

## **91<sup>st</sup> GRECO Plenary Meeting**

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Statement by the Dean and Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption  
Academy

**Thomas Stelzer**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

(Madam Chairperson/Mr. Chairman)

Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is an honour to be here today to address the Plenary Meeting of GRECO. Please allow me to update you on the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) and its recent activities that might be of interest to the members of the Group.
2. IACA was founded in 2011 to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Academy, in its dual role as both an international organization and an institution of higher learning, has now been engaged in the fight against corruption through education and capacity building for over a decade. Over the years, we have developed the expertise and experience needed to fulfill our unique mandate of providing anti-corruption education and technical assistance to those who need it most.
3. We strongly believe that anti-corruption education and training are the best tools available to the international community in the fight against corruption. In particular, we fully agree with the United Nations Human Rights Council which in his resolutions of 2017 and 2021 highlighted that “the negative impact of corruption on human rights and sustainable development can be combated through anti-corruption education.”
4. The COVID-19 pandemic, for all the challenges and hardships, has also proved to be a catalyst for change for the Academy. Over the last two years, we have scaled up the delivery of our services and programmes to reach the widest possible audience, including by enhancing our e-learning infrastructure. Within weeks, we were able to transform our programmes to online delivery and continue providing quality education and trainings globally.
5. The Academy continues to expand its academic activities, having now rolled out four master programmes: The Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS); the International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance

and Collective Action (IMACC); our first Spanish language Master in Anti-Corruption Studies; and the Master in Anti-Corruption and Diplomacy (MACD) - the latter is implemented in partnership with the United Nations Initiative for Training and Research (UNITAR).

6. We also continuously expand our portfolio of Open Trainings, such as the Summer Academy, an intensive, interdisciplinary programme that addresses trends and practices on the global anti-corruption agenda. This year the Summer Academy will again be implemented in-person after two years break when only online activities were possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We also offer a wide array of self-paced and instructor-led online courses.
7. Inspired by the successful implementation of the last year's International Anti-Corruption Summer Schools for Africa and Asia, we continue our collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide the youth with both ethical skills and theoretical and practical knowledge of what corruption is, and what are its harmful impacts on society. The first Edition of the International Anti-Corruption Summer School in Eastern Europe was held in May this year, targeting participants between 18 and 29 from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia.
8. Furthermore, our Tailor-made Trainings keep enjoying strong demand. After some initial delays due to the pandemic, delivery has bounced back quickly and in the past 2 years we have delivered trainings for national institutions, international organizations, and private entities from various continents and regions.
9. To contribute to evidence-based decision making in the anti-corruption arena, a new global research programme on measuring corruption is currently being launched. This programme is the result of growing intergovernmental commitment to re-thinking how the international community measures corruption. The issue was raised by the G7 in 2017, reiterated by the Conference of the States Parties to the UN

Convention against Corruption in its Resolution 8/10 of 2019, and taken forward by the Saudi and Italian G20 presidencies in 2020 and 2021.

10. We couldn't have achieved so much without strong partnerships. These are key to achieving lasting results. That is why IACA has greatly extended and strengthened its cooperation with a variety of actors, both global and regional.

Distinguished delegates,

11. During the first Regional Anti-Corruption Conference 2022 for South-Eastern Europe held last month in Croatia, the importance for countries of this region to adhere to GRECO recommendations stemming from the respective review processes became apparent.
12. IACA stands ready to put our expertise and capacity building programmes at the disposal of GRECO and all its member states. We are looking forward to close collaboration to support your anti-corruption efforts, particularly to promote the rule of law, good governance, and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.