



THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITIES

The Ninth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities

Tianjin, China
10 – 13 May 2016

TIANJIN DRAFT DECLARATION

We, the Representatives of the Anti-Corruption Authorities gathered in Tianjin, China for the Ninth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) under the theme “The Future of Anti-Corruption Authorities: Lessons Learned and Charting the Way Forward”,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 58/4, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption and established 9 December as the International Anti-Corruption Day,

Mindful also all relevant United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions calling for the expeditious ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC),

Recalling the Beijing Declaration unanimously adopted by the First Conference on 25 October 2006, which established IAACA by approving its Constitution,

Recalling also our Bali, Kiev, Macao, Marrakech, Kuala Lumpur, Panama and St. Petersburg Declarations, as well as the recommendations made by the side-event of the First Conference of



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the States Parties to the UNCAC (CoSP), held in Amman and co-organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and IAACA,

Convinced of the importance of all the resolutions adopted by the CoSP, from its First to the Sixth sessions, and stressing the need for their full and effective implementation,

Concerned and alarmed about some recent developments in a number of countries which have produced a negative impact on the independence and status of their national anti-corruption authorities, including serious consequence for their democratic institutions,

Welcoming the historic adoption last year of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” which approved 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) intended as “a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that seek to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom”, and expressing support in particular for the implementation of Goal 16 which inter alia emphasizes the importance of substantially reducing corruption in all its forms; developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; strengthening the recovery of stolen assets and promoting the rule of law at national and international levels while ensuring equal access to justice for all,

Aware of the indispensable role of Anti-Corruption authorities in the achievement of the targets set forth under Goal 16 of the new Sustainable Development Agenda, and *conscious* of our responsibility



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to ensure that the maintenance of the rule of law, transparency and integrity become an integral part of the strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. Rejoice in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Association and emphasize its continuing important contributions and initiatives in realizing its ultimate goal to promote the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
2. *Express* our profound gratitude for the stewardship, leadership and vision provided by the Government of China and the President and Secretary-General of the Association in promoting its establishment and ensuring its functioning over the years, by continuously fostering mutual cooperation, friendship, confidence and trust among anti-corruption authorities, as well as coordination and partnership with other relevant international, regional and national organizations and institutions, for the furtherance of the anti-corruption cause;
3. *Express* also as our deepest appreciation to the Government and People of the People's Republic of China and the city of Tianjin for their gracious and warm hospitality;
4. *Emphasize* the continued and ever stronger significance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as the sole multilateral instrument that tackles the phenomenon of corruption in a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder and global approach, as demonstrated by the fact that 178

countries have ratified or acceded to the Convention, and *urge* those countries that have not yet done so to expedite the required internal procedures in order to ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of urgency and priority, in order to attain the goal of universal adherence to the Convention;

5. *Welcome* with satisfaction the progress made and the results achieved by the Implementation Review Mechanism of the UNCAC, *look forward* to the successful launch of its second cycle, and *commend* the Secretariat of the Convention for its exceptional work, dedication and outstanding performance of all tasks required for the efficient functioning of the Mechanism, including providing technical and substantive support to States parties, as well as publishing and disseminating very important studies and reports such as the most recent ones on the “State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Criminalization, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation”, “National Anticorruption Strategies – A Practical Guide for for Development and Implementation”, the “Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons” and the “Resource Guide on Strengthening Judicial Integrity and Capacity”;
6. *Call upon* States to apply faithfully the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and be guided by them when deciding to establish anti-corruption authorities or to amend the current terms of reference and mandates of

existing bodies, in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Convention;

7. *Urge* States to maintain the appropriate balance in the mandates of their anti-corruption bodies, paying due attention to their critical functions and crucial role in the successful fight against corruption;
8. *Urge* Anti-Corruption Authorities to make full use of the relevant provisions of the Convention in establishing and strengthening, as appropriate, their operational cooperation, learning from each other's experience and supporting each other in the performance of their demanding tasks, including in the exchange of best practices, lessons learned and difficulties encountered, as well as the activities undertaken to celebrate the International Anti-Corruption Day (9 December);
9. *Recognize that*, despite the progress made so far, there is still need to continue to improve scientific methods for assessing the extent and incidence of corruption, as well as to generate and share accurate, reliable, objective and comparable data for evaluating its impact and costs, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Articles 60 and 61 of UNCAC and, for these reasons, reiterate the invitation to anti-corruption authorities to devote growing attention to the collection and analysis of relevant data and reliable information, as well as to share among them, as IAACA's Members, the results of their researches;

10. *Stress once again* the importance of UNCAC for stimulating global action and joint efforts for improved international cooperation in preventing and combating corruption as shared responsibility not only of States Parties but of all sectors of society, thus contributing towards achieving sustainable development, safeguarding human rights and strengthening the rule of law;
11. *Note with appreciation* the accomplishments towards strengthened international cooperation in the tracing, freezing and recovery of stolen assets and underline the need to redouble joint efforts and cooperative arrangements for their successful recovery, also in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the year 2030,
12. *Welcome* the proactive efforts to address the issue of asset recovery around the world and commend initiatives undertaken by Governments, the World Bank-UNODC joint Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (STAR), relevant international organizations, academic institutions and civil society organizations to raise awareness and promote better understanding of this fundamental principle of the Convention;
13. *Recognize* the importance of protecting integrity in sports by promoting good governance, and *call upon* all relevant stakeholders to undertake the necessary measures to stamp out corruption from all sport activities, and to develop studies,

training materials, guides and tools to adequately address related issues;

14. *Acknowledge* the power of education as a catalyst to achieving sustainable development and the prevention of corruption, invite all stakeholders, including Member States, civil society and the private sector to further strengthen their efforts to support anti-corruption education and awareness campaigns, while promoting specialized training on the prevention of corruption, express strong support for the UNODC's efforts to establish and maintain "TRACK" (Tools and Resources for Anti-corruption Knowledge) and Legal Library as well as the UNODC Anti-corruption eLearning Training Course, to launch and develop ACAD, the Anti-corruption Academic Initiative, and to closely cooperate with the International Anti-corruption Academy (IACA) in its capacity development activities;
15. *Encourages* UNODC to continue to provide its assistance and advise to States parties in developing and sharing knowledge, facilitating the exchange of information and experiences, and extending its cooperation to all stakeholders and sectors of society, including its joint work and partnership with UNDP in providing technical assistance to countries in need at the local level;
16. *Emphasize* the importance of the "Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies" annexed to the Panama Declaration, and *reiterate* our invitation to Governments to take them into



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account in order to promote and strengthen the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies, thus consolidating national and international action against corruption;

17. *Reiterate* once again our call on all Member States to institute relevant reforms that promote professionalism and effectiveness of anti-corruption authorities in preventing and combating corruption, the independence and integrity of the judiciary and prosecution service, as appropriate, the prevention of conflict of interest in public office, freedom of access to information, transparency and accountability in public administration, as well as to ensure, preserve and safeguard the functional independence of all relevant anti-corruption authorities and bodies;

18. *Recommend* in this regard that anti-corruption authorities proactively promote with their respective Governments and legislative bodies the development and implementation of appropriate legislative amendments in order to ensure that anti-corruption authorities and criminal justice institutions responsible for maintaining the rule of law have sufficient resources and independence so as to carry out their respective roles effectively and fairly in line with articles 7, 11, 30 and 36 of UNCAC, as also indicated in the “Implementation Guide for Article 11 of UNCAC”, published by UNODC, which is aimed at assisting States in assessing whether their judicial,



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prosecutorial and integrity systems meet the requirements of the Convention;

19. *Commend* UNODC for the exceptional work done in pursuing the implementation of the resolutions of the sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and *call upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give the highest priority to the promotion of the Convention's implementation, including by providing UNODC with increased resources to support the Implementation Review Mechanism and for proper implementation of its mandate to serve as the Secretariat of the Conference;
20. *Take note* with appreciation of the important contributions and joint initiatives of IAACA Members towards the implementation of the Work Plan of the Association; *strongly encourage* other Members to become fully involved in its further implementation, by contributing suggestions or undertaking initiatives, whether individually or jointly with other Members and in close collaboration with the IAACA Secretariat, with a view to supporting IAACA in realizing the ultimate goal of the Association to promote the effective implementation of the UNCAC, and *invite* the Executive Committee to revise the IAACA Constitution in the light of the experience gained during the past years, including budgetary allocation fees among its Members, as well as to complete its revision of the Work Plan, taking into account the results so far



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achieved, with the view of submitting revised versions at the next Annual Conference for its approval;

21. *Invite also the Executive Committee to make concrete proposals for the further extension and expansion of the IAACA international seminars, similar to those hosted and organized by the People's Republic of China, and encourage other IAACA Members to hold similar training events not only regionally or sub-regionally but also at the national level;*
22. *Express our gratitude to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and his staff for providing energetic and highly professional support to the work of the Association; and*
23. *Decide that the text of this Declaration be widely circulated by the relevant anti-corruption authorities in their respective countries and that it should be submitted to the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, at its seventh session, and to the United Nations General Assembly.*
