



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

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Agenda item 4

## Prevention

### Italy, Japan, Mexico and Russian Federation: draft resolution

#### Measurement of 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,

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>1</sup> which is the most comprehensive, universal and legally binding instrument on corruption, and acknowledging the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and its full and effective implementation,

*Recalling* article 61 of the Convention, in which it is stated that States parties shall consider analysing, in consultation with experts, trends in corruption in their territories, as well as the circumstances in which corruption offences are committed; developing and sharing 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; and monitoring their policies and actual measures to combat corruption and making assessments of their effectiveness and efficiency,

*Recalling also* article 63, paragraph 5, of the Convention, in which it is stated that the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption shall acquire the necessary knowledge of the measures taken by States parties in implementing the Convention and the difficulties encountered by them in doing so through information provided by them and through such supplemental review mechanisms as may be established by the Conference,

*Noting* that, in some cases, the country reviews conducted in the context of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention have observed the importance of strengthening statistical data on investigations, prosecutions and convictions, for example through national crime registers or other mechanisms,

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



*Noting also* the non-binding nature of recommendations made pursuant to the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

*Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>2</sup> including Sustainable Development Goal 16 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 its target 16.5 of substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms, and acknowledging that measuring corruption contributes also to efforts towards sustainable development,

*Emphasizes* that the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, in line with article 4 of the Convention, should be fully respected,

*Taking note*, for the purposes of experience-based measuring of corruption, of the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes* as the international statistical standard for data classification of crime based on empirical evidence, which provides a framework for the systematic production and comparison of statistical data across institutions and jurisdictions, independent of national legal specificities, as endorsed by the relevant United Nations bodies,

*Taking note also* of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/24 of 21 July 2015, in which the Council welcomed the endorsement of the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes* by the Statistical Commission and confirmed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the custodian of the *International Classification*,

*Referring* to the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/313 of 6 July 2017, in which the Assembly defined indicator 16.5.1 as the proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months, and indicator 16.5.2 as the proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months,

*Taking into account* that in its resolution 71/313, the General Assembly stressed, inter alia, that official statistics and data from national statistical systems constitute the basis needed for the above-mentioned global indicator framework, and urged countries, the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the Secretariat, including the regional commissions, the Bretton Woods Institutions, international organizations and bilateral and regional funding agencies to intensify their support for strengthening data collection and statistical capacity-building, including capacity-building that strengthens coordination among national statistical offices,

*Considering* that improving the measurement of corruption through comprehensive, evidence-based and multifaceted efforts to detect and measure corruption-related trends enables a deeper understanding of the phenomenon, contributes to identifying areas, procedures or positions at risk of corruption and to designing and implementing evidence-based anti-corruption strategies and policies, and brings added value to advancing the rule of law, in line with the purposes of the Convention, as defined in its article 1, and to promoting sustainable development,

*Affirming* the importance of developing an international statistical framework for measuring corruption, grounded in objective methodologies and reliable data sources, recognizing that drawing on a range of approaches and indicators contributes to a more comprehensive assessment of corruption,

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

*Affirming also* the importance of such effort also for supporting States parties, upon request, in their efforts to measure corruption in their respective jurisdictions, on the basis of on information provided by the requesting States parties,

*Welcoming the Manual on Corruption Surveys: Methodological Guidelines on the Measurement of Bribery and Other Forms of Corruption through Sample Surveys* recently published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which offers operational and methodological guidance to implement household and business surveys to carry out scientific studies of corruption,

*Acknowledging* the progress made by States parties in conducting household and business surveys on corruption, including with assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and encouraging States parties to enhance the collection of relevant data, as appropriate,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Statistical Commission and in close cooperation and consultation with States parties, to continue expert-level consultations on identifying and refining methodologies on the issue of the measurement of corruption in order to develop proposals on a comprehensive, scientifically sound and objective framework for the purpose of assisting States parties, upon their request, in measuring corruption, consistent with the Convention, and requests the Office to report to the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption for its consideration;

2. *Recognizes* that such an exercise should include a broad range of data sources, including administrative statistics on the criminal justice response to corruption offences, experience-based data deriving from household and business surveys on corruption occurrence and indicators of risk and vulnerabilities to corruption, taking into consideration the different circumstances of respective countries, as its fundamental purpose is to contribute to the fight against corruption;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to consider establishing and managing, in accordance with domestic law, repositories of crime and criminal justice data on corruption in accordance with the Convention, covering investigations, prosecutions, convictions and non-trial resolutions, including on transnational cases, pertaining to the liability of both legal and natural persons, and to make such information publicly available for little or no cost on a recurring basis;

4. *Invites* States parties to aggregate crime data, in accordance with domestic law, that may be comparable at the international level, bearing in mind the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes*;

5. *Encourages* States parties to consider conducting high-quality sample surveys on corruption experiences following the standardized methodology presented in the *Manual on Corruption Surveys: Methodological Guidelines on the Measurement of Bribery and Other Forms of Corruption through Sample Surveys* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and to voluntarily share the results of these efforts with the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and at relevant meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

6. *Also encourages* States parties to consider working with other stakeholders, including the private sector, academia and civil society, in their efforts to develop methodologies and indicators to measure corruption, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue methodological work to improve the comprehensive, evidence-based and multifaceted actions undertaken to detect and measure corruption, consistent with the Convention, without duplicating existing efforts, and to provide technical assistance, upon request, to countries intending to conduct surveys and studies on corruption;

8. *Encourages* States parties to share information voluntarily with the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

on how they have used the information generated through the corruption measurement methodologies that they have chosen to apply in order to strengthen the policy, legal or institutional approach to combating corruption;

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

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