

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

Online Format Assembly of Parties

Report of the Chairperson of the Board of Governors

Mr. Alexey Konov

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be here with you today at this ninth session of the Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the format of this session differs significantly from what we are used to. As we meet virtually for the first time, by necessity this session will be much shorter than usual and focus on adopting essential resolutions only. I hope that our meeting next year will be already held in a traditional way and we will be able to go back to the usual agenda that includes a general debate and a focused discussion on the main challenges in the field of anti-corruption and compliance.

As Chairperson of IACA's Board of Governors, and in keeping with tradition, I have the privilege of presenting the Board's report.

First of all, let me congratulate the President of the Assembly and the members of the newly elected Bureau of the ninth session of the Assembly of Parties, as well as to extend a very warm welcome to all the distinguished delegates who joined us from various corners of the globe.

Secondly, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to my colleagues on the Board for their commitment and continued support, as well as trust they placed in me. I am also grateful for the expertise and constructive input from the members of the IACA's International Senior Advisory Board (ISAB) and International Academic Advisory Board (IAAB). I very much hope that the interaction between the Board of Governors and the two advisory boards will be growing, as will the involvement of the two advisory boards in providing advice and feedback to the Secretariat and the Constituency.

Thirdly, my special thanks go to the External Auditors and the countries that seconded them, namely: Indonesia, the Russian Federation, and Thailand.

Finally, the Board of Governors wishes to express its appreciation for the immense efforts of Dean Thomas Stelzer and the entire staff of IACA. It is mainly thanks to their dedication, motivation, and professionalism that IACA programmes continue to be implemented and further developed despite the continued financial and staffing difficulties experienced by the Academy not to mention the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year a big part of the Board's report to the Assembly was devoted to the financial crisis the Academy was going through. Back then we hoped that 2020 will be the year of recovery, stabilization, and growth of the organization. To a large extent these hopes came true. Drawing on the document developed by the IACA Board of Governors titled the *Strategic Development of the International Anti-Corruption Academy* which I presented at the last session of the Assembly in Nur-Sultan the Academy started to adjust its ongoing work and develop new activities and initiatives. Furthermore, with global travel restrictions impeding face-to-face programme delivery, the Academy translated its academic programmes and trainings into online formats. This enabled IACA to continue delivering its academic programmes without any delays or loss of quality and to extend its reach to a wider audience. All these positive developments are reflected in the draft of the new Work Programme 2021-2024, which I hope the Assembly will approve today. As stated in this document, the implementation of the Work Programme will stabilize, consolidate, and grow the organization while also enhancing IACA's financial stability.

Mr. President,

IACA's Constituency continues to grow. By now, 76 States and four international organizations have signed and ratified the IACA Agreement or acceded to it. Since the last Assembly, Myanmar and Kenya joined the organization, and the Board would like to bid a warm welcome to them. Moreover, several new memoranda of understanding have been signed by the Academy.

Over the years, the Academy has empowered more than 3000 anti-corruption and compliance professionals from over 160 countries and jurisdictions through innovative, top-quality programmes and trainings. These include, among many others, the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS), and the International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action (IMACC). The new classes of both programmes have just started in October in the online format. Another flagship programme of IACA, the Summer Academy, also had to be implemented fully virtually this year. It gathered a record number of 102 anti-corruption and compliance professionals from 45 countries worldwide. Finally, the Academy has been implementing some tailor-made trainings. Regrettably, it has to be recognized, however, that due to the Covid-19 pandemic many of planned trainings could not take place.

In the near future, many new activities are planned to be launched, including a new master and an executive diploma on anti-corruption and diplomacy, certification programmes, a Ph.D. programme, and various online trainings. A clear priority of the Academy is also to become a global centre of excellence for research on corruption. These are all highly encouraging developments deserving the full support of the Board of Governors and the entire IACA Constituency.

Mr. President,

This being said, we cannot ignore the fact that the root-causes of the financial crisis, the acute phase of which started in late 2018, are not resolved yet. Last year, in my address to the Assembly I said that the Academy will not become financially stable and, in the long-run, self-sustainable, if it does not receive sufficient and regular financial support from its Parties and other donors. I added that further development of the Academy will not be possible with the current level of human and financial resources, and in particular the huge shortfall in the general budget allocations. To my regret, these words continue to be valid today. Voluntary contributions, which are an essential element of the Academy's budget, are provided by a fraction of IACA's Constituency only. As a result, the amount of contributions collected remains well below what would be necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the Academy and to restore necessary staffing levels. Here I would like to express the Board's deepest gratitude to those States and other stakeholders that supported IACA financially since the last meeting of the Assembly. These are: Chile, China, Cyprus, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of Austria, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, as well as Siemens and OMV.

Without their generosity, the continued existence of the Academy would not be possible. The Board hopes that next year they will be joined by many other States and the Academy will finally be able to stabilize its financial situation and in particular solve the problem of deferred income, which unfortunately continues casting shadow over IACA's future.

Against this background, ensuring financial ownership and participation among Parties and other stakeholders continues to be key to the stability and sustainability of IACA. This idea is in particular reflected in the draft Work Programme 2021-2024. The Academy needs to consolidate existing and develop new partnerships. In this context particular emphasis should be put on the importance of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Financial

Matters and other Administrative and Substantive Aspects of IACA Activities, and enhanced cooperation with national anti-corruption institutions, and research and educational centres.

It is the great hope of the Board that the engagement of the Constituency in the activities of IACA will continue to grow. The Board will continue calling on the Parties to provide stronger support to the Academy to back up the positive changes that occurred in the course of the last year. This needs to be done to enable the Academy to continue providing and enhancing high-quality anti-corruption and compliance programmes, develop research capacities, serve as a platform for exchange of best practices and expertise, enhance service delivery to the Parties, and promote dialogue and foster cooperation with bilateral and multilateral stakeholders. The time to act is now.

Thank you for your attention.