



**From Vision to Reality:
A New and Holistic Approach to Fighting Corruption”
The International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)
Vienna/Laxenburg
Hofburg, Vienna, 2-3 September 2010**

REPORT

I. Background

1. The International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), the first of its kind, is a joint initiative by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Republic of Austria, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and other stakeholders. IACA aims to overcome current shortcomings of knowledge and practice in the field of anti-corruption. In pursuing this aim, the Academy will function as an independent centre of excellence in the field of anti-corruption education, training, networking and cooperation, as well as academic research, and will seek broad partnerships with public and private sector entities. The Academy will further pursue a holistic and inter-disciplinary approach to training policymakers in Governments, the private sector and civil society, as well as professionals such as judges, investigators, prosecutors, police officers, regulators and academics from all over the world.

2. The headquarters of the Academy are located in Laxenburg, Vienna, Austria, and its full programme, including academic degree courses, will commence in 2011. Regional branches may follow in due course.

3. The establishment of the Academy has been welcomed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 64/237, as well as the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2009/22 and the Third Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in its resolutions 3/2 and 3/4.

4. The launch of the International Anti-Corruption Academy was marked by an Inaugural Conference called *“From Vision to Reality: A New and Holistic Approach to Fighting Corruption”*, which aimed, inter alia, at encouraging additional political support for the Academy. The proceedings of the Opening Conference are reflected in the present report.

II. Date and venue of the Conference

5. The Inaugural Conference of IACA took place on 2-3 September 2010 at the Hofburg Congress Centre, Vienna, Austria. An on-site visit of the IACA premises on 2 September 2010 was also included in the programme of the Conference, which is annexed to the present report.

III. Attendance

6. More than 1,000 participants from over 120 Member States, as well as representatives from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, business sector, civil society, academia and the media, attended the Conference.

IV. Opening of the Conference

7. The Conference was officially opened by the Chief of Protocol of the Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria, who welcomed the participants and extended special thanks to the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the high-level officers present at the Conference for their attendance.

8. Mr. Michael Spindelegger, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Austria, referred to the visionary project of the Academy, which was supported consistently by UNODC, OLAF and Interpol. He stressed that all key players involved in this endeavour were represented in the room, together with high-level representatives from a significant number of Member States, as well as representatives from civil society and the private sector. He also underlined the importance of the Academy as a conduit to promote holistic approaches to the fight against corruption, combining research, education and training and taking into consideration the links between development cooperation and anti-corruption action. In this regard, the responsibility of Austria as the host country of the Academy and the only one within the European Union where United Nations Headquarters are based was highlighted.

9. After her election by acclamation as Chair of the Conference (see below), Ms. Fekter, Minister of the Interior, Austria, thanked all partners involved for their support in setting up the Academy and further underscored the need to curb corruption effectively as a prerequisite for enhancing credibility, transparency and integrity, as well as ensuring the stability of democratic institutions. That challenge was of particular importance especially in view of the ongoing financial crisis, which had, among others, contributed to highlighting corruption as a major problem. She also made reference to international initiatives aimed at countering corruption, including the adoption and entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption; the relevant work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the “European Partners against Corruption” (EPAC), the network of European Union national police oversight bodies and anti-corruption agencies designated to enhance cooperation on anti-corruption issues matters with currently 60 members and observers from the European Union and the Council of Europe; the International Anti-Corruption Summer School (IACSS), an initiative that combined practice and scientific analysis on anti-corruption issues and had given the opportunity to more than 160 practitioners from all over the world to exchange views and experience and enhance their relevant expertise; and the International Anti-Corruption Academy, an institution which was first mentioned as a vision in 2005 in order to effectively promote the fight against corruption and was now launched officially.

10. Mr. Kreutner, Chairman of IACA’s International Steering Committee and Head of the International Transition Team of the Academy and President of EPAC, highlighted the challenges posed by corruption and its impact on social and economic development. He then referred to the importance of training of practitioners and identified capacity building in the anti-corruption field as one of the main objectives of the Academy. In this vein, the new institution intended to function as a platform for direct dialogue and networking, think tank and benchmarking which would focus on bridging the gap between different disciplines in anti-corruption theory and practice. It would also provide tailor-made training and research activities, as well as academic degree programmes, including courses for practitioners from developing countries, with a view

to building a new generation of anti-corruption officials. Students would be able to pursue academic degrees while exchanging ideas and networking on campus. The Academy would further observe geographical and cultural diversity and would seek to promote partnerships between the public and the private sector, as well as broad participation of the academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations. Mr. Kreutner made specific reference to the dedication of the late Director-General of OLAF, Franz-Hermann Bruener, to the vision of the establishment of the Academy and announced the decision of the International Steering Committee to give his name to the Main Hall of the Academy. But Mr. Kreutner also raised one caveat with regard to the Academy. IACA would and should never be able to produce silver bullets, easy-fixes or a “one fits all” solution. It would leave with the policy makers, the politicians, the legislators, the businessmen and businesswomen, with civil society and the media and – ultimately - with all of us the overall responsibility to say, and to say it loud and clear, No! to corruption.

11. Addressing the Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, welcomed the launch of the International Anti-Corruption Academy as a milestone in the efforts of the international community to fight corruption and noted that it had great potential to advance the goals of the landmark United Nations Convention against Corruption. On this occasion, he thanked the Government of Austria for providing the premises for the operation of the Academy. He stressed that for years corruption had been perceived as “part of life”, but the founding of the Academy was a sign that attitudes were changing and that intolerance against this scourge was growing. The establishment of this Academy, as an institution designed by professionals for professionals, responded to an urgent need to promote a culture of integrity and educate a new generation of anti-corruption officers and practitioners through specialized training in line with the international standards enshrined in the UNCAC. Noting that traditional methods were proving no match for new types of corruption, especially financial crimes, the Secretary-General expressed his confidence that the Academy would nurture a new generation of leaders in the public and private sectors, working together in a global network of talented, like-minded professionals, while its curriculum and activities would complement the technical assistance provided by UNODC, the custodian of the Convention. He added that, although people had come to understand more about the causes and effects of corruption, combating it had proved difficult, as a major handicap was that the tools to measure it were lacking. The creation of the Academy and its envisaged function as a precise body of knowledge about a poorly researched and little-understood subject would help develop an effective and scientific measure for corruption. The spread of knowledge would further create the conditions for change, enabling Governments and other stakeholders to make evidence-based policies against corruption, thus empowering communities to become part of the solution rather than mere victims of corruption. The Secretary-General further introduced to the Conference participants Mr. Yury Fedotov, the new Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of UNODC.

12. After his election by acclamation as Vice-Chair of the Conference (see below), Amb. Muhyieddeen Touq gave a brief overview of the background developments that led to the launch of the Academy and stated that making it a reality was due to the visions and dedicated efforts of visionary people. He also noted that the high attendance and the participation of a significant number of senior officers from Member States demonstrated the high interest and expectations about the added value of the new institution.

V. Election of the Chair and other officers

13. At its meeting on 2 September 2010, the Conference elected by acclamation Ms. Maria Fekter, Minister of the Interior, Austria, as its Chairperson. At the same meeting, the Conference elected by acclamation Amb. Muhyieddeen Touq, Jordan, as its Vice-Chair; and Ms. Brigitte

Strobel-Shaw, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and Amb. Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, Director-General, Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria, the latter three Members of the International Steering Committee of the Academy, as members of its Secretariat.

VI. High-level segment

A. Statements at the high-level segment

14. The high-level segment of the Conference was held on 2 September 2010. Statements were made by the following high-level officials and participants:

Claudia Bandion-Ortner
Minister of Justice, **Austria**

Patricia Espinosa Cantellano
Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Mexico**

Ronald Noble
Secretary-General, **Interpol**

John Radek
Minister of the Interior, **The Czech Republic**

Tibor Navracsics
Minister of Justice and Public Administration and Deputy Prime Minister, **Hungary**

Javier Villa Stein
President of the Supreme Court of Justice, **Peru**

Juana Marcela Miranda Pérez
President, Council of Citizen Participation and Social Control, **Ecuador**

Ivica Dacic
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, **Serbia**

Wolfgang Hetzer
Special Advisor in Anti-Corruption Affairs, **OLAF**
&

Ingrid Bruener
Wife of the late Director-General of OLAF

Basha Lulzim
Minister of Interior, **Albania**

Nardi Suxo Iturry

Minister of Institutional Transparency and Fight against Corruption, **Bolivia**
(Plurinational State of)

Margarita Stefanova Popova

Minister of Justice, **Bulgaria**

Michael Herschman

Chair of the IACA International Senior Advisory Board (ISAB)

Bambi Lessa Luzolo

Minister of Justice and Human Rights, **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Mutula Kilonzo

Minister of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, **Kenya**

Ivan Brajovic

Minister of the Interior and Public Administration, **Montenegro**

Maria Benvinda Delfina Levi

Minister of Justice, **Mozambique**

Barry O' Keefe

Chair of Interpol's International Group of Experts on Corruption (IGEC)

Hans Heiner Kühne

Chair of the IACA International Academic Advisory Board (IAAB)

Catalin Marian Predoiu

Minister of Justice, **Romania**

Daniel Lipsic

Minister of Interior, **Slovakia**

Huguette Labelle

Chair of the Board of Directors, Transparency International

Dzevat Buchi

Deputy Minister of the Interior, **The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Mkondo Danwood Lungu

Minister of Home Affairs, **Zambia**

Mark Pieth

Chairman, OECD Working Group on Bribery

Tatijana Vucetic

State Secretary of Justice, **Croatia**

Drago Kos

President of GRECO, Council of Europe, and Chairman, Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, **Slovenia**

Ebo Barton-Odro

Deputy Minister of Justice, Ghana

Petros Kareklas

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Justice, Cyprus

Young-keun Lee

Vice Chairman, Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, **Republic of Korea**

Manfred Nowak

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture

Clodosbaldo Russian

Comptroller General, **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**

Eugenio Maria Curia

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations (Vienna), **Argentina**

Umar Haryono

Chairman, Corruption Eradication Commission, **Indonesia**

Mahmoud Gebril Ibrahim Elwarfally

Chairman, High-level Steering Committee for the Project of Anti-Corruption, National Economic Development Board, **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

Abed Ali Shakhanbeh

Chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission, **Jordan**

Simon Smith

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations (Vienna), **United Kingdom**

Lourdes Yparraquirre

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations (Vienna), **Philippines**

Yung-sang Lee

Prosecutor, International Criminal Affairs Division, Ministry of Justice, **Republic of Korea**

Mohamed Hamood Almatry

Member of SNACC, Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, **Yemen**

Ioannis Karkalis

European Public Law Organization

Abboud Al Sarraj

Professor of Law, Ministers Council, **Syrian Arab Republic**

B. Summary of the general discussion at the high-level segment of the Conference

15. In opening the high-level segment, Ms. Claudia Bandion-Ortner, Minister of Justice, Austria, reiterated the strong commitment of the Austrian Government to working towards ensuring that the aims of the Academy would be fulfilled and thanked all Partners involved in its establishment, particularly UNODC and OLAF.

16. All speakers welcomed the establishment of the Academy and thanked the Government of Austria for its leadership in pursuing this project, as well as UNODC and OLAF for their substantial support in making this new institution a reality. Many speakers reported their readiness to sign the Agreement establishing the Academy as an international organization during the Opening Conference, thus making their countries founding members of that new body, while others indicated the intention of their countries to do the same in the near future.

17. All speakers stressed the importance of the Academy as centrepiece of international anti-corruption architecture and a centre of excellence on anti-corruption, integrity and good governance issues. Some speakers highlighted the independent nature of the Academy due to both its academic status and its legal basis and referred to the need for enhancing cooperation with international organizations, such as UNODC, Council of Europe and its GRECO Mechanism and OECD, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other universities/academies, including through exchange of experts. One speaker drew attention to the need to ensure the proper funding of the Academy for the future. Reference was further made to the possibility of operating regional branches of the Academy in future.

18. Many speakers expressed confidence that the Academy would make an important contribution to promoting education, knowledge-sharing and training and ensuring consistency in the fight against corruption. Other speakers referred to the links between counter-action against corruption, on the one hand, and efforts to achieve development goals and protect human rights, on the other, and felt that the Academy could further promote awareness-raising about those links. Several speakers further underlined the need to use the new institution as a platform to develop common standards and approaches in anti-corruption work, while others

focused on existing weaknesses and gaps in law enforcement and favoured the sharing of good practices on issues ranging, for example, from undercover operations to protection of whistle-blowers and seizure and forfeiture of proceeds of corruption.

19. There was agreement that an important condition for the success of the Academy would be the adoption of a holistic and comprehensive approach so as to ensure that its educational and training courses and programmes would cover not only issues of criminalization and law enforcement, but also prevention and wider aspects of good governance and institutional reforms. In the same context, several speakers underscored the need to devote particular attention to international cooperation in criminal matters and asset recovery.

20. Many speakers reflected on national efforts to curb corruption, including through enacting specific legislation on ad hoc or related issues (e.g. money-laundering, protection of whistle-blowers, mutual legal assistance, access to information, public procurement); adopting anti-corruption policies and plans of action; establishing specialized anti-corruption authorities and units in prosecution services and courts; and taking initiatives to mainstream the fight against corruption into the management of public affairs and the wider criminal justice reform. In this vein, it was stressed that the crucial role of the Academy would be to function as a “conduit of knowledge” and an enabling environment for capacity building to ensure that skilled and well-trained officials would make such measures and reforms work in practice.

21. The Conference observed a minute of silence for the late Director-General of OLAF, Franz-Hermann Bruener, to honour his legacy and memory.

VII. Treaty-signing ceremony

22. At the treaty-signing ceremony which took place on 2 September 2010, 35 UN Member States and the European Public Law Organization signed the Agreement for the Establishment of IACA as an International Organization, and highlighted their strong commitment to join forces in the fight against corruption. The following Member States signed the Agreement: Albania, Argentina, Austria, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Chile, Cyprus, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Montenegro, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zambia.

23. It was noted that the first round for signatures would be open until 31 December 2010 (see article XVIII of the Agreement for the Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy as an International Organization) and those countries who would sign the Agreement until then would still be considered Founding Members of the Academy.

VIII. Plenary Thematic Sessions

24. The Conference held two plenary thematic sessions, entitled “Preventing and Combating Corruption – a Global Answer to a Global Scourge” and “An Inclusive Approach - the Broader Context”. The topics of each session were introduced by expert panels.

A. Plenary Thematic Session I: “Preventing and Combating Corruption – a Global Answer to a Global Scourge”

25. The first plenary thematic session addressed the balance between preventive measures and prosecution. Panelists discussed how awareness of corruption could be effectively raised and how the relevant stakeholders could best be involved. The panel was chaired by Huguette Labelle (Transparency International).

26. Minister Mutula Kilonzo (Ministry of Justice, Kenya) made reference to the reforms undertaken in his country to address corruption and strengthen public trust in the judiciary since 2008. A new Constitution and a number of relevant laws had been adopted, including a law on mutual legal assistance. Free and fair elections were the basis for a transparent political system, and parliamentarians had a key role in providing leadership the fight against corruption.

27. Mr. Odell Guyton (Microsoft, USA) detailed the corruption prevention policy of the company. It included a mandatory training programme for staff, a system for reporting of allegations of corruption and an investigation system. The speaker highlighted that reporting and investigation processes had to enable officials to deal with their concerns in a constructive way, in order to achieve the highest standards of integrity.

28. Mr. Rahem Hasen Al-Igeeli (Commission of Integrity, Iraq) summarized the experience of the Commission since its establishment in 2004. While recognising the importance of investigation and law enforcement to fight corruption, he considered prevention as the central element. It rested on the clear recognition of the existence and the detrimental effect of corruption and required the involvement of all stakeholders. Awareness-raising should aim at changing attitudes towards corruption in the executive. Instead of covering corruption to protect the reputation of institutions, allegations must be reported, investigated and sanctioned as appropriate. Whistle-blowers should be protected and compensated. Asset recovery had an important role in demonstrating that corruption does not pay.

29. Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro (OSCE, Italy) highlighted the link between trafficking in persons and corruption, which was underestimated and in many cases not investigated. Corruption played a facilitating role throughout the whole trafficking chain, particularly in migration offices, consulates and criminal courts and including high-level officials. Investigations could only succeed if trafficking victims were empowered to report and testify, not only in the trafficking but also the corruption cases. Further, financial investigations should consistently reveal who was on the payroll of organized criminal groups.

30. Mr. Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail (Attorney General Office, Malaysia) highlighted the importance of simple and transparent procedures for granting concessions and for international cooperation in criminal matters. He further advocated awareness-raising on the serious criminal nature of corruption. Training was of high importance, since most corruption cases involved complex financial investigations, which exceeded the capacity of most police officers and prosecutors.

31. Participants considered prevention the most effective approach in the long term, however stressed that it needed to be backed up by strong capacities to investigate and sanction acts of corruption. Several speakers provided examples of innovative legislative standards in their countries, including on transparency and access to information in public procurement and conflict of interest. Participants stressed that corruption was a serious crime, a violation to human rights and a threat for development.

32. Many speakers highlighted the dire need for capacity-building, and the key position of IACA in educating a new generation of anti-corruption experts. It was stressed that training was not only important for police, prosecutors and judges but necessary for all sectors. Parliamentarians

needed training to be accountable and transparent and to successfully act as watchdogs and drivers of change. The private sector, trade unions and civil society needed to be sensitized on their role in fighting corruption, and broader civic education should encourage whistle-blowers. Through the comprehensive and inclusive approach of IACA, the shared responsibility between different partners should be strengthened.

B. Plenary Thematic Session II: “An Inclusive Approach - the Broader Context”

33. The second plenary thematic session considered the need of a holistic and inter-disciplinary, interregional, inter-cultural and inter-sectoral approach to overcome current shortcomings in knowledge and practice in the field of anti-corruption. It provided room for discussion how to involve all parts of society and which role the IACA could play. The panel was chaired by Mr. Martin Kreutner (IACA, EPAC).

Ms. Martha Isabel Castañeda Curvelo (Attorney General's Office, Colombia) stressed the facilitating role of corruption for transnational organized crime. She made reference to the important role of the media in uncovering and fighting such connections. She further reported on experience from her country, such as the strengthening of social control mechanisms in pre-contract procedures in public procurements. A strong international legal framework for international cooperation in criminal matters was needed, especially for extradition.

Mr. Linda Dlamini (Anti-Corruption Authority, Swaziland) informed participants on the experiences of his institution since its establishment in 2006. He highlighted the importance of education in public ethics, legislative frameworks, auditing and control institutions and law enforcement. Since the highest priority should be to increase the willingness and empowerment to report corruption allegations, the speaker considered the work with civil society and youth as central.

Mr. Anthony Mills (International Press Institute, United Kingdom) reported that journalists faced high risks when reporting on corruption. He stressed that one out of five killings of journalists concerned reporters who covered corruption. Reporting on corruption was thus to be considered more dangerous than reporting on conflict. Impunity in these cases was a serious problem. All countries should clearly recognize the right of journalists to report on corruption. Further, voluntary self regulation should be further developed. Cooperation with journalists needed to be included in anti-corruption policies.

Mr. Luiz Navarro (Office of the Comptroller General, Brazil) reported on strategies for an inclusive approach in Brazil, a federal country with several layers of administration. The access to meaningful and high-quality information adjusted to the needs of citizens, capacity-building for civil society and ethic value education were successful practices. Cooperation with the private sector was further important to increase reporting figures of companies. The IACA should strengthen partnerships between multiple actors.

Mr. Mark Pieth (OECD, Switzerland) stressed the holistic and cooperative manner in which corruption had to be addressed. Attacking the supply side of corruption was a daunting task. It required, inter alia, watchdogs to hold prosecutors and the judiciary accountable for their decisions to pursue or dismiss a case. Experiences from the private sector had to be taken into account to strengthen corporate liability and responsibility. IACA should provide training not only to law enforcement and the judiciary, but also the private sector.

Ms. Karen Tandy (Motorola, USA) held that attitudes of the private sector were changing. However, a number of companies still considered corruption as the only way of doing business in some countries. The IACA had an important role to play in ending this argument. Since

vulnerabilities existed in all companies, compliance programmes needed the full commitment of companies and should be supported by appropriate technological tools.

Participants commended the comprehensive and inclusive approach of IACA. They stressed the need to build the capacities of all sectors of society, including the private sector civil society, to enable them to play their important role in the fight against corruption. This could enhance corporate social responsibility and enhance reporting of corruption. The IACA as an independent, credible academic institution should further invest in research for developing innovative strategies.