digital asset disclosure and declaration systems, as well as electronic management and compliance systems for the public sector.

86. Speakers underscored the role and importance of the Implementation Review Mechanism in assisting States parties in identifying recommendations on and good practices in the implementation of chapter II of the Convention. A number of speakers requested technical assistance in strengthening measures to prevent corruption, including in relation to training and the adoption of national anti-corruption strategies. Many speakers welcomed the technical assistance being provided by UNODC and described projects and activities being implemented with its support.

87. A representative of the European Public Law Organization informed the Conference about multidisciplinary educational programmes of that organization for graduates and practitioners, highlighting the need to ensure transparency and good governance.

88. A representative of the UNCAC Coalition called upon States parties to strengthen mechanisms to promote access to public information, procurement and budgetary procedures, asset declarations and the participation of civil society. A representative of the Observatory for the Fight against Corruption and Economic Embezzlement informed the Conference about the activities of the Observatory to raise awareness about the Convention and called for improvements in providing access to information. A representative of the Institute for Global Financial Integrity addressed the issue of transparency of beneficial ownership of corporations and encouraged States parties to collect information on such ownership and to make it available to law enforcement agencies upon request.

## **VI. Asset recovery and international cooperation**

89. At its 9th to 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 9 November 2017, the Conference considered agenda items 5, “Asset recovery”, and 6, “International cooperation”.

90. The President of the Conference chaired the debate. In her introductory remarks, she recalled Conference resolutions 6/2, entitled “Facilitating international cooperation in asset recovery and the return of proceeds of crime”, 6/3, entitled “Fostering effective asset recovery”, and 6/4, entitled “Enhancing the use of civil and administrative proceedings against corruption, including through international cooperation, in the framework of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”.

91. A representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the activities carried out in the area of asset recovery. He introduced the note by the Secretariat on identifying victims of corruption, spontaneous sharing of information and the use of settlements and other alternative mechanisms (CAC/COSP/2017/8). Reference was also made to the note by the Secretariat on good practices in identifying the victims of corruption and parameters for their compensation (CAC/COSP/2017/11). In addition, information was provided on activities carried out to develop cumulative knowledge, build confidence between requesting and requested States and provide capacity-building and technical assistance to States. The representative made reference to a conference room paper containing a summary of the study on effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets.

92. A representative of the StAR Initiative reported that the Initiative, which had celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2017, had strengthened its international efforts on asset recovery through a combination of country engagements, policy influence, partnerships

and regional activities, knowledge and innovation, as well as advocacy and communications. She made specific reference to the upcoming Global Forum on Asset Recovery, to be held in Washington, D.C., from 4 to 6 December 2017, which would serve as a venue for the advancement of asset recovery. It was to be co-hosted by the United Kingdom and the United States and was an outcome of the Anti-Corruption Summit held in London in May 2016. The StAR Initiative was working closely with the Global Forum's four focus countries (Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Ukraine) to prepare the case consultation meetings that would be organized during the event. The Initiative had further created knowledge products, including a new financial disclosure guide, supported practitioner networks and organized about 25 direct country engagements. The country engagements had focused on, inter alia, tactical analysis and establishment of an asset recovery strategy, assistance with setting up asset recovery units, training for investigators, prosecutors and judges, case management advice, facilitating contacts with other jurisdictions and the placement of mentors. As the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism became operational, more countries were identifying gaps in their asset recovery frameworks, and the representative said that the StAR Initiative stood ready to assist States parties in working towards full implementation of chapter V of the Convention.

93. A representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the activities carried out to enhance international cooperation and on the outcomes of the sixth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the Convention. He introduced the note by the Secretariat on international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings for the detection of offences established in accordance with the Convention ([CAC/COSP/2017/2](#)). He also referred to the note by the Secretariat on analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews under the first implementation review cycle ([CAC/COSP/2017/7](#)) and a conference room paper on data collection and effective case management systems. He also provided an update on the online directory of competent national authorities under the Convention ([CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.3](#)). The launch of a new online resource hub on international cooperation on the UNODC website was noted.

94. In the ensuing discussion, several speakers expressed support for the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation under the Convention. One speaker noted the importance of ensuring synergies between the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the States Parties and the Working Group on International Cooperation under the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

95. Many speakers recalled that asset recovery was a fundamental principle of the Convention and called on States parties to effectively implement chapter V of the Convention and strengthen international cooperation in that area. Depriving criminals of their ill-gotten gains was considered a strong deterrent and a reinforcement of the rule of law. Some States shared examples of ongoing or concluded efforts to recover stolen assets.

96. Several speakers underlined the value of sharing good practices, knowledge and experiences in the complex field of asset recovery. Some speakers also emphasized the importance of building trust and confidence, developing cumulative knowledge, maintaining pragmatic dialogue and overcoming differences among legal systems. The key role of the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism in facilitating

information exchange and identifying good practices and existing challenges was emphasized by many speakers. To that end, one speaker encouraged States parties to publish their full country review reports.

97. Some speakers reported on recent national reforms aimed at implementing the requirements of the Convention on asset recovery and international cooperation. Such reforms included the adoption or amendment of relevant laws; the establishment of dedicated asset recovery offices; the development of handbooks, guides and manuals for practitioners; the development of guidelines on existing procedures for requesting States; and the introduction of non-conviction-based confiscation. It was noted that some countries had relied on the Convention as the legal basis to facilitate mutual legal assistance and extradition, either as the sole basis or in conjunction with bilateral treaties.

98. Several speakers referred to existing obstacles to successful asset recovery, including those relating to the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation of assets; dual criminality; and statutes of limitation. Limited capacity of the practitioners involved and lack of political will and financial resources were noted as challenges by some speakers. In order to overcome some of the practical obstacles to cooperation, States parties were encouraged to provide up-to-date information to the UNODC directory of competent national authorities.

99. Some speakers noted the importance of the technical assistance provided by UNODC, including through the StAR Initiative, in strengthening the capacity of States in the field of asset recovery.

100. Speakers underlined the importance and challenges of cooperation not only in criminal matters but also in civil and administrative proceedings for the purpose of asset recovery, although one speaker added that, in his country's view, the Convention did not contain any obligation in that regard. However, he suggested considering whether article 14 of the Convention could be used to facilitate such cooperation.

101. Reference was made to initiatives such as the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery and the Ukraine Forum on Asset Recovery, as well as the upcoming Global Forum on Asset Recovery, and their contribution to the effective return of stolen assets. In that respect, one speaker highlighted that, with the recent online publication of the Lausanne guidelines on asset recovery and the accompanying asset recovery guides, which were the outcome of the Lausanne process, a mandate given by the Conference in its resolution 5/3 had been fulfilled. Moreover, under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and with the support of UNODC, Ethiopia and Switzerland had organized an international expert group meeting on asset management and good practices in the use of recovered assets, including for sustainable development. One speaker stressed upon the links between terrorism, organized crime and, in some cases, corruption and underlined the need to strengthen international cooperation on these issues.

102. Many speakers noted the efforts of national financial intelligence units to trace and freeze proceeds of corruption. In that context, those speakers called upon States to remove obstacles resulting from bank secrecy and to enhance beneficial ownership transparency.

103. The importance of international networks and channels for the exchange of confidential information, such as inter-agency networks for asset recovery and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, was highlighted by speakers. The representative of INTERPOL added that, in addition to the Global Focal Point Network on Asset Recovery of INTERPOL and StAR, INTERPOL had created a secure

communication system for asset recovery (I-SECOM), which was accessible through the INTERPOL I-24/7 secure communication network. Moreover, INTERPOL was reviewing a feasibility study of a new notice called silver notice, specifically for the identification, tracing, confiscation and repatriation of assets.

104. The representative of the UNCAC Coalition urged States to limit the use and scope of immunities for public officials in order to end the impunity of corrupt individuals.

## VII. Other matters

### A. **Implementation of article 63, paragraphs 4 (c) and (d), concerning cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and nongovernmental organizations; as well as appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for combating and preventing corruption, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work**

105. At its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 10 November 2017, the Conference considered agenda item 7, “Other matters”.

106. The President of the Conference chaired the debate. In her introductory remarks, she recalled that this agenda item had several parts. The first sub-item concerned the Implementation of article 63, paragraphs 4 (c) and (d), regarding cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations; as well as appropriate use of relevant information produced by other international and regional mechanisms for combating and preventing corruption, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work. The second part concerned progress made in the further promotion of the ratification of, or accession to, the Convention.

107. The secretariat provided an overview of the provisions of the Convention addressing the role of international and regional, as well as non-governmental organizations. It was highlighted that the Conference, in its resolution 4/5, had set out the terms under which signatories, non-signatories, entities and intergovernmental organizations could participate in the Implementation Review Group. In its resolution 4/6, the Conference had decided on the terms under which non-governmental organizations could participate in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, and in particular in the Implementation Review Group. Accordingly, briefings by the secretariat in cooperation with a member of the Bureau were to be conducted in the margins of the sessions of that Group. The secretariat informed the Conference that since the last Conference, two briefings in the margins of the Group had been held in 2016 and 2017. Both briefings were followed by panels convened to facilitate discussions and exchanges. In June 2016, the panels focussed on civil society participation in public procurement; the facilitators of money laundering; and victims in settlements and asset repatriation. In June 2017, the panels addressed participation in the review mechanism; principles for the management and return of assets; and effective global standards in fighting money laundering.

108. In addition, since the last Conference, the secretariat had supported multi-stakeholder workshops between governmental experts and civil society as a means of

fostering cooperation and understanding between governments and civil society. One such meeting was held in Vienna in September 2016, and the second one was held in Sarajevo in September 2017.

109. In the ensuing discussion, many speakers emphasized the key role of civil society in the fight against corruption, including through ensuring checks and balances in countries, contributing to good governance, enhancing transparency, gathering knowledge and data, and informing strategies and policies. In addition, some speakers underlined that the Convention could not be effectively implemented without the active participation of civil society, recalling in particular articles 10 and 13 of the Convention.

110. Some speakers noted the need to involve civil society at all stages of the Implementation Review Mechanism and called on States parties to further enhance civil society's involvement in the second cycle, given its thematic focus on preventive measures and asset recovery. One speaker reported that his country had published the self-assessment checklist and full country review report, and organized public briefings on review findings. He encouraged other States parties to do the same. Some speakers referred to Conference resolution 4/6, and especially to the briefings to non-governmental organizations in the margins of the Implementation Review Group. They highlighted that such briefings had promoted constructive dialogue and had contributed to building confidence in the role of non-governmental organizations in the review process. A number of speakers made proposals for a gradual increase in participation, such as briefings in the margins of all subsidiary bodies, and the invitation of experts from civil society to contribute to panel discussions. Some speakers expressed their support for the review transparency pledge proposed by the UNCAC Coalition.

111. Other speakers, while acknowledging the important role played by civil society in the fight against corruption, emphasized the need to respect the terms of reference of the review mechanism, including its inter-governmental nature, which did not allow for participation of non-governmental organizations beyond the compromise that had been reached with resolution 4/6.

112. A representative of Transparency International called for further involvement of civil society in the review process and the publication of full country review reports to ensure inclusiveness and transparency. She referred to a practice guide, prepared by the UNCAC Coalition and presented in the margins of the Conference, which provided concrete suggestions on how to engage with civil society throughout the review process. The speaker also welcomed the multi-stakeholder workshops on the Implementation Review Mechanism organized by UNODC. The speaker called on the Conference to review the requirements for granting observer status to non-governmental organizations and document screening with a view to ensuring that those were based on objective criteria which reflect the principles of transparency, freedom of expression. Speakers of non-governmental anti-corruption organizations from Africa underlined that technical assistance remained significant for capacity-building and creating a culture of integrity.

113. Under this agenda item, speakers also recalled that in its resolution 6/1, the Conference had called upon the secretariat to continue exploring and, where appropriate, enhancing synergies, in the coordination and cooperation with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption. Speakers commended the secretariat on the work undertaken in this regard, including the organization of a workshop, which brought together the secretariats of five anti-corruption peer review mechanisms, and of a joint side-event in the margins of the Conference. Speakers agreed

on the need for cooperation and coordination of the work of the various review mechanisms in order to harvest possible synergies. However, they also acknowledged the limits of such cooperation, stemming from the different memberships, mandates, and procedures of the mechanisms. The secretariat was encouraged to establish guidelines in this regard and to explore the possibility of concluding formal cooperation agreements with other review mechanisms.

## **B. Status of ratification of and notification requirements under the Convention**

114. At its 9th meeting, on 10 November 2017, the Conference considered the status of ratification of and notification requirements under the Convention. The Conference had before it a conference room paper on the status of ratification of the Convention as at 16 October 2017 (CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.2) and a conference room paper containing the authorities designated for assistance in prevention, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery as at 16 October 2017 (CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.3).

## **C. Special events**

115. A number of special events were held in conjunction with the seventh session of the Conference, on the following topics.

116. Putting the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption into practice: implementing robust anti-corruption frameworks and bodies; Understanding the links between corruption and violent extremism; The elephant in the room: addressing corruption linked to wildlife crime; Fostering partnerships to fast-track UNCAC implementation; Role of citizen engagement in fighting against corruption; Judicial integrity and the prevention of corruption in the justice sector; Integrity of counter narcotics and justice sector institutions: the role of anti-corruption measures in the effective fight against drug trafficking & organized crime; Consultation workshop on UN Global Compact's Action Platform on Justice and Strong Institutions; Good practices in CSO engagement in the UNCAC Review Mechanism: governmental and CSO perspectives; Experiences of States parties in making use of best practices suggested under the CoSP and its subsidiary bodies; The Brazilian experience in fighting corruption through leniency programmes and plea agreements and its impacts in Latin America; Advancing anti-corruption and transparency through private sector initiatives; Panama's work on ethics & anti-corruption online training for public sector officials; Briefing on the latest progress by China to combat corruption; Business integrity and open contracting; Making SDG16 count in the Pacific; The role of FIUs in combating corruption: how financial intelligence reveals and assists in corruption investigations; Tackling grand corruption – what the UNCAC CoSP can do; Corruption in sport; Monitoring the implementation of SDGs related to corruption, a new tool; Development of anti-corruption compliance and collective action: modern challenges and trends; Interest and asset disclosures by public officials: what works and what does not? Latest insights from anti-corruption monitoring bodies; Strengthening institutional integrity in prisons: launch of the Handbook on Anti-Corruption Measures in Prisons; Liability of legal persons for corruption cases: status of implementation of UNCAC article 26; The role of academia in enhancing business integrity: the contribution of integrity and ethics education to anti-corruption efforts; Revisiting the Jakarta principles: strengthening anti-corruption agencies' independence and effectiveness; Detection of corruption; 7th Forum

of Parliamentarians; Enhancing the cooperation between the secretariats of international anti-corruption peer review mechanisms; Follow up on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – International Expert Meeting on the Management and Disposal of Recovered and Returned Stolen Assets, including in Support of Sustainable Development; Promoting integrity in state-owned enterprises (SOEs): trends and challenges; Economic crimes and corruption in cyberspace; Fighting corruption in cities: identifying risks and reacting on time, the role of local governments; Prevention and integrity in public administration; IFF in developing countries: stolen assets and the role of the media and civil society; Corruption risk management: organizational and sectoral aspects; Corruption & international laws and judgements; NACIWA General Assembly Meeting; The global state of democracy: money, influence, corruption and capture. can democracy be protected?

## VIII. Action taken by the Conference

117. At its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 10 November 2017, the Conference adopted the following revised draft resolutions:

(a) “Strengthening mutual legal assistance for international cooperation and asset recovery”(CAC/COSP/2017/L.5), as amended during informal consultations, sponsored by Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), and Norway; subsequently, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution (for the text, see chap I, resolution 7/1);

(b) “Preventing and combating corruption in all its forms more effectively, including when it involves vast quantities of assets, based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, in accordance with the Convention”(CAC/COSP/2017/L.6), as amended during informal consultations, sponsored by Chile, Iraq, Jordan, Norway, Peru and Sweden; subsequently, Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Libya, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, State of Palestine, Switzerland and the United Kingdom joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 7/2);

(c) “Promoting technical assistance to support the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption“(CAC/COSP/2017/L.3/Rev.3), sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Israel and the United States of America; subsequently, Colombia, El Salvador, the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Honduras, Japan, Nigeria and Sri Lanka joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution (for the text, see chap I, resolution 7/3);

(d) “Enhancing synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption”(CAC/COSP/2017/L.9/Rev.1), sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Estonia, Mexico, Netherlands and Portugal; subsequently, Australia, Canada, Colombia, the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Honduras, Israel, Japan, Panama Paraguay and Peru joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution (for the text, see chap I, resolution 7/4);

(e) “Promoting preventive measures against corruption”(CAC/COSP/2017/L.10/Rev.2), sponsored by Argentina, Austria, France, Gabon,

Israel, Morocco and Romania; subsequently, Belarus, Cambodia, the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Guinea, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, Peru, Serbia, Singapore and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution (for the text, see chap I, resolution 7/5);

(f) “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption” (CAC/COSP/2017/L.8/Rev.1), sponsored by Angola (on behalf of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States), Argentina, France, Gabon, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel and Morocco; subsequently, Belarus, the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Guinea, Honduras, India, Japan, Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, State of Palestine, United States of America and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 7/6);

(g) “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”(CAC/COSP/2017/L.4/Rev.2), sponsored by Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Norway, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; subsequently, the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Haiti, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Niue and Singapore joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 7/7);

(h) “Corruption in sport” (CAC/COSP/2017/L.7/Rev.1), sponsored by Argentina, Belarus, France, Gabon, Germany, Israel, Italy and Switzerland; subsequently, Australia, Brazil, the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), and Paraguay joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 7/8).

118. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted a draft decision entitled “Work of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference” (CAC/COSP/2017/L.11/Rev.1), submitted by the President of the Conference (for the text, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/1).

119. At the same meeting, the Conference considered a draft decision entitled “Venue for the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties” (CAC/COSP/2017/L.12/Rev.1). The deliberations of the Conference on this matter are reflected in annex II.

## **IX. Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Conference**

120. At its 12th meeting, on 10 November 2017, the Conference decided not to take action on the draft provisional agenda for its eighth session (CAC/COSP/2017/L.2). It was agreed that consultations should continue during the intersessional period.

121. A representative of the United Arab Emirates extended the invitation of his Government to all States parties to participate actively in the work and activities of the eighth session of the Conference, to be held in Abu Dhabi in 2019.

122. One speaker noted that his delegation could not agree to the draft provisional agenda because of difficulties that participants from his country had experienced in obtaining visas to the host country in the past.

## **X. Adoption of the report of the Conference on its seventh session**

123. At its thirteenth meeting, on 10 November 2017, the Conference adopted the report on its seventh session (CAC/COSP/2017/L.1 and Add.1-4).

124. A representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made reference to the enabling role of corruption in illicit trafficking in wildlife. He expressed his regret that it had not been possible to recognize General Assembly resolution 71/326 (“Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife”), which reaffirmed the Convention as an effective tool and an important part of the legal framework for international cooperation in fighting illicit trafficking in wildlife, and looked forward to continuing discussions to address this important issue. The following delegations associated themselves with the statement: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Uganda, United States of America and Viet Nam.

## **XI. Closure of the session**

125. At the thirteenth meeting of the Conference, on 10 November 2017, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement on behalf of the Group and 77 and China. The representative of Algeria delivered a statement upon request of Angola, on behalf of the African Group. The representative of the European Union made remarks on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The Conference heard a closing statement by the Executive Director of UNODC. The Vice President of the Conference from Nigeria delivered closing remarks on behalf of the President of the Conference.

126. The representative of Guatemala expressed his regret that the closing of the session could not be held with full interpretation.

## Annex I

### List of documents before the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its seventh session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CAC/COSP/2017/1	Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work (7 <sup>th</sup> session of the COSP, 6-10 November 2017)
CAC/COSP/2017/2	International cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings for the detection of offences established in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2017/3	Technical assistance in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Note prepared by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2017/4	Report of the Secretariat on the status of implementation of Conference resolution 6/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption"
CAC/COSP/2017/5	Set of non-binding recommendations and conclusions based on lessons learned regarding the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention, in line with Conference resolution 6/1, para. 11
CAC/COSP/2017/6	Progress report on the implementation of the mandates of the Working Group on Asset Recovery
CAC/COSP/2017/7	Analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews under the first Implementation Review Cycle: Update
CAC/COSP/2017/8	Identifying victims of corruption, spontaneous sharing of information and the use of settlements and other alternative mechanisms: Note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2017/9	Report of the Secretariat on the status of implementation of Conference resolution 6/9, entitled "Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States"
CAC/COSP/2017/10	Summary of the state of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: criminalization, law enforcement and international cooperation
e-book	State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Criminalization, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation (e-book publication) (early release for language versions)
CAC/COSP/2017/11	Good Practices in Identifying the Victims of Corruption and Parameters for their Compensation: Note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2017/12	Analysis of good practices, experiences and relevant measures taken by States Parties after the completion of the country reviews during the first implementation review cycle: Note by the Secretariat

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CAC/COSP/2017/13	Financial and budgetary matters: Note by the Secretariat
CAC/COSP/2015/10	Report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on its sixth session, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 2 to 6 November 2015
CAC/COSP/WG.2/2016/4	Report on the meeting of the Working Group on Asset Recovery held in Vienna on 25 and 26 August 2016
CAC/COSP/WG.2/2017/4	Report on the meeting of the Working Group on Asset Recovery held in Vienna on 24 and 25 August 2017
CAC/COSP/EG.1/2016/2	Report of the fifth open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Vienna on 17 and 18 November 2016
CAC/COSP/WG.4/2016/5	Report on the meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016
CAC/COSP/WG.4/2017/4	Report on the meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held in Vienna from 21 to 23 August 2017
CAC/COSP/2017/L.1 and Add.1-4	Draft report
CAC/COSP/2017/L.2	Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties
CAC/COSP/2017/L.5	Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Iraq and Norway: revised draft resolution on “Strengthening mutual legal assistance for international cooperation and asset recovery”
CAC/COSP/2017/L.6	Chile, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Nigeria, Norway, Peru and Sweden: revised draft resolution on “Preventing and combating corruption in all its forms more effectively, including when it involves vast quantities of assets, based on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, in accordance with the Convention”
CAC/COSP/2017/L.3/Rev.3	Australia, Brazil, Israel and the United States of America: revised draft resolution on “Promoting technical assistance to support the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption
CAC/COSP/2017/L.9/Rev.1	Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Estonia, Mexico, Netherlands and Portugal: revised draft resolution on “Enhancing synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption”

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CAC/COSP/2017/L.10/Rev.2	Argentina, Austria, France, Gabon, Israel, Morocco and Romania: revised draft resolution on “Promoting preventive measures against corruption”
CAC/COSP/2017/L.8/Rev.1	Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Argentina, France, Gabon, Iran (Islamic Republic of), India, Israel and Morocco: revised draft resolution on “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”
CAC/COSP/2017/L.4/Rev.2	Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Norway, Tuvalu and Vanuatu: revised draft resolution on “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in small island developing States”
CAC/COSP/2017/L.7/Rev.1	Argentina, Belarus, France, Gabon, Germany, Israel, Italy and Switzerland: revised draft resolution on “Corruption in sport”
CAC/COSP/2017/L.11/Rev.1	Guatemala: revised draft decision on “Work of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference”
CAC/COSP/2017/L.12/Rev.1	Qatar: revised draft decision on “Venue for the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption”
CAC/COSP/2017/INF/1	Information for participants
CAC/COSP/2017/INF/2	Provisional list of participants
CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.1	Meeting of the Extended Bureau (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.2	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption as at 15 October 2017
CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.3	Competent national authorities designated under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (as of 20 October 2017) (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.5	Follow-up to the St. Petersburg Statement: Report of the international expert group meeting on beneficial ownership transparency, held in Vienna from 3 to 4 October 2017 (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.6	Meeting of the Extended Bureau on 22 August 2017 (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.7	Report of the International expert meeting on the management and disposal of recovered and returned stolen assets, including in support of sustainable development (Addis Ababa, 14 to 16 February 2017) (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/CRP.8	Summary of the study on effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets: Note by the Secretariat (English only)
e-book	Effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets (e-book publication)
CAC/COSP/2017/NGO/1	Statement submitted by Transparency International: Making grand corruption a priority (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/NGO/2	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Towards a Comprehensive, Effective, Transparent and Accountable Implementation of UNCAC Chapter V (English only)

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CAC/COSP/2017/NGO/3	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Making UNCAC work (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/NGO/4	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: A Guide to Transparency and Participation in the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/NGO/5	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Corruption in International Laws & Judgments (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/NGO/6	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Implementing Effective Measures to Prevent Corruption (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/NGO/7	Statement submitted by the UNCAC Coalition: Recovery of Damages and Compensation for Victims of Corruption (English only)
CAC/COSP/2017/NGO/8	Statement submitted by the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption: GOPAC statement (English only)

## Annex II

1. Deliberations of the Conference in relation to revised draft decision CAC/COSP/2017/L.12/Rev.1 The representative of Qatar introduced the revised draft decision through which his Government had extended its invitation to host the tenth session of the Conference in Qatar in 2023. He explained that the revised draft decision had been prepared taking into account the suggestions of a number of States parties.

2. The representative of Egypt emphasized that for the past few days there had been informal consultations to reach consensual language on the draft decision submitted by the State of Qatar, but in his delegation's view the latter unraveled the consultation process by continuing to introduce language which had not been agreed, and this made it extremely difficult for States to reach a consensus in line with the Vienna spirit. Accordingly, Egypt was not in a position to accept the draft decision.

3. The representative of the United Arab Emirates referred to progress made in informal consultations on the draft decision. However, he noted his delegation's concern that the draft presented for adoption by the Conference did not reflect the agreement reached in these informal consultations. He therefore stated that his delegation was not in a position to agree to the decision in its current form.

4. The representative of Saudi Arabia noted his Government's keenness to participate actively in the conferences held by the United Nations and its various entities. Similarly, his Government was eager to strengthen international efforts for the preservation of integrity and combating corruption. He noted that common and continuous efforts in this regard were necessary for the promotion of the welfare of societies. He noted that his delegation believed that it was premature for the Conference to take a decision on the offer by Qatar to host the Conference of the States Parties in 2023, as the delegation of Qatar had submitted its request after the start of the current session of the Conference. In this respect, he expressed the view of his delegation that discussions on the offer should be postponed so that enough time should be afforded to States parties in order to reach consensus pursuant to article 56 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption, which provided that "States Parties shall make every effort to adopt decisions in the Conference by consensus".

5. In response, the representative of Qatar noted that the draft decision had been submitted by his delegation in support of the international efforts to combat corruption. He highlighted that the text had been drafted on the basis of the two decisions adopted at the fifth session of the Conference, held in Panama in 2013, in which it was decided to hold the eighth and ninth sessions of the Conference in the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, respectively. He emphasized that Qatar was the only candidate for hosting the tenth session. He further noted with regret that despite efforts to amend the text of the draft decision taking into account constructive proposals made by some States parties in the Vienna spirit of consensus, three States had objected to the draft decision for political reasons. He took note of the opposition to the adoption of the draft decision and stressed his delegation's refusal to politicize the work of the Conference of the States Parties. He therefore noted that his delegation would leave the matter to the President of the Conference, while reiterating the readiness of his Government to host the tenth session of the Conference and reaffirming that his Government's offer remained valid.

6. The representative of Saudi Arabia expressed his regret about what he perceived to be attempts by Qatar to politicize the deliberations at the meeting by speaking on issues outside the framework of the debate and the agenda of the Conference. He rejected the

Qatari delegation's accusations and noted that the offer made by Qatar to host the Conference was not in line with Qatar's policies and practices. He referred to serious corruption investigations in the context of multiple international cases involving Qatar and pointed to that country's involvement in supporting and financing terrorism and extremism. In this context, he called on the State of Qatar to demonstrate the spirit of Vienna and to refrain from pointless political declarations. He reiterated his Government's objection to accept Qatar's offer to host the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties in 2023.

7. In concluding the discussion, the President of the Conference noted that Qatar had made an offer to host the tenth session of the Conference, which had been reiterated during the plenary. The President indicated that she valued Qatar's offer and would draw the Bureau's attention to it.