

VIENNA DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE TENTH IAACA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING VIENNA 22 – 24 JANUARY 2019

We, the Representatives of the Anti-Corruption Authorities gathered in Vienna, Austria for the Tenth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) under the theme “15 YEARS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROSPECTS”,

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 resolutions urging for the expeditious ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC),

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 73/191 in which Member States decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly in the first half of 2021 on the challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation,

Convinced of the importance of our Beijing, Bali, Kiev, Macao, Marrakech, Kuala Lumpur, Panama, St. Petersburg and Tianjin 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 also of the continued and growing relevance of all the resolutions adopted by the CoSP, from its First to Seventh sessions, and stressing the need for their full implementation,

Concerned about developments in some countries which may have had an adverse impact on the independence and status of their national anti-corruption authorities,

Looking forward the progressive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 and, in particular, the implementation of its 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 implementation of UNCAC thereby fostering the achievement of the targets set forth under Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Agenda, and conscious of our responsibility to ensure that the maintenance of the rule of law, transparency and integrity remain an integral part of the strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. Express our gratitude to the President of IAACA and to the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre (ROLACC) for organizing in Vienna the Tenth Annual Conference and General Meeting, as well as our deepest appreciation to the Executive Director of UNODC and to his Office for their hospitality;
2. Express also our appreciation to the Government of Malaysia, in particular to the National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC) and the

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, for hosting the meeting of the Executive Committee in Kuala Lumpur in December 2018;

3. Recognize the continued and ever stronger significance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which marked its 15th Anniversary in 2018, as the sole global international binding legal instrument that tackles the phenomenon of corruption in a comprehensive manner, as demonstrated by the fact that it has already 186 States parties, 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 fully the goal of universal adherence to the Convention;
4. Express our satisfaction with the progress made and the results achieved by the Implementation Review Mechanism of the UNCAC, 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, upon request, as well as for the development, publication and dissemination of knowledge products aimed at advancing the effective implementation of the Convention;
5. Reaffirm also that States parties should continue to develop appropriate policies and measures to fully implement the Convention, while bearing in mind the diversity of approaches, which may require context-based, sector-specific or country-specific legislation, policies and measures;
6. Call upon States parties to further embrace a comprehensive multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the risks of corruption, and to strengthen the dialogue between Governments, civil society, academia and the private sector in order to support the implementation of the Convention;
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, as well as in encouraging cooperative efforts among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption;
9. Stress the value of education as a key to the prevention of corruption, thus contributing to a climate of confidence and trust 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. Emphasize the importance of the "Jakarta Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies" annexed to the Panama Declaration, and reiterate our invitation to State Parties 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;

11. Reiterate once again our call to all Member States to ensure the professionalism and effectiveness of anti-corruption authorities in preventing and combating corruption, the independence and integrity of the judiciary and prosecution service, as appropriate, asset and interest disclosure, proper management of the conflicts of interest in public office, free access to information and transparency and accountability in public administration, as well as to preserve and protect the functional independence of all relevant anti-corruption authorities and/or bodies;
12. Recommend in this regard that anti-corruption authorities proactively promote with their respective Governments and legislative bodies the development and implementation of appropriate legislative frameworks in order to ensure that anti-corruption authorities and criminal justice institutions have sufficient resources and independence in order to carry out their respective roles effectively and fairly in line with articles 6, 7, 11, 30 and 36 of UNCAC;
13. Urge UNCAC States parties and relevant international organizations and financial institutions, to consider providing additional resources to support countries' efforts to fully implement UNCAC, including by providing UNODC with resources to support these efforts, upon request, in particular through the Implementation Review Mechanism, taking also into account the provisions of Article 62 of the Convention, in particular paragraph 2 (c);
14. Express appreciation for the continued efforts to strengthen international cooperation and asset recovery and particularly commend initiatives undertaken by States, the joint World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), relevant international organizations, academia and civil society organizations to raise awareness and promote the return of stolen assets as a fundamental principle of the Convention;
15. 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;
16. Express our profound gratitude for the leadership demonstrated by the President of the Association in his generous support of the Association's functioning over the past years, including the convening of several meetings of its Executive Committee, in furtherance of the anti-corruption cause;
17. Welcome, with appreciation, the work accomplished by the Executive Committee, particularly in revising the IAACA's Constitution, in accordance with the decision of the Tianjin Conference, and unanimously approve the revised text, as recommended by the Executive Committee, in its meeting in Vienna of 21 January 2019;

18. Welcome also the initiative of the Executive Committee for recommending the establishment of a special fund called “Champions Fund” to assist anti-corruption officers affected by risks in the line of duty and note with appreciation that Malaysia was the first country to contribute to the fund followed by Qatar
19. 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
20. 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 Eight session, and to the United Nations General Assembly.