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English only

**Conference of the States Parties to the
United Nations Convention against Corruption**
Sixth session
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2-6 November 2015


IAACA — St. Petersburg Declaration

Paper submitted by the Government of the Russian Federation

The Government of the Russian Federation wishes to bring to the attention of the Conference, for its information, the results of the Eighth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, which was held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 30 October to 1 November 2015.

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THE EIGHTH IAACA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

30 OCTOBER-1 NOVEMBER 2015

ST. PETERSBURG DECLARATION

We, the Representatives of the Anti-Corruption Authorities gathered in St. Petersburg, Russia for the Eighth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) under the theme “Prevention and Education”,

Recalling 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,

Recalling 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 further our Beijing, Bali, Kiev, Macao, Marrakech, Kuala Lumpur and Panama Declarations, as well as the recommendations made by the side-event of the Conference of 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 relevance of all the resolutions adopted by the CoSP, at its First to the Fifth sessions, and stressing the need for their full implementation,

Concerned about recent developments in some States which may have a negative impact on the independence and status of their national anti-corruption authorities,

Assembled in this historic juncture in which the international community has adopted unanimously the new global Sustainable Development Goals, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015,

Welcoming in particular Goal 16 which emphasizes the importance of promoting peaceful, corruption-free and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

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 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. Express our gratitude to the Attorney General of Qatar and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre of Qatar for organizing both the last meeting of the Executive Committee held in Doha, in June 2015, and the Eighth Annual Conference and General Meeting, as well as our deepest appreciation to the Government and People of the Russian Federation for their warm hospitality;

2. Express also our appreciation to the Government of Spain, in particular to the Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia, for hosting the meeting of the Executive Committee in Barcelona in April 2014;
3. Recognize 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 177 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, in order to attain the goal of universal adherence to the Convention;
4. 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;
5. Reaffirm also that States parties should continue to develop appropriate preventive policies and measures, while bearing in mind the diversity of approaches, which may require context-based, sector-specific or country-specific policies and action plans;
6. Call upon States parties to further embrace a comprehensive multi-stakeholder approach to corruption, and to strengthen the dialogue between Governments, civil society, academia and the private sector in order to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly its Chapter II;
7. Encourage States parties to facilitate and support the exchange of information and best practices in the area of the prevention of corruption, in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
8. Strongly support UNODC's efforts in assisting and advising States parties in developing and sharing knowledge, facilitating the exchange of information and experiences among States, and encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption;
9. Emphasize that education is key to the prevention of corruption and to the promotion of a culture of lawfulness, thus contributing to a climate of confidence in public institutions and more effectiveness of the crime prevention and criminal justice system, recognizing the leading role of Governments in integrating the values of the United Nations Convention against Corruption into their educational systems, as well as devoting attention to and working with young people and children as part of a comprehensive strategy to prevent corruption;
10. Pledge our full support to the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative (ACAD) undertaken by UNODC, in collaboration with relevant partner institutions, to develop comprehensive anti-corruption academic materials for universities and other academic bodies, and recommend that UNODC explore modalities to extend such initiative also to primary and secondary education;

11. Recognize that the private sector is an integral partner in all efforts to prevent and fight corruption, and urge States parties and its law enforcement authorities to undertake necessary steps to strengthen public-private partnerships in the area of anti-corruption;
12. Emphasize the importance of the “Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies” annexed to the Panama Declaration, and reiterate our invitation to anti-corruption authorities to take them into account in order to promote and strengthen the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies, thus consolidating national and international action against corruption;
13. 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 and preserve the functional independence of all relevant anti-corruption authorities;
14. 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 in order to carry out their respective roles effectively and fairly in line with articles 7, 11, 30 and 36 of UNCAC, welcoming the Implementation Guide for Article 11 of UNCAC published by UNODC, which is aimed at assisting States in assessing whether their judicial and prosecutorial integrity systems meet the requirements of the Convention;
15. Urge Member States and relevant international organizations and financial institutions, on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility and collective global action, to consider providing additional resources to support the UNCAC implementation efforts, taking also into account the provisions of Article 62 of the UNCAC, in particular paragraph 2 (c);
16. 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 complete its revision of the Work Plan, taking into account the results so far achieved, with the view of submitting a revised version at the next Annual Conference for its approval;
17. Express our profound gratitude for the stewardship, leadership and vision demonstrated by the Government of China and the President and Secretary-General of the Association in ensuring the Association’s functioning over the years by continuously fostering cooperation and partnership among anti-corruption authorities and relevant international, regional and national organizations and institutions, in furtherance of the anti-corruption cause;

18. Extend our appreciation to the People's Republic of China for the successful conduct of the Sixth IAACA international seminars held in June and July 2014, in Beijing, China, as well as for its continuous support for organizing and hosting such training seminars, and encourage other IAACA Members to hold similar training events not only regionally or subregionally but also at the national level;
19. Take note of the decision of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the Statute of IAACA, to appoint Dr. Ali bin Fetais AlMarri, Attorney General of the State of Qatar, as Acting President of the Association until the Annual Conference and General Meeting of 2016, and support the appointment of Dr. AlMarri as the President of the Association;
20. Welcome the initiative of the Attorney General of the State of Qatar, in his capacity as Acting President of the Association and UNODC Regional Special Advocate for the Prevention of Corruption, to establish an international anti-corruption excellence award, to be known as Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award;
21. Also 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
22. 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 sixth session, and to the United Nations General Assembly.