

**Seventh Session of the  
Assembly of Parties  
of the  
International Anti-Corruption Academy**

Vienna, Austria  
27 - 28 September 2018

Statement by the Dean of IACA and  
Executive Secretary to the Assembly of Parties

**Mr. Martin Kreutner**

27 September 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mister President,  
Mister Chairperson of the Board of Governors,  
Ministers, Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my honour and pleasure to welcome you all to the seventh Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) here in Vienna.

I am happy and indeed delighted to see 73 national and institutional delegations from all regions of the world in this room. Many of you have travelled from your national capitals to be here, and we are very grateful for your personal commitment, that of your Government, your institution, and your respective Permanent Mission to IACA in Vienna and beyond.

My sincere appreciation goes to the outgoing Bureau of the Assembly, under the most able leadership of H.E. Ambassador Omar Amer Youssef from the Arab Republic of Egypt, and to all the other Bureau members including the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups. Let me also congratulate the incoming Bureau and assure it of the Secretariat's full support.

Let me salute the tireless efforts and dedication of the Board of Governors and its distinguished Chairperson, Mr. Eduardo Vetere, former Director at UNODC, along with its Vice-Chair, Prof. Pakdee Pothisiri from Thailand. And, on behalf of IACA, let me pay special tribute to the outgoing members of the Board from Austria, Bulgaria, Malaysia, Russian Federation, and Thailand, for all their commitment and contributions to the organization over many years.

Further thanks go to the International Senior Advisory Board and International Academic Advisory Board for their valuable input regarding IACA's current work and future possibilities.

I am also sincerely grateful, of course, to the United Nations Office in Vienna for making this excellent venue available for our deliberations over the next two days, and to all of our other Partners, such as the Siemens Integrity Initiative, PMI, Development Agencies, and many more.

Finally, please allow me once again to express my heartfelt and warm gratitude and admiration for the work of IACA's small and dedicated team from more than 20 countries around the world. Their efforts over the last seven and a half years, together with those of our constituency and all our other stakeholders, have made IACA into what it is today: a fast-growing international organization and a global centre of excellence in anti-corruption and compliance education.

Distinguished delegates,

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, said during the CCPCJ, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, here at the VIC in May this year – and I quote – *“The fight against corruption is at the top of the list of contemporary criminal justice issues”*. He further reiterated that call just a few weeks ago at the UN Security Council.

By your actions at this Assembly — and in particular by taking much stronger ownership of the organization — you can enable IACA to play a larger and more effective role in the fight against corruption.

As you know, this struggle is global and it is extremely tough. And it is one that the world simply *must* win. But what have we, *all of us*, done *in concreto* ?!

Let me start from a more general perspective. There is an ever-growing crisis of trust and universality, an increasing crisis of multilateralism and international cooperation, with previously strong regional and political alliances repeatedly being shaken; there are a series of other overlapping global threats, such as tremendous economic inequality, worsening social divisions, climate change, terrorism, human trafficking and illegal migration, alarmingly increasing lack of trust in leaders, but also in state institutions, the media, and NGOs, to name just a few.

Corruption fuels all these problems, posing a direct and serious threat to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and our hopes of a better global future.

Let me be clear: we cannot — indeed we *must* not — give in to pessimism and despair. Instead, all of us in this room must redouble our efforts. *We* also need to show greater leadership and ownership in what is dear and important to us.

What's more, Ladies and Gentlemen, we should never forget the *human* element in preventing and fighting corruption, especially when we look at emerging technologies such as big data analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain. These technologies have the potential to play a positive and protuberant role in anti-corruption initiatives, but they could easily be misused to oversee, scrutinize, and observe people on a 24/7 basis. And that is not what is meant when we talk about “compliance”.

It is crucial, therefore, that technology-enabled anti-corruption and compliance efforts stay within human rights frameworks. Furthermore, e-government must involve humans being governed by humans, as human life and human behaviour is more complex and more colourful than just the dichotomy of “0s” and “1s”. Hence human beings shall never be exclusively governed by algorithms, machines, or artificial intelligence.

Against this backdrop, human interaction is absolutely central to IACA’s engagement with Member States and its empowerment of professionals on the campus and in the conference room, and has underpinned all our achievements to date.

In this regard let me share just a few highlights since the sixth session of the Assembly in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, one year ago. There are many more in the *Record of Accomplishments* document in your folders.

- IACA now has a global constituency of 73 Parties following the accession of Guinea and Mauritius in 2018, and this number will increase to 74 when Paraguay formally becomes a Party in a couple of weeks’ time.
- Our work has received explicit tribute in numerous UN resolutions, most recently Resolution 35/25 adopted in June 2017 by the UN General Assembly’s Human Rights Council — a body with which IACA remains in close dialogue.
- The organization continues to receive strong general support at the highest political levels. In June this year the Federal President of the Academy’s Host Country, Austria, H.E. Dr. Alexander van der Bellen, praised our work on his first official visit to our Laxenburg premises. He and other high-level Host Country

representatives, such as the recently appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Karin Kneissl, repeatedly said: “IACA, a truly international centre of excellence in anti-corruption education, is making a major contribution in addressing important global issues and will continue to enjoy Austria’s full support.” Thank you Austria; we are confident that we can build on that also *pro futuro*.

- IACA’s programmes and their final diplomas are widely recognized under the (EU’s and beyond) European Higher Education Area, the so-called “Bologna Process”, as well as by many other States and institutions. One of these puts our Master in Anti-Corruption Studies, or MACS, in the prestigious company of programmes offered by just five other universities around the world: Harvard, Oxford, Johns Hopkins, Duke, and Cambridge; a most prestigious academic company indeed.
- Our sixth MACS class starts next Monday, 1 October, and the second edition of the *International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action* (IMACC), our other academic degree programme specifically for business professionals, starts in 2019.
- Preparations also continue for the launch of IACA’s PhD programme — the first international PhD in anti-corruption studies — with a small initial enrolment. The original launch was planned to be implemented already in 2018, but had to be postponed due to a striking lack of resources.
- IACA’s Summer Academy, our largest open-enrolment training, has so far welcomed a total of more than 500 professionals from about 120 countries, and earlier this month we delivered a very

well-received IACA Regional Summer Academy in Beijing, China, following successful earlier sessions in Argentina, Uganda, and Kuwait.

- IACA’s customized “tailor-made” trainings go from activity to activity and are seeing strong demand from around the world. In fact just yesterday we concluded the third such training for professionals from Member States of the Eurasian Economic Union, with the support of the Russian Federation.
- As a result IACA now has an alumni network of more than 1,700 anti-corruption and compliance professionals from 159 countries and jurisdictions. This does not include hundreds of additional participants from our many other activities, including the growing number of IACA webinars.
- Last and by no means least, we launched a successful Research Fellowship programme in 2017 and have started — as proposed by one of last year’s Resolution — webinars and have commenced publishing a number of openly accessible research papers on our website.

Feedback for all our programmes and trainings remains excellent. To give just one example, let me share with you the thoughts of Bernardo D., head of the regulatory affairs office at a large company in Mexico, on his experiences as a current student on our MACS programme.

He said: “Being in a classroom with 17 different nationalities is a unique experience by itself. The teachers are passionate about the topics and renowned worldwide. If you want to take the fight against corruption seriously, *this is the place to be.*” Bernardo’s story is just one of many in

IACA's Annual Report for 2017, which we have shared with delegations here.

All delegations in this room and beyond can be extremely proud not only of *what* IACA has achieved, but also the *way* that we do it.

IACA seeks to ensure inclusive and geographically diverse participation from all parts of the world. In this regard I am happy to say that courtesy of earmarked donor funds, the Academy — at least in the past — has been able to support more than 20% of its students, coming from LDCs and other ODA areas.

As part of the International Gender Champions Initiative, we have reaffirmed our strong commitment to gender equality and female empowerment in staffing, participation in our programmes and trainings, and the awarding of scholarships. You may wish to know that for several years now more than 50% of IACA's staff, on all levels, has been female.

In addition and on a further academic note, IACA is now a signatory to the UN-backed PRME, the Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative, which aims to realize the UN Sustainable Development Goals through responsible management of education and raise the profile of sustainability in schools around the world.

Distinguished delegates,

Demand and expectations for our programmes, activities, and services are constantly increasing — from our constituency and from anti-corruption and compliance professionals across the globe.

But as I have said in this forum many times before, and I am going to say it one more time: IACA simply *cannot* meet this demand with its current level of financial and human resources. The organization can hardly, if at all, maintain the level of past and recent activities. Here I am referring in particular to our severely underfunded general budget.

We have stretched our resources as far as they can go. There is nothing more to squeeze, and nothing more to save. Let me be crystal clear: There is nothing more to squeeze, and nothing more to save!

One year ago, in Sharm El Sheikh, I said that because of a lack of funds, IACA had been unable to develop new open trainings, technical assistance activities, and joint seminars and workshops with partners, or to offer sufficient scholarships for participants from LDCs. Nor had we been able to fill vacancies resulting from employment contracts ending, maintain and upgrade our current IT system, or carry out much-needed repair and maintenance works at our premises. Sadly, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is still the case at this juncture. In addition, we could also not start the prestigious PhD programme, have declined important missions, and had to decide to also cancel today's reception at this Assembly.

So I must therefore call upon and *urge* this Assembly and all constituency members to finally respond to this critical situation by taking real action, through *real* and not just aspirational financial ownership of IACA. Rhetoric — finally — needs to be translated into action.

It is self-explanatory and most obvious that a reasonably and suitably well-funded general budget is essential and a *conditio sine qua non* for the organization to carry out its daily operations, implement the *Work Programme 2017 - 2020*, and meet the — by the way — growing

expectations and requirements of its stakeholders. It is also essential for ensuring that IACA's independence, credibility, reputation, and ultimately existence are not compromised.

Yes, my sincere expression of appreciation goes to those Member States that *have* made financial contributions or have promised to do so in 2018. In particular I pay tribute to those that did so under some of the many alternative ways of fundraising previously proposed by IACA and its organs and discussed with Member States.

They are Liechtenstein, which made the first ever financial contribution to IACA in accordance with the "let crime pay" principle laid out in previous IACA Assembly resolutions and also in the UN Convention against Corruption: this is ground-breaking indeed and already a best practice showcase; and Pakistan, which contributed specifically to help upgrade IACA's library: *chapeau* as well.

Allow me to recall some of the other possible alternative means of fundraising, including those mentioned in the adopted *Work Programme*. These include opening positions of IACA's faculty for endowed professorships and other staff; organizing joint donor conferences; IACA offering a clearing and facilitating position in guiding penalties and settlements; IACA offering to supervise the allocation of disaster relief funds to make sure they are used for their intended purpose; and convening and dedicating a special session of the Assembly of Parties.

Let me also remind you of the fee discount scheme that IACA introduced just over 12 months ago to further incentivize and value membership, commitment, participation, and ownership *vis-à-vis* the organization. Under this scheme we are offering discounts on fees for our programmes and activities for passport holders from IACA's Parties,

with a larger discount in the case of Parties that have recently contributed financially to the general budget.

Another possibility is the soon to be established, Member State-owned working group on financial resources and stability; an expert group held an initial meeting on this issue earlier this week. Again, let me invite all constituency members to actively partake in this group and to lead it to concrete and fruitful results.

At this point I would like to reiterate an idea I shared with you at the previous session of this Assembly and even before, namely considering an Additional Protocol to the IACA Agreement that would allow like-minded Member States to further describe and define their commitments. It would enable IACA to secure more stable, predictable contributions to its general budget rather than the current *de facto* system of “one-off donations” with all the hard work back at capitals that these entail.

But then, all these proposals need to be taken up and carried by you, the Member States; neither the Board of Governors nor the Dean can take over this role clearly confined to Member States. I thus wholeheartedly repeat my invitation thereon, and maybe the Host Country having been so supportive in the past, can take — along with other engaged States — a leading role.

As for retrospect, IACA continues to manage its most limited resources to the highest standards of accountability and under several layers of scrutiny, including an independent and Member State-owned independent audit. For the budget year 2017 the organization’s Independent External Auditors again had, on the one hand, positive findings. At the same time, let me also recall that the Independent External Auditors in their current report stated that “The use of deferred

income in 2017 poses the Academy under the risk of insolvency unless a necessary amount of voluntary contributions is accumulated in 2018.” The Chairperson of the Board of Governors will discuss this in more detail in his report to this Assembly later today.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come together here in Vienna at a most critical point for IACA; and we have on the agenda of this Assembly session important items to cover; no — it is not only the election of new members to the prestigious Board of Governors; it is also “Fundraising Activities/Financial Stability of IACA” and “Budget 2019”. Against the aforementioned severe situation the organization is in, I herewith promise that I will not stay silent or stand idly by if the latter agenda items were to be passed and closed without concrete results or — again — postponed or referred to some more convenient “discussion only” fora. With the necessary humbleness yet insistence, I will wait for your proposals, pledges, and commitments.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

When IACA was established in 2010 at a well-attended inaugural conference in the presence of the former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a young and dedicated junior investigator from Swaziland stood up and addressed the Conference by asking: “Who is the most important person in fighting corruption?” And he then continued by providing the answer: “It is me — and you, you, you ....”, pointing the finger broadly and equally into the room.

Nelson Mandela once said — and I quote: “I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one

only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended.”

Dear Delegates, we have climbed a great hill in successfully establishing this bright organization. However, we have obviously also rested for quite some moments. Now come responsibilities, urgent responsibilities as our journey shall not end. And yes, it is you, you, and all of us that eventually are held accountable if this organization is to further develop, to flourish, or to shut down.

Let me thus close by inviting all Parties, in a spirit of partnership and collective endeavour, yet in a modus also of concrete ownership and tangible action, to set the path enabling IACA to reach its potential, empower more professionals around the world, and help to shape a more prosperous, fair, sustainable future for all of us.

In this spirit I look forward to a productive two days of deliberations, with concrete results and plans of action. IACA is in your hands and at your disposal.

Thank you.