

8 December 2020

**ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES
NINTH SESSION**

Doc #: AOP9-Rep-1

**International Anti-Corruption Academy
Report on the Assembly of Parties
9th Session**

30 November 2020
Online Format

Agenda

1. Organizational Matters:
 - a. Opening of the session
 - b. Election of officers
 - c. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
 - d. Participation of observers
 - e. Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials
2. IACA's Development: report by the relevant organs; review and discussion
3. Work Programme starting in 2021. Implementation report of the Work Programme 2017-2020
4. Budget 2021; Fundraising Activities and Financial Stability of IACA
5. Other Matters
6. Provisional Agenda for the tenth session of the Assembly

1. Organizational Matters

a) Opening of the session

The Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) convened for its ninth session in an online format on 30 November 2020.

H.E. Mr. Kairat Umarov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to IACA, representing Mr. Olzhas Bektenov, President of the eight session of the Assembly, opened the session. He welcomed participants to the session and welcomed IACA's two newest Parties, Myanmar and Kenya, to the organisation.

Mr. Umarov passed the floor to the Dean and Executive Secretary, Mr. Thomas Stelzer, who welcomed participants to the first online session of the AoP. He expressed his hope that the new Work Programme 2021-2024 will be approved by the Assembly. He stressed that this document should guide the work of IACA for the coming years. The Dean also elaborated on the importance of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly Special Session against Corruption (UNGASS 2021). Finally, he referred to the difficult financial situation of the Academy.

b) Election of Officers

The Assembly unanimously elected the following officers for this session:

President: H.E. Mr. Helmut Tichy, the Permanent Representative of Austria to IACA (Western European and Others Group)

Vice President: H.E. Ms. Gloria Navarrete, the Permanent Representative of Chile to IACA (Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries)

Vice President: H.E. Ms. Barbara Zvokelj, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to IACA (Eastern European Group)

Rapporteur: H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hamdy ELMOLLA - the Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to IACA (African Group)

Rapporteur: H.E. Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to IACA (Asia and the Pacific Group)

H.E. Mr. Umarov, on behalf of the outgoing President, handed over to the incoming President, congratulated him on his election, and wished him every success. The incoming President thanked the Assembly for the responsibility and trust it had shown towards him, praised the excellent work of the outgoing President, and pledged his full support for the work of the Assembly.

c) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Assembly unanimously adopted the agenda.

The following Parties were represented at this session: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkey.

d) Participation of observers

No observers were accredited for this session

e) Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials

The Dean informed that the Bureau of the Assembly concluded that 54 out of 80 Parties were registered to the session and thus the quorum had been reached.

The Assembly adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials without objections.

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

Dean Stelzer was given the floor to present his report. The Dean updated the Assembly on some of IACA's accomplishments to date, with an emphasis on those since the eight session of the Assembly.

The Dean elaborated on the challenges in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted IACA's response which was to quickly move its content delivery into an online platform. He also stressed that IACA had developed a number of new online courses.

Dean Stelzer noted the positive report of the Independent External Auditors for 2019. He highlighted that the report advised that the Academy should diversify its sources of income and that IACA is still at risk of insolvency.

The Dean touched upon the Work Programme briefly before addressing IACA's financial situation. He thanked the donors which contributed to IACA in the past year. He also referred to the fact that the Academy was gravely understaffed.

Looking forward, the Dean referred to the upcoming UNGASS 2021 and the new focus on anti-corruption in the UN system. He expressed his hope that with the support of the Parties, IACA could play an important role in the new international anti-corruption architecture.

Mr. Alexey Konov, Chairperson of the Board of Governors, was given the floor. He shared the Board's report on the progress of IACA's activities, pursuant to Article VI (2) i of the *Agreement for the Establishment of IACA as an International Organization*.

The Chairperson highlighted that due to the online format the ninth session of the AoP would focus only on adopting essential resolutions.

Mr. Konov elaborated on the financial crisis which struck the Academy at the end of 2018. He said that last year he had hoped 2020 would be a year of recovery and that this had come true to a large extent, but that the pandemic had presented new challenges.

He recalled the document developed by the IACA Board of Governors titled the Strategic Development of the International Anti-Corruption Academy which he presented at the eight session of the AoP and explained how its recommendations had been translated into the Work Programme 2021-2024.

The Chairperson of the BoG recalled IACA's achievement over the last year and presented some of the new activities of the Academy which would be launched in the coming year including new academic courses and research activities.

Mr. Konov stressed that IACA was still under financial pressure and called on Parties to provide funding to the organisation to enable it to eventually become self sufficient.

He emphasised that the Academy needed 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.

The President thanked the Chairperson of the BoG for his report and opened the floor for comments.

All delegations who took the floor congratulated the Bureau of the session on their election.

The representative of Egypt congratulated Dean Stelzer on his appointment and thanked his team for their hard work. He also praised the development of the Work Programme 2021-2024 and the 2021 Budget.

The representative of China congratulated the Dean on his appointment. He suggested that IACA should develop more tailor-made trainings and country studies platforms. He also stated that IACA should build frameworks for cooperation between national law enforcement and anti-corruption agencies. The representative also stated that China is committing to providing 600,000EUR to the Academy. This would be provided in three installments of 200,000EUR paid over three years starting in 2020.

The representative of Bangladesh highlighted his country's national anti-corruption policies and activities. He noted with appreciation the scholarships provided to Bangladeshi nationals by IACA. He restated the commitment of his country to the organisation and highlighted their willingness to host any future session of the AoP.

The representative of the Russian Federation thanked the Dean for his recent trip to Moscow. He stressed that IACA's financial problems had not passed and that the Academy needed more support until it can become self sustaining. He stated that the strategy prepared by the Board of Governors could not take effect yet due to financial constraints. He stated that research was a major opportunity for IACA and it should focus on areas prioritised by international agreements, including UNCAC. In this connection, he suggested the creation of a research centre under IACA's aegis. The Russian representative also stressed that further development of e-learning capacities must be prioritised at the Academy. He underlined that these developments would only be possible if backed by a strong organisational structure. He called on all Parties to contribute to IACA financially. He also stressed that the research and education departments need to be strengthened.

The representative of Austria welcomed the new Parties of Kenya and Myanmar to IACA. He commended the Dean on his work and on how IACA had adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted that Austria contributed by far the greatest amount of funding to IACA. He stressed that it was the responsibility of all Parties to maintain the organisation and encouraged them to contribute financially to the Academy. He announced that Austria is working on finalizing a multi year financial package for IACA. He stated that there is no excuse for Parties not to provide even a small contribution to IACA.

The representative of Kenya congratulated the President and highlighted the needs of Kenya in terms of anti-corruption training.

The representative of Romania stated that efforts should be made to diversify income for the Academy. She encouraged IACA to examine its strengths and weaknesses in order to better plan for its recovery. She informed that Romania was ready to support IACA by sharing its best practices.

The representative of Brazil welcomed the Dean and the new Parties to IACA. He suggested that IACA should face its challenges head on but with respect to its foundational documents.

The representative of Chile welcomed the draft Work Programme and the development of trainings in a wider range of languages.

The representative of Mexico highlighted that IACA should work collaboratively with the UN and particularly with UNODC.

The representative of Pakistan also took the floor. He welcomed the Bureau and commended IACA on its work. He welcomed Kenya and Myanmar as new IACA members. He stressed that the Government of Pakistan attached high importance to addressing the issue of corruption.

2. Work Programme starting in 2021. Implementation report of the Work Programme 2017-2020

Dean Stelzer took the floor to report on the Work Programme 2017-2020 and to present the new Work Programme 2021-2024.

The Dean stressed that implementation of the previous work programme was contingent on the availability of sufficient resources. He went on to address each of the strategic objectives and their implementation.

On the Strategic Objective One, *Strengthen and Safeguard the Academic Integrity of IACA so as to Enhance Service Delivery to its Constituency*, the Dean stated that IACA continued to provide assistance to Parties in the core areas of anti-corruption education, professional training, technical assistance, and research. He also highlighted the scholarships which were granted to participants in IACA programmes. He stated that the planned PhD programme was not launched due to budget constraints.

On Strategic Objective Two, *Promote Scientific Research that is Directed towards the Development of Standards in Anti-Corruption and Compliance*, the Dean highlighted various research activities of the Academy. He also stated that due to financial constraints the Research Department currently had no staff.

On Strategic Objective Three, *Enhance the Existing Structure, in particular Academic and Expert In-house Capacities*, the Dean highlighted the decline in staff numbers over the last 2 years.

On Strategic Objective Four, *Expand and Enlarge Stakeholder and Partner Relations*, Dean Stelzer gave examples of IACA's collaborations with various organisations on academic activities.

Under Strategic Objective "plus 1" *Ensure Financial Ownership, Participation, Stability, and Sustainability*, the Dean focused on the establishment of the Working Group on Financial Matters by the Assembly of Parties, but highlighted IACA's ongoing financial difficulties.

The Dean proceeded to present the Work Programme 2021-2024. He informed the Assembly that the main purpose of the Work Programme was to stabilize, consolidate, and grow the organization, while also enhancing its financial stability. He went on to describe each of the three Strategic Goals of the Work Programme. The first strategic goal was to strengthen relationships with Parties and develop new partnerships. Under the second Strategic Goal, initiatives to develop IACA's role as a centre for anti-corruption research were described. The third Strategic Goal of the draft Work Programme was to consolidate IACA as a centre of excellence for anti-corruption education and training and provider of technical assistance.

The Assembly of Parties unanimously adopted the Resolution on the Work Programme 2021 - 2024 (Doc #: AOP9-Res-1).



3. Budget 2021; Fundraising Activities and Financial Stability of IACA

The Dean once again took the floor to introduce the Budget 2021. He highlighted that the budget was developed in conjunction with the Work Programme 2021-2024. He stated that it was also prepared on the basis of the Financial Regulations adopted by the Board of Governors in October last year. He informed that the overall amount of the proposed budget was 4.374.700 EUR. The Dean stated that by diversifying its income and launching various new activities, IACA would be able to cover 55% of the budget appropriations using service revenues, particularly the income from academic programmes and various types of training. He also stressed that due to the unpredictable nature of voluntary contributions, the budget would have to be implemented with a great deal of flexibility.

The Assembly of Parties unanimously adopted the Resolution on the IACA Budget 2021 (Doc #: AOP9-Res-2).

4. Other Matters

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

5. Provisional Agenda for the tenth session of the Assembly

The Assembly of Parties unanimously adopted the *Resolution on the Convening and Agenda of the Tenth Session of the Assembly of Parties* (Doc #: AOP9-Res-3).