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International Anti-Corruption Academy

Report on the Assembly of Parties

11th Session

29 November 2022

Vienna International Centre

(Live broadcast via IACA website)

Agenda

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1. Organizational Matters

a) Opening of the session

The Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) convened for its eleventh session in the Vienna International Centre, on 28 November 2022. A courtesy live broadcast was also provided.

H.E. Mr. Ivo Sramek, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to IACA and President of the tenth session of the Assembly, welcomed participants, including those who were following the session online. He underlined that the importance of the session lies in increasing the interaction between the Secretariat, IACA organs, and the Parties.

Mr. Thomas Stelzer, the Dean and Executive Secretary of IACA, welcomed participants and referred to the ever-growing importance of anti-corruption efforts on the international agenda, as reflected in the Political Declaration of the last year's Special Session of The United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS 2021). He also underlined IACA's need for the ongoing support of its Parties.

Ms. Patricia Ximena Arriagada-Villouta, Chairperson of the IACA's Board of Governors, echoed the Dean's call for Parties to provide renewed financial support to the organization to create a stable and sustainable financial footing for its future endeavours.

b) Election of Officers

The Assembly of Parties unanimously elected the following officers for this session:

President: H.E. Mr. Epiphane Ballo Zoro, Minister of the Promotion of Good Governance and the Fight Against Corruption of Côte d'Ivoire (African Group)

Vice President: H.E. Mr. Levent Eler, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to IACA (Western European and Others Group)

Vice President: H.E. Mr. Nelson Antonio Tabajara de Oliveira, Permanent Representative of Brazil to IACA (Latin American and Caribbean Group)

Rapporteur: H.E. Ms. Manizha Bakhtari, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to IACA (Asia-Pacific Group)

Rapporteur: H.E. Ms. Mihaela Mocanu, Permanent Representative of Moldova to IACA (Eastern European Group)

Congratulating the elected officers, H.E. Mr. Sramek invited H.E. Mr. Zoro to take over the Presidency and wished the Assembly a fruitful debate.

c) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The preliminary Agenda was adopted unanimously.

The following Parties were represented at this session: Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, and Türkiye.

d) Participation of observers

Six observers were accredited to the session: Ecuador, Libya, Yemen, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Interpol, and the League of Arab States.

e) Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials

The Dean notified the conference that the Bureau of the Assembly concluded 49 out of 80 Parties had provided credentials for the session and thus, the quorum had been reached. The report of the Bureau was adopted.

By the conclusion of the session, the number of Parties with credentials had risen to 50.

f) General Discussion

Twenty-four (24) delegations took the floor to deliver statements under the General Discussion.

The representative of Austria addressed new challenges that have emerged or become apparent, such as corruption during the Covid-19 pandemic. He stressed the importance of IACA's mission and the longstanding and successful relationship between IACA and the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption. He also called upon the Academy to join forces with UNODC on the Global Programme on Measuring Corruption (GPMC) to deepen its relations with the EU. As IACA's largest contributor, the representative of Austria called upon all Parties to contribute to IACA's budget. He urged the Academy to hire staff only when it is financially stable and to intensify its fundraising efforts with the public and private sectors, including increased engagement with the EU.

Cambodia informed about recent and upcoming activities, including within the ASEAN Anti-Corruption Mechanism, and expressed its appreciation for IACA's training programmes and its new educational approach and standards. Cambodia reiterated its full support for the 2021-2024 Work Programme of the Academy.

Côte d'Ivoire noted that the lack of sufficient progress in the international fight against corruption hampers the social and economic development of many countries. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire regretted that corruption is responsible for around a 4% percent loss of GDP annually in his country. Côte d'Ivoire expressed the commitment to the fight against corruption as a national priority and described the concrete steps taken nationally.

Saudi Arabia commended IACA for providing a platform for capacity building. Noting Saudi Arabia's commitment to internal resources as well as in terms of participation in IACA's trainings and secondments, Saudi Arabia recalled the Academic roundtable meeting at the G20 in 2020 and its recommendations on actions needed to effectively combat corruption. The representative of Saudi Arabia stressed that these recommendations particularly referred to the need for a concrete method to measure corruption objectively, noting this as the origin of IACA's GPMC. The representative of Saudi Arabia furthermore invited all countries to become active participants in the UN GlobE Network, in line with the Political Declaration of UNGASS 2021.

Azerbaijan affirmed the fight against corruption as a priority and informed about the establishment of a national action plan and the introduction of amendments to the legislative framework to fight corruption. The latter foresees the enhanced involvement of civil society in the fight against corruption. The representative of Azerbaijan commended the training

opportunities provided by IACA and reaffirmed Azerbaijan's commitment to the organization's goals.

The Republic of Korea commended IACA's efforts to enhance its cooperation with various relevant stakeholders and to establish itself as a professional anti-corruption educational framework by creating new educational programs in cooperation with other partners, such as UNITAR. The representative of the Republic of Korea detailed the legislative and training actions undertaken recently in his country, including amendments to the legislation on whistleblowing and reporting. He further informed about Korea's technical cooperation projects with three partner countries, reaffirmed the commitment to IACA, and expressed the hope to continue using IACA as a framework to enhance the capacity of its officials in fighting corruption.

Türkiye noted the necessity of solid international cooperation to successfully fight corruption and achieve sustainable development. The representative of Türkiye commended the enhancement of IACA's programmatic and geographical focus, and its efforts to create synergies with the UNODC. He also expressed support for IACA's efforts to implement programmes with a focus on LDCs. Noting several legislative and institutional initiatives, Türkiye reaffirmed its commitment to IACA and the fight against corruption.

Chile stressed that the fight against corruption is a national priority and reiterated its commitment to work with the international community to bridge gaps in the international anti-corruption framework. Referring to the IACA Dean's visit to his country in early 2022, the representative of Chile encouraged IACA to continue to work towards securing funding for students and young professionals from developing countries. He restated Chile's commitment to UNCAC, regional and international anti-corruption instruments, as well as to IACA. The representative of Chile called for ensuring symmetry and complementarity between these instruments to avoid overlap and ensure the best use of resources.

Thailand recalled its ongoing cooperation with IACA through tailor-made trainings and its support to other regional initiatives, particularly in the APEC framework. The representative of Thailand noted the voluntary contribution made by the National Anti-Corruption Commission to IACA in June this year and recognized IACA's efforts to diversify its income sources by expanding its initiatives and partnerships. Thailand encouraged other parties to provide voluntary contributions, as well as extrabudgetary resources to IACA.

Malaysia underlined the importance of IACA's role to deliver and facilitate anti-corruption education and training for professionals and practitioners from all sectors. The representative of Malaysia referred to collaborative efforts to fight corruption in the framework of the Southeast Asian Parties Against Corruption Network and ASEAN. He also noted Malaysia's commitment to IACA, evidenced by its close collaboration in the past years as well as its financial contribution in 2022.

Afghanistan stressed that corruption is a threat to security and a challenge to the Rule of Law. The representative of Afghanistan also stressed that corruption plays a role in financing terrorism and is a hindrance to lasting peace in Afghanistan. She underlined the challenges posed by the links between corruption and other forms of organized crime and encouraged the Academy to continue constructive dialogue on how to further possibilities to support women of Afghanistan to fight corruption. She invited the international community to recognize the unprecedented circumstances and challenging economic context in Afghanistan. Finally, Afghanistan commended IACA's efforts towards achieving the goal of global cooperation in the field of anti-corruption.

The People's Republic of China stressed that corruption is a common enemy of humankind, against which the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government take a strong stance. Detailing his country's activities and plans, including those related to the issue of asset

recovery, and the presidency in BRICS, the representative of China recognized the important work of IACA in complementing the activities of the UN in achieving SDG 16. He also reiterated China's commitment to IACA and its hopes that all the Parties will provide the necessary support to IACA to ensure its long-term and sustainable development.

Bangladesh expressed commitment to the fight against corruption and referred to several steps undertaken in the country to strengthen anti-corruption measures and frameworks. The representative of Bangladesh reiterated the importance of fighting corruption at its core and all levels and expressed appreciation for IACA's work and its role in the implementation of UNCAC.

Indonesia commended the progress made by IACA in delivering professional training, conducting research and organizing awareness-raising activities. A particular reference was made to the new Master in Anti-Corruption and Diplomacy. The representative of Indonesia referred to his country's efforts to fight corruption in the framework of its G20 presidency, particularly within the Anti-Corruption Working Group. The relevant initiatives of Indonesia were mentioned in this context, including the establishment of an anti-corruption learning centre.

Brazil underlined the need for assertive actions to tackle corruption. The representative of Brazil stressed that the use of new technological tools in Brazil helped to recover nearly two billion USD in fraudulent emergency allowance claims. Noting that it is high time to improve tools to measure corruption, he expressed appreciation for the activities of IACA's Global Programme on Measuring Corruption. A special mention of the programme members to Brazil was made. The representative of Brazil also informed about its co-sponsorship of the *Resolution on Measurement of Corruption*.

Nigeria noted IACA's achievements and commended the Parties and the Secretariat for IACA's good work. The representative of Nigeria reaffirmed his country's support of IACA and all international platforms to fight corruption. He called for the creation of regional centres that provide access to anti-corruption education to a wider audience. He also noted several new initiatives in his country to fight corruption. The representative of Nigeria called for the Parties' continued collaboration to make IACA a centre of excellence, capable of supporting the African region and beyond.

Kenya noted that the fight against corruption is a national priority and multiple nationals have taken advantage of IACA's educational offerings. Noting that the Kenya Vision 2030, its national blueprint for economic development, identify values and ethics as one of the cornerstones of overall national development goals, the representative of Kenya informed about several national policies and interventions and national training opportunities. Kenya called on the Parties to take action for the achievement of the financial stability of the Academy.

Honduras recognized the impact of corruption on society and the degradation of institutions which, in Honduras, was exacerbated after 2009. The representative of Honduras underlined that fight against corruption was a top national priority and underlined its importance in achieving the 2030 Agenda. She informed that Honduras has signed bilateral collaboration agreements with national educational institutions. Expressing the belief that intensified efforts in education and the facilitation of research on anti-corruption are needed, the representative of Honduras called on IACA to continue to expand its partnerships with regional organizations and commended the establishment of the Global Programme on Measuring Corruption.

Pakistan referred to climate change and related developments. The representative of Pakistan recalled the unprecedented flood in Pakistan, which affected 33 million people and resulted in an economic loss of 30 billion USD, hampering emergency services and key infrastructure. Noting that recent emergencies and crises promote corruption, creating new opportunities to

exploit a lack of transparency and divert resources away from those who need them most, he underlined the need to reinstate public confidence, transparency and uninterrupted operations of emergency services. He commended IACA's new initiatives, such as the Global Programme on Measuring Corruption and thanked Saudi Arabia and other cosponsors for drafting the *Resolution on Measurement of Corruption*. In this context, Pakistan expressed hope for the active participation of the Parties in the project.

Russian Federation underlined the importance of anti-corruption education and training and Russia's international and national activities on training programmes and awareness raising, including those in the framework of Russia's BRICS presidency. The representative of Russia reiterated his country's support for IACA's development, including through regional trainings and voluntary contributions. He regretted that the implementation of some joint projects has been postponed or disrupted, and the demand for a strong research base was not satisfied. He also noted that there is a gap between actual and planned budget parameters and that it is not uncommon that this could lead to a budget deficit, which in turn may bring IACA to the brink of bankruptcy. The representative of Russia underlined the need for IPSAS implementation, improving internal control and transparency, and implementing the external auditors' recommendations. He also called for the speediest implementation of recommendations contained in the AoP Resolution on Reinforcing the Independent External Audit and Enhancing Financial Transparency of IACA (AOP10-Res-3). The representative of Russia also stressed that the Parties, including the host country, and the management of IACA should ensure the neutrality of the Academy's work.

Myanmar expressed its resolve to enhance its capacity to fight corruption. The representative of Myanmar referred to the anti-corruption activities of various relevant agencies of the country, including judiciary and prosecutors. He informed further about Myanmar's bilateral, regional, and international cooperation on anti-corruption issues. He also reiterated the full support of IACA and expressed hope for a full scholarship programme to enable the people of Myanmar to benefit from various educational opportunities within the Academy.

Mexico commended IACA's role in UNCAC Implementation and the realization of the 2030 Agenda. The representative of Mexico also expressed satisfaction with the results of the IACA's Dean's visit to Mexico earlier this year. He reiterated Mexico's strong commitment to the fulfilment of IACA's work plan and the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Parties, as well as the implementation of UNCAC. The representative of Mexico underlined the commitment to actively cooperate on various IACA projects, foster dialogue on fighting corruption, and increase awareness of its negative impacts.

Egypt recognized IACA's initiatives on collective action to assist the Parties in the fight against corruption. The representative of Egypt stressed that her country could facilitate IACA's involvement on the African continent. In this context, she referred to the successful cooperation Egypt had established with the Academy. Recalling that Egypt hosted the 9th UNCAC CoSP, she specifically underlined the importance of the resolution on strengthening international cooperation adopted by the Conference. The representative of Egypt also highlighted that the Political Declaration of the UNGASS 2021 was particularly relevant to future activities within the framework of IACA. The representative of Egypt also commended the Academy for the continued implementation of its Work Programme 2021-2024, which constitutes another step forward to augment the strategic vision of the Academy toward expanding partnerships, boosting global outreach, expanding its visibility, and engaging profoundly in international fora.

Armenia informed that its activities to fight corruption have entered a new and more targeted phase and reported that institutional improvements are underway. The representative of Armenia referred to the inclusion of anti-corruption education in the curricula of higher and

secondary professional educational institutions. She also reiterated Armenia's commitment to continue supporting IACA in its efforts to fight corruption.

2. IACA's Development: report by the relevant organs; review and discussion

The Dean and Executive Secretary briefed on IACA's accomplishments, the creation of new programmes and trainings, online and hybrid, the launching of the collective action certificate and collective action impact centre, initiation of new research activities, and the creation of scholarship opportunities. He stressed that IACA has almost 4500 alumni in more than 170 countries and jurisdictions. The Dean and Executive Secretary informed the Parties of IACA's efforts to implement the relevant provisions of the AoP Resolution on Reinforcing the Independent External Audit and Enhancing Financial Transparency of IACA. Reiterating IACA's commitment to the highest standards of transparency and accountability, he thanked IACA Parties who have provided voluntary contributions in the last year. Lastly, he reminded Parties that the received resources are not sufficient for the Academy to fully meet its potential and appealed to all the Parties to consider contributing to the budget. Complementing the report of the Dean and Executive Secretary, Ms. Elizabeth David-Barrett informed the Assembly about the Global Programme on Measuring Corruption. She described the origins of the project, its key objectives and mid-term plans, outlined current approaches to measure corruption and referred to their weaknesses. Finally, she referred to the need to develop accurate and scientifically based measurement tools in anti-corruption.

Ms. Patricia Ximena Arriagada Villouta, the Chairperson of the BoG presented the report on the progress of IACA's activities, including its educational, capacity-building, technical assistance, and research initiatives. She also informed about the Board's activities regarding the implementation of the Resolution on Reinforcing the Independent External Audit and Enhancing Financial Transparency of the International Anti-Corruption Academy. The Chairperson of the BoG stressed that IACA was still under financial pressure and invited Parties to contribute to the Academy's budget to support its activities and enable it to eventually become self-sufficient.

Mr. Ahmet Taner, the spokesperson of the External Auditors presented the report on the External Audit 2021. He informed that the process was completed between 25-27 April 2022 and expressed the opinion that IACA's financial statements are in line with the Austrian Commercial Code. He noted several recommendations that the external auditors have included in their report for 2021, and these included prioritization of IPSAS Implementation, the need for improving communication channels with the Board of Governors regarding chapter transfers within the budget, to implement stronger and more robust internal financial control procedures, and the establishment of a register of the external auditors' recommendations.

China commended IACA for its efforts in tackling challenges including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic and recognized the newly established Global Programme on Measuring Corruption. The representative of China suggested several considerations in this context including enhanced communication with UNODC on the Global Programme on Measuring Corruption. He advised that differences between countries should be acknowledged and underlined that the process needs to remain voluntary in nature and preserve the international spirit of anti-corruption cooperation when providing a statistical framework.

In response, the Secretariat underlined the close relationship with the UNODC Task Force and informed that a joint anti-corruption measurement conference is planned to continue this close dialogue. Moreover, it was noted that both projects can benefit from each other and confirmed that this would remain a voluntary process.

Egypt requested that the action plan of the Global Programme on Measuring Corruption be put for the consideration of Parties and for them to provide feedback. The representative of Egypt also expressed disappointment that the Parties were not included in the consultation phase leading to the launch of the project and throughout the project implementation.

In response, the Secretariat stated that the proposed resolution on the Measurement of Corruption foresees the establishment of an intergovernmental advisory working group and that such a group would ensure that the Parties can receive detailed information and provide their insights.

Pakistan requested additional details on the mechanism for information-sharing within the planned intergovernmental advisory working group and suggested that a discussion on a detailed five-year plan for the project should be organized. A similar position was voiced by Egypt.

In response, the Secretariat clarified that the primary goal of the first phase of the project is to identify the measurement needs. Only after this initial stage, a methodology could be created, and the advice and feedback of the Parties would be highly appreciated. Interested Parties were also invited to approach the Secretariat directly with any questions.

3. Implementation of the Work Programme 2021-2024

The Dean and Executive Secretary delivered a presentation on the implementation of the Work Programme 2021-2024.

Under Strategic Goal 1: “Strengthen Relationships with Parties and Develop New Partnerships”, the Dean and Executive Secretary highlighted the work of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Financial Matters and other Administrative and Substantive Aspects of IACA in increasing the sense of ownership of the organization among the Parties. He also noted several new partnerships and highlighted the cooperation with other organizations and institutions, including UNITAR.

Under Strategic Goal 2: “Develop IACA’s role as a centre for anti-corruption research”, the Dean outlined IACA’s efforts over the past year to enhance the research activities and reported progress on several research collaborations and projects, such as the second revised edition of an Overview of Anti-Corruption Compliance Standards and Guidelines. He also mentioned the establishment of the Global Programme on Measuring Corruption.

Under Strategic Goal 3: “Consolidate IACA as a centre of excellence for anti-corruption education and training and provider of technical assistance”, the Dean described the expansion of the Academy’s educational offerings. These included the joint MACD course with UNITAR, Master in Anti-Corruption Studies and Compliance in the Spanish language as well as the start of the activities of the Anti-Corruption Collective Action Certificate. Furthermore, he reported on 14 online instructor-led courses, and the new Post-Graduate Diploma in Anti-Corruption Enforcement aimed at in-career professionals.

4. Current and emerging trends and challenges in the prevention of and combating corruption

The Dean delivered a presentation on the emerging trends and challenges in the prevention of and combating corruption. The trends and challenges outlined in the presentation included insufficient implementation of the UNCAC in some countries, a lack of coordinated efforts of international organizations and states, the need of the private sector for guidance from international organizations and governments to implement anti-corruption compliance

management systems, the negative impact of corruption on the ability of governments to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a lack of a widely recognized methodology for measuring corruption based on reliable data. He noted that corruption is an important enabler for organized and economic crime and a growing challenge for the humanitarian aid sector and in post-conflict reconstruction efforts. He also pointed to its effects on sports. He noted that the importance of anti-corruption in the international agenda is growing at a significant pace, spoke on asset recovery as a focus of international organizations and governments, and the effort to support the implementation of anti-corruption compliance management systems in the private sector. He further noted IACA's initiatives and the international communities' responses in tackling these challenges.

China recognized the new challenges, including those related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and encouraged using the available technology and information to tackle these challenges. The representative of China underlined the progress of the GlobE Network and encouraged all the Parties to join the network and make use of its potential.

5. Budget 2023. Fundraising Activities and Financial Stability of IACA

The Dean and Executive Secretary introduced the IACA Budget for the year 2023. He stated that the budget was prepared in accordance with the Work Programme 2021-2024 and based on the Financial Regulations adopted by the Board of Governors. He informed that the overall amount of the proposed budget is 5.103.900 EUR, noting a 2% increase compared with the Budget for the year 2022.

He noted that shifting to project funding will help cover 45% of the budget appropriations using service revenues, particularly the income from academic programmes and various types of trainings and extra-budgetary projects. The Dean and Executive Secretary stressed that this budget would have to be implemented with a great deal of flexibility and resilience due to the uncertainty regarding voluntary financial contributions.

China called upon all the Parties to contribute to the solid development of IACA and assured China's ongoing support.

The Resolution on the Budget 2023 was adopted.

6. Other Matters

- The Resolution on General Matters was adopted.

The Russian Federation stressed that last year's Assembly of Parties in its resolution on General Matters requested the Board of Governors to provide summaries of its deliberations to the Parties. In this context, a question was asked about how this provision will be implemented.

In response, the Secretariat informed that the Chairperson of the BOG has reported on the Board's activities during the current session of the Assembly. Additional ways of reporting would need to be decided by the Board and the Secretariat will suggest to the Board to discuss this matter at its next meeting.

- The Resolution on Measurement of Corruption was adopted.

Kuwait announced that it is co-sponsoring the resolution.

7. Provisional Agenda for the twelfth session of the Assembly

- The Resolution on the twelfth session of the Assembly of Parties was adopted.

8. Adoption of the Report of the Assembly on its eleventh session

The president informed that the report would be prepared after the meeting and shared with the participants.

The president thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.