



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

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Addendum

III. Prevention

1. At its 6th meeting, on 18 December 2019, the Conference considered agenda item 4, entitled “Prevention”.
2. The President of the Conference chaired the debate. In his introductory remarks, he recalled resolutions 7/5 and 7/6, which had been adopted by the Conference at its seventh session. He acknowledged the efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, which, in its meetings in 2018 and 2019, had addressed the following topics: conflicts of interest, use and effectiveness of asset declaration systems and lessons learned on the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies. He also mentioned the necessity to provide sufficient financial resources to meet the needs for technical assistance in relation to the implementation of measures for the prevention of corruption.
3. A representative of the Secretariat updated the Conference on progress made in the implementation of resolution 7/5, entitled “Promoting preventive measures against corruption”, and resolution 7/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”. He reported on the analysis of information on the implementation of chapter II of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as contained in the thematic report on the implementation of that chapter ([CAC/COSP/2019/9](#)), and on the technical assistance initiatives of the Office on Drugs and Crime (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 ([CAC/COSP/2019/2](#)). He highlighted the work done by the Office on education and efforts to raise public awareness of corruption. In addition, he underlined the role of UNODC as an international observatory for good practices in the prevention of corruption and briefed the Conference on the activities of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption.
4. The representative of the Secretariat also updated the Conference on progress made in the implementation of resolution 7/2, entitled “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 United Nations Convention against Corruption”, referring to the related note by the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/2019/13). He underlined the importance of the Oslo statement on corruption involving vast quantities of assets, which contained concrete recommendations for decision makers.

5. Most speakers reported on actions taken, good practices and progress made in the prevention of corruption in recent years, including the enactment, revision and updating of anti-corruption measures and legislation on transparency, access to information, public procurement, anti-money-laundering, whistle-blowers, beneficial ownership, conflicts of interest, by-laws and directives. Some speakers also reported the adoption of legislation creating new anti-corruption bodies or strengthening and expanding the mandate of existing ones.

6. Many speakers highlighted initiatives to draft and implement comprehensive national anti-corruption policies, strategies and open government initiatives that included wide-ranging measures to prevent corruption. The strategies ranged from national comprehensive strategies to sector-specific strategies focused on such issues as wildlife, extractive industries and the management of public finances. They noted the inclusion of risk assessments, indicators for measuring progress and impact, and transparency measures to provide citizens with information on the status of implementation of various programmes. With regard to coordination and transparency, one speaker mentioned a multi-stakeholder working group comprising government, private sector and civil society representatives established to join forces in the implementation of measures for preventing and combating corruption.

7. Some speakers highlighted the need to facilitate the reporting of corruption cases and promote a speak-up culture in ministerial departments, public and private institutions and beyond, with the aim of improving the detection of corruption. In this regard, specific reference was made by a few speakers to protected disclosure regimes and the protection of whistle-blowers in both the public and private sectors, including for non-permanent staff. Other speakers referred to reporting mechanisms to increase the participation of citizens in public life. Some speakers highlighted the importance of mainstreaming integrity measures.

8. Many speakers referred to measures aimed at strengthening the integrity of public officials, including parliamentarians and other elected public officials. Those ranged from training and education initiatives and the creation of a network of integrity officers and advisors, to codes of ethics and the adoption of electronic systems for the declaration of assets, land registration, national identifications, mobile money, vehicle registration, driving licences, income, expenditure and interests. One speaker noted the important role that high-level officials and the managers of institutions played with regard to such measures. Another speaker underlined the importance of according sufficient funding to corruption prevention bodies and initiatives and of prioritizing the prevention of corruption to avoid the embezzlement of public resources and the misappropriation of vast quantities of assets. A few speakers underlined the usefulness of corruption risk assessments in the public administration, including as a periodic prerequisite for updating integrity plans and other measures.

9. Several speakers mentioned measures to enhance financial management and public procurement, including ex ante checks to detect conflicts of interest at an early stage, or expenditure transparency and oversight and registries for identifying and excluding individuals who had previously violated public procurement laws and regulations. One speaker referred to the important role of audit institutions to improve reporting on the use and management of government funds.

10. With regard to the promotion of integrity in the law enforcement and justice sector institutions, in particular in the judiciary, some speakers mentioned important steps that had been taken, such as the establishment of e-case management systems, codes of conducts for the judiciary, specific systems for reporting judges suspected of corruption and citizen oversight initiatives.

11. Several speakers underscored the role of the private sector in preventing corruption and the need to promote coordinated action. One speaker mentioned support for anti-bribery management systems in the private sector. The use of the International Anti-Corruption Day, on 9 December, was noted as an opportunity for joint initiatives and outreach activities.

12. Several speakers emphasized the need for including stakeholders outside the public sector, such as civil society organizations, young people and the media, in the wide range of initiatives and mechanisms necessary for the implementation of chapter II of the Convention, and described how those had been involved, for example through their participation in oversight mechanisms or working groups. A few speakers described reforms and steps taken to promote access to information, for example through the adoption of specific laws on access to information and online transparency portals.

13. Several speakers emphasized the importance of education at all levels for the prevention of corruption and described efforts to develop material for different age groups ranging from preschool children to university students, and the integration of such curriculum into the education system.

14. Some speakers also highlighted the implementation of awareness-raising and public outreach campaigns by social media and various other means and mentioned the use and promotion of information and communications technology to prevent corruption, including mobile telephone applications and geotagging.

15. A few speakers mentioned the interlinkage with sustainable development and reporting on progress in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

16. Multiple speakers mentioned the role and importance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in assisting States parties with identifying recommendations, priority areas and good practices in relation to the implementation of chapter II of the Convention. Numerous speakers thanked UNODC for the provision of technical assistance and described projects and activities being implemented with support from the Office. They also highlighted the usefulness of support from other organizations, such as the World Bank, as well as the appreciation for regional or bilateral cooperation, assistance and peer-learning. Several speakers underlined the importance of continued technical assistance and sufficient financial resources. One speaker drew specific attention to the fact that the vast majority of States parties had received numerous recommendations on the implementation of chapter II and that this trend could be expected to continue. She underlined the important role that the Conference played in drawing attention to chapter II so that corruption might be prevented in the first place.

17. A representative of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice stated its ongoing support for involving civil society in the development and monitoring of anti-corruption efforts, including with regard to human rights aspects and respect for the rights of women and children. The representative of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption encouraged the continued inclusion of civil society, emphasized the role of parliamentarians in promoting best practices and prevention policies and welcomed Samoa as its newest member. The representative of Transparency International decried the detention and expulsion from the United Arab Emirates of a journalist who had been invited to the Conference. She highlighted the crucial role that journalists played in raising public awareness and stated that their work should be supported, suggesting that the protection of journalists should be included in the agenda of the special session of the General Assembly. She also referred to two submissions, on beneficial ownership and a gender inclusive approach to corruption.