

4 October 2019

**ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES  
EIGHTH SESSION**

Doc #: AOP8-Res-4

**RESOLUTION  
ON THE REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION  
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES**

The Assembly of Parties,

**Adopts** the report on the eighth session of the Assembly of Parties, as annexed.

# International Anti-Corruption Academy

## Report on the Assembly of Parties

### 8<sup>th</sup> Session

2-4 October 2019  
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

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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 eight session in Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan, from 2 to 4 October 2019.

Ms. Christiane Pohn-Hufnagl, Officer-in-Charge of IACA, opened the session with her welcoming remarks. She expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the session.

Ms. Pohn-Hufnagl highlighted that it is timely that delegates gather to discuss the challenges facing IACA given the seriousness of the crisis which it has been through. She also sighted the opportunities available to the Academy and stated her hope that the Assembly can reach the decisions needed to ensure the future of IACA.

The Officer-in-Charge then gave the floor to His Excellency Mr. Zurab Abashidze, Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Kazakhstan representing His Excellency Mr. Gocha Lordkipanidze, Deputy Minister of Justice of Georgia, who acted as President of the seventh session of IACA's Assembly of Parties, to preside over the opening ceremony.

H.E. Mr. Abashidze officially opened the session.

H.E. Mr. Abashidze stressed that it had been a great honor for Mr. Lordkipanidze to serve the Assembly and the anti-corruption community for the last year. He praised the contribution of the Academy's staff, and thanked the outgoing Vice Presidents from the Republic of Korea (Asia-Pacific Group) and Georgia (Eastern European Group), the outgoing Rapporteurs from Nigeria (African Group) and Kuwait (Asia-Pacific Group), and the Extended Bureau for their support and cooperation.

H.E. Mr. Abashidze gave the floor to Mr. Krymbek Kusherbayev, State Secretary of the Republic of Kazakhstan on behalf of the Head of State, H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Mr. Kusherbayev said that the role of IACA is unique and growing. He stated that the identification of best practices allows IACA to provide the highest levels of training in anti-corruption. He also emphasized the importance of supporting IACA's work in this field.

The State Secretary listed some achievements of Kazakhstan in anti-corruption both domestically and internationally.

H.E. Mr. Abashidze next gave the floor to Lt. Gen. Alik Shpekbayev, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Lt. Gen. Shpekbayev elaborated on the collaboration and the joint activities of IACA and his agency as well as some of the milestones in the development of IACA.

He also explained the history of Kazakhstan's anti-corruption initiatives particularly those related to the civil service.

H.E. Mr. Abashidze next gave the floor to Mr. Alikhan Baimenov, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Astana Civil Service Hub.

Mr. Baimenov elaborated on the role of the Astana Hub in anti-corruption, its mandate, and its relationship with IACA.

H.E. Mr. Abashidze proceeded to give the floor to Mr. Alexey Konov, Chairperson of the IACA Board of Governors.

Mr. Konov expressed his gratitude to the Host Country for hosting the Assembly. He emphasized the severity of the crisis which IACA went through in late 2018 and early 2019. He explained that while the situation has improved, problems still persist and IACA remains at risk of the situation recurring.

The Chairperson stated that the Board of Governors hopes that solutions will be found and explained that the Board had adopted the *Strategic Development of the International Anti-Corruption Academy* document with proposals to help IACA out of the crisis situation.

Following Mr. Konov's intervention, a short video was shown by the host country on the economic development of Kazakhstan.

b) Election of officers

The Assembly unanimously elected the following officers for this session:

President: Mr. Olzhas Bektenov (Asia-Pacific Group)

Vice President: Prof. Olusola Akinrinade, (African Group)

Vice President: H.E Mr. Datuk Liew Vui Keong (Asia-Pacific Group)

Rapporteur: Mr. Gerhard Thallinger (Western European and Others Group)

Rapporteur: Ms. Judit Brzobohatá (Eastern European Group)

Mr. Abashidze, 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, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel,

Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, International Organization for Migration (IOM).\*

d) Participation of observers

The Officer-in-Charge informed the room that five Observers were taking part in this session.

No Signatories were represented.

The following non-Signatories were represented: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Holy See, Myanmar, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

e) Adoption of the report of the Bureau on credentials

The Officer-in-Charge informed that the Bureau of the Assembly concluded that 46 out of 78 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.

f) High level segment and general discussion

National statements were delivered by the following high-level representatives, in chronological order: H.E. Mr. Vusal Huseynov, Chief of the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan; H.E. Datuk Liew Vui Keong, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department for Legal Affairs of Malaysia; Mr. Andreas Wieselthaler, Director of the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption; Mr. Ibrahim Abel, Director of Public Relations of ACTA; Mr. HU Jinyang, Vice President of China Academy of Discipline and Supervision; H.E. Ms. Pak Un Jong, Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea; H.E. Andrey Avetisyan, Ambassador at Large for International Anti-Corruption Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; H.E. Mr. Zafar Md. Abu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the International Organization in Vienna; H.E. Mr. Abdalla Ahmed Aod Alseed, Designated Attorney General of the Republic of the Sudan; Mr. Leonardo Bastos Azevedo, Second Secretary, Embassy of Brazil in Kazakhstan; Lieutenant Colonel Mihaly Veszeka, Senior Executive at the National Protective Services of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary; H.E. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Ambassador, Embassy of Pakistan to Kazakhstan; Prof. Olusola Akinrinade, Provost, Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria.

The President of the session, Mr. Olzhas Bektenov, presided over the first day and last days of the session (2 and 4 October). On the second day (3 October), the Vice-President, Prof. Olusola Akinrinade, presided over the session.

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\* One Party which registered was not present at the Assembly.

The representatives of Austria, China, Kuwait, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation mentioned their respective countries' financial contributions and/or staff secondments to IACA over the past year(s).

The representative of Azerbaijan praised IACA as a dynamic organization training young professionals. He emphasized Azerbaijan's collaboration with IACA demonstrated by his country's hosting of a module of one of IACA's programmes. He highlighted how his country has benefited from the knowledge of its 14 IACA graduates. In his capacity as a member of the Board of Governors he encouraged the Parties to engage in the activities of the organization and to think of ways in which they may contribute to it. He stated that the strategic document adopted by the Board presents recommendations aimed at strengthening the organization.

The representative of Malaysia praised IACA's capacity building efforts and stressed Malaysia's commitment to contribute to IACA not only financially, but in other ways such as organizing modules, hosting and providing services to teaching staff, and providing speakers to the summer academies. He encouraged other Parties to support IACA to ensure its smooth operations.

The representative of Austria emphasized that his country has made considerable financial contributions to IACA's general budget. He stated that Austrian contributions saved the organization from collapse during the crisis. He called on other Parties to help put the organization on a more stable and sustainable financial basis. In this regard he emphasized the importance of predictable funding and informed the Assembly that Austria is currently planning regular multiannual contributions to the Academy. He encouraged other Parties to discuss the ways in which regular contributions, multiannual, but flexible could be introduced. He urged IACA to work closely with partners such as UNODC, the G20, and the EU. He also welcomed the Board of Governors' document entitled *Strategic Development of the International Anti-Corruption Academy*.

The representative of Qatar suggested several solutions to address the challenges faced by IACA. These included emphasizing interactive training methods, expanding training topics, strengthening bilateral work with anti-corruptions research institutions, establishing a database of national experts, the appointment of special experts to the Academy, and opening regional offices for IACA.

The representative of China highlighted the professionalism of IACA and the good cooperation between his country and the Academy. He also called on Parties to support the Academy and indicated that China was planning further contributions to IACA.

The representative of the Republic of Korea informed the Assembly of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference which will be hosted in Seoul in 2020. She highlighted her country's regular and ongoing financial contributions for IACA. She assured IACA of the Republic of Korea's continued support.

The representative of the Russian Federation expressed strong support for the strategic document produced by the Board of Governors and highlighted some of its recommendations. He stated that IACA should enhance its research capacity and become an important anti-corruption research institution. He also highlighted

initiatives such as e-learning. The representative also stated that the Academy urgently needs strong leadership and expressed his hope that a new Dean would be appointed shortly.

The representative of Bangladesh expressed the interest of his country in hosting the tenth session of the Assembly of Parties in Dhaka.

The representatives of Brazil and Hungary both highlighted the achievements of IACA to date and expressed their support for the Academy.

The representative of Pakistan encouraged IACA to offer further scholarships and assist Parties with tailor-made trainings.

The representative of Nigeria called on IACA to provide an update on the implementation of the Resolution on Facilitating Training, Capacity Building and Research in Asset Recovery and Return (AOP6-Res-4).

Representatives voiced their strong support for IACA and underlined the importance of its global work in anti-corruption education, research, capacity-building, networking, and cooperation.

Representatives gave strong positive feedback on the quality and relevance of IACA's academic degree programmes, open trainings, and tailor-made trainings, including those in which professionals from their respective countries had participated since the seventh session of the Assembly.

Parties broadly commended IACA for its achievements and global recognition in spite of the Academy's limited resources, underscored the necessity of a suitably well-funded general budget, and indicated desires for increased cooperation, including with regard to the organization's financial resources and stability.

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

IACA's Officer-in-Charge, Ms. Christiane Pohn-Hufnagl, was given the floor to present her report.

The Officer-in-Charge updated the Assembly on some of IACA's accomplishments to date, with an emphasis on those since the seventh session of the Assembly.

The Officer-in-Charge updated the Assembly on the serious crisis suffered by the Academy at the end of 2018 which threatened its continued existence and forced the Academy to make desperate appeals for funding to allow it to continue to function. While she reported that IACA is recovering, she reminded the Assembly that the crisis still looms over the organization.

On a positive note, the Officer-in-Charge informed the Assembly of improvements due to two main factors; firstly, the generous contributions of some of the Parties. In this regard she expressed sincere thanks to Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Chile, China, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kuwait,

Lichtenstein, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and Slovakia, for their timely contributions during the period of most acute financial difficulties faced by the Academy. She urged other Parties to follow this example and financially support the activities of the Academy.

Secondly, Ms. Pohn-Hufnagl praised the dedication and sacrifice of the remaining IACA staff, most of whom, despite the temporary suspension of salaries, continued working to ensure that the Academy's core functions were maintained during the time of crisis.

The Officer-in-Charge further reported that the establishment of the Working Group also played an important role in opening new channels of communication between the IACA Parties and the Secretariat of the Academy, as a result, a closer relationship between the Academy and the Parties has been fostered. She expressed her hope that this trend will continue.

She stressed the need for better communication between all stakeholders. On the side of the Academy she assured the Assembly that the utmost will be done to enhance the sharing of information on the current and planned activities of the Academy.

Ms. Pohn-Hufnagl pointed out that while the types of systemic changes she mentioned are imperative to the future of IACA, the direct financial support of the Parties is still needed to maintain the Academy in the short and medium terms.

She highlighted IACA's new *Preferential Treatment Scheme* which was launched this year. She informed that the goal of the scheme is to further incentivize and value membership, commitment, participation, and ownership among the Parties.

The Officer-in-Charge assured the Assembly that IACA continues to manage its resources to the highest standards of accountability and under several layers of scrutiny, including a Party-owned independent audit. She said that the draft budget for the year 2020 was developed in such a way as to help the Parties to have a better overview of IACA's financial situation and management.

Mr. Alexey Konov, Chairperson of the Board of Governors, 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 praised the IACA staff led by Ms. Christiane Pohn-Hufnagl for their work during the time of crisis. He also paid tribute to the former Dean, Mr. Martin Kreutner.

Mr. Konov elaborated on the financial crisis which struck the Academy at the end of 2018, highlighting that it became necessary to scale down activities and to suspend staff salaries.

He added that at the beginning of the year the Board considered ceasing IACA activities but decided against this course of action. IACA then started to receive contributions and the situation improved although only half the staff remain.

He also thanked the open-ended intergovernmental working group on financial matters for its work and emphasized the positive impact of the new communication channels created by its work.

Regarding the financial stability of IACA, Mr. Konov stated that since its beginning, the Academy has relied on voluntary contributions. He emphasized that the participation of Parties and other stakeholders is key to the sustainability of the organization, however throughout the years only a minority of Parties have provided financial contributions to IACA.

The Chairperson stated that each year IACA only received around ten percent of the funding agreed in annual budgets since its establishment. He elaborated that in the past budgets should have been more realistic and in future the organization should ensure that they are more pragmatic. Mr. Konov said that it would be hard to argue that an organization could develop properly with only ten percent of its budget and that to date IACA has had limited success in mobilizing resources. He stated that even small contributions, if they are regular, would help the situation greatly.

Mr. Konov expressed the Board of Governors strong belief that IACA should not only ask for money regularly but should transform itself to become more attractive to the Parties and donors, and more self-sufficient. He explained that at the first Board of Governors meeting in 2019 it was decided to prepare a strategic document to aid this transformation. It was discussed throughout the year and circulated to Parties, five of which gave comments. Mr. Konov expressed his hope that the Assembly can express its support to the recommendations in the revised paper which is entitled *Strategic Development of the International Anti-Corruption Academy*.

The Chairperson outlined the proposals contained in the strategic document relating to IACA's finances. These included recommendations on diversification of income, providing parties with options on how to support the Academy, changes to the preferential treatment scheme and seeking further external sources of income.

Regarding academic affairs, the Chairperson noted that IACA has been successful as a training institute. He stated that the development of an online training system is important for the future of IACA as not all anti-corruption experts can travel to Vienna. Furthermore, he recommended that a package of online courses should be developed, and some basic courses should be publicly available.

Mr. Konov stated that IACA should translate training courses into at least the UN languages, and that it should consider voluntary certification which could attract clients and act as a source of income.

The Chairperson expressed that IACA needs a strong research and analytical component. IACA had a research department which was financed by the Siemens Integrity Initiative but this department de facto no longer exists, he said. He outlined some of the recommendations with regard to enhancing IACA's research functions.

Mr. Konov also iterated a number of recommendations regarding networking. These included establishing various networks, a stronger online presence, and making better use of IACA's existing agreements with other organizations.

The Chairperson said that Ms. Pohn-Hufnagl and her team are doing a marvelous job in these hard times, but that IACA needs a new Dean. He explained that thirty-three applications were received for the position of Dean and that a selection committee was established comprised of two board members; Dr. Eduardo Vetere and Mr. Konov, and one external expert. Mr. Konov explained that the selection committee shortlisted four candidates and that these will be interviewed by the committee to allow the process to be finalized before the end of the year.

The Vice-President thanked the Chairperson for his report and opened the floor for comments.

The representative of the Russian Federation welcomed the strategic document and stated that it sets a clear way forward for the Academy. He called on all Parties to support the strategic document and to provide other new ideas and good practices to contribute to revitalizing IACA.

The representative of Austria thanked Mr. Konov for attending a meeting of the open-ended working group on financial matters in June and for sharing his ideas. He expressed that he looks forward to the implementation of the strategy and to the appointment of the new Dean. He reiterated his invitation to Parties to join Austria in planning regular financial contributions to IACA.

The representative of Spain took note of the strategy document and stated that more time would be needed to study it.

### **3. Work Programme (progress)**

A panel discussion on *“Whistleblowers Protection: Implementing National Legislation and Policies”* was moderated by Mr. Jaroslaw Pietrusiewicz, Head of the External Relations Department of IACA.

The panel consisted of:

- Mr. Alexey Konov, Director of Anti-Corruption Center of the National University - Higher School of Economics of the Russian Federation, Chairperson of the Board of Governors of IACA.
- Ms. Pak Un Jong, Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea.
- Mr. Hussein Hassan, Director of International Cooperation Department with the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority of the State of Qatar.
- Mr. Nurdaulet Samet, Deputy Head of the Department of Anti-Corruption Service in West Kazakhstan Region, Republic of Kazakhstan.
- Mr. Ashley Savage, IACA Frequent Visiting Lecturer, Independent Specialist on Whistleblowing, Information Rights and Governance.

The panel discussion focused on the topic of whistleblower protection, taking into consideration a broad spectrum of national and regional legal frameworks. The discussion facilitated dialogue and exchange on international practice among IACA

Parties attending the Assembly of Parties regarding the use of whistleblower protections as one of the tools in the implementation of corruption reporting mechanisms and practices.

The representatives of Lebanon, Austria and Bangladesh took the floor to pose questions to the panel.

#### **4. Fundraising Activities/Financial Stability of IACA:**

##### **a) General**

The Vice-President opened the floor for general matters related to fundraising. He observed that this topic was already discussed thoroughly under other agenda items. There were no comments from the floor.

##### **b) Report and discussion on the work and status of the open-ended expert meeting and the open-ended intergovernmental working group on financial matter in implementation of Resolution AOP6-Res-5 of the Assembly of Parties**

Mr. Gerhard Thallinger, Chairman of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on financial matters, presented the work of the group. He referred to the report of the working group which was adopted by the working group on 10 July 2019 by consensus.

He stated that the working group had five meetings and described the activities in each. Mr. Thallinger informed that the working group had submitted recommendations to the Assembly and that they were reflected in the Draft Resolution on General Matters presented by Malaysia. He stated that the group would be able to continue its work in future perhaps with revised working modalities.

The Vice-President opened the floor for comments on Mr. Thallinger's presentation.

The representative of the Russian Federation suggested IACA should hold an annual donor conference in the Academy in Laxenburg, Austria. He stated that the Annual Alumni meeting could be transformed into this donor conference, thereby saving on costs. He also suggested that the open-ended working group could be transformed into a board of trustees who would organize this conference.

The representative of Bangladesh highlighted some of the mechanisms associated with the UNCAC which allow for a percentage of assets recovered to fund UNCAC implementation. He suggested this could be a model for IACA. Furthermore, he expressed the interest of his country in hosting the tenth Session of the Assembly of Parties in Dhaka in 2021. He elaborated on the anti-corruption initiatives of his country and called on Parties to take note of Bangladesh's interest in hosting the Assembly and seeks their understanding.

## **5. Budget 2020**

The Assembly of Parties unanimously adopted the *Resolution on the IACA Budget 2020* (Doc #: AOP8-Res-1).

## **6. Other Matters**

The Assembly of Parties unanimously adopted the *Nur-Sultan Declaration* (Doc #: AOP8-Decl-1).

The Assembly of Parties unanimously adopted the *Resolution on General Matters* (Doc #: AOP8-Res-2) tabled by Malaysia.

## **7. Provisional Agenda for the ninth session of the Assembly**

The Assembly of Parties unanimously adopted the *Resolution on the Convening and Agenda of the Ninth Session of the Assembly of Parties* (Doc #: AOP8-Res-3).

## **8. Adoption of the Report of the Assembly on its eight session**

The Assembly of Parties unanimously adopted the *Resolution on the Report of the Eighth Session of the Assembly of Parties* (Doc #: AOP8-Res-4).