

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

Hybrid Format Assembly of Parties  
Online and at Vienna International Centre

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

**Thomas Stelzer**

7 October 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mister President,  
Mister Chairperson of the Board of Governors,  
Ministers, Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my honour to welcome you all to the Tenth Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), the hybrid session of the Assembly.

Allow me to thank the outgoing Bureau of the Assembly, under the leadership of Ambassador Tichy, and the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups. At the same time, I offer my congratulations to the incoming Bureau and reaffirm the Secretariat's full support for its work.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Board of Governors, and its Chairperson, Mr. Alexey Konov, and Vice Chairperson, Mr. Guo Yong.

I would also like to thank the International Senior Advisory Board and International Academic Advisory Board for their valuable input regarding IACA's ongoing work and its future potential.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Mr. Konov already mentioned, our last AoP was dominated by the pandemic and its effect on IACA. As we look back over the last year, we can now see that it was indeed a period of transition as IACA began to implement its new Work Programme and to adapt to the new circumstance we found ourselves in. I am proud to say that the Academy has capitalised on these changes.

Ladies and gentlemen

Let me quickly brief you on some of our accomplishments since last years AoP:

- The Academy currently has a community of over 3500 alumni from 168 countries and jurisdictions.
- As our session is a little early this year the MACS and IMACC programmes have not started yet but will begin on 18 October for the in-take 2021-2023 with their first live session due to start on 16 November.
- IACA's Summer Academy, our largest open-enrolment live training, has so far welcomed more than 700 professionals from about 120 countries. This year it was delivered fully online for the second time with 59 participants.
- Tailor-made trainings (TMTs) keep enjoying strong demand. This year we saw delivery bounce back after the pandemic caused delays in 2020. So far in 2021 we have delivered 6 TMTs. These included trainings for Schweighofer Industries, UNODC Summer Schools, ICMPD, New Development Bank - representatives of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement and Financial Intelligence Units of BRICS Countries, KPK Indonesia, and the National Anti-Corruption Commission of the Kingdom of Thailand (OANCC).
- An IACA Alumni Reunion also took place this year in an online format, gathering our alumni network for a week of discussions, regional updates, multi-stakeholder webinars, and presentations.
- Regarding scholarships, IACA has provided a total of 19 full and partial scholarships to MACS and IMACC students in 2021 for the full duration of the programmes. 31 Scholarships were provided to IACSA 2021 participants.
- IACA is proud to announce that Siemens Integrity Initiative will expand its support to IACA activities under the Golden Stretch Funding Round, with 2 million USD in the next three years. IACA's Project Proposal was selected together with seven other proposals submitted by esteemed institutions. In the framework of this Project, IACA will focus on

empowering practitioners from Least Developed Countries and Emerging Markets (LDCs/EMs) to contribute to enhanced accountability, transparency, promotion of alliances and networking, and to instil good governance into their respective governments, businesses, and societies.

Feedback on our programmes and trainings is as positive as ever and reflects the high quality of the education we provide. Impact stories and testimonials to the quality of our courses can be read on the Academy's website, including in IACA's 2020 Annual Report.

Mr. President,

IACA has also been innovating over the last year. I would like to touch on three original initiatives which we are driving forward. The first is the Global Anti-Corruption Cities Network. The network will aim to serve as a platform for the exchange of best practices between city officials in combating corruption. The network already has cities from Columbia to Nigeria ready to connect. We hope to facilitate the launch of the network in the coming year.

The second new development is the launch of two new master's programmes, which were mentioned by Mr. Konov. With the launch of the Spanish language Master in Anti-Corruption and Compliance Studies IACA offers its first academic course in a language other than English. The Masters in Anti-Corruption and Diplomacy (MACD) is also first in that it is our first joint academic course, and its first cohort will start their studies next month. I will expand on these courses under the Work Programme agenda item.

The third initiative is IACA's two new Dedicated Scholarships Programmes. The first one aims to empower to *Women in LDCs through Education and Training*. The second to *support students to take part in activities related to the issue of diplomacy and corruption*. Both programmes aim to support participation in our educational activities through scholarships and tuition fee waivers. Often

it is those who cannot afford tuition who need it the most. Often they are also the ones who can use the tools they gain from an anti-corruption education most effectively. I hope our constituency will consider contributing to these new programmes.

Other innovations still remain on the back burner such as our planned Ph.D programme. This is unfortunately due to the issue of financial instability.

Ladies and gentlemen,

IACA continues to manage its resources to the highest standards of accountability and under several layers of scrutiny, including an independent and Party-owned independent audit. The Independent External Auditors positively evaluated the way IACA has been conducting its financial business in the course of the last year. At the same, the Independent External Auditors observed that even though the year 2020 was closed with a net profit, there is a significant gap between the expected and received voluntary contributions from parties. Furthermore, the External Auditors advised that the Academy should start with the process of implementing International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). This process was initiated by IACA in September this year by publishing the relevant vacancy notice.

The generosity of some of our parties has kept us operational despite these gaps in our funding. I would particularly like to thank those Parties who donated to IACA over the last year. These are: Armenia, Austria, China, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand. We are also grateful to Siemens for their contribution. While these contributions are very much appreciated, the resources coming in are simply not sufficient for the Academy to meet its potential.

IACA is still understaffed but the situation has improved over the past year. In addition to myself, our team is made up of 20 staff members. Furthermore, IACA employs six individual contractors, one consultant, one secondee, and

two Büroring contracts. Finally, nine interns support our activities at the moment. Without their dedication and hard work we would not be here today. To ensure we will be able to continue our important work I would ask each of you to consider contributing to our general budget. If every party gave a small annual contribution this would certainly help IACA find its way onto more stable ground. With reliable and regular donations, the Academy can find the stability that will allow us to achieve self-sustainability.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you know, the UN General Assembly's special session against corruption (UNGASS 2021) took place in June this year. The meeting demonstrated the rising importance of anti-corruption on the agenda of the UN and on the international stage in general. As I mentioned already, IACA was referred to in paragraph 66 of the Political Declaration which was adopted by the Assembly. This outcome, along with other events including the publication of the FACTI Panel's report, have brought the spotlight on IACA and brings anti-corruption to the fore as a global issue.

Mr. President,

The last year has certainly been one of transition for IACA. With the combined effects of our adaptations to the pandemic and the implementation of our new Work Programme, we have brought change for the better to the organisation. These innovations combined with the new global focus on anti-corruption, means that IACA and its constituency must strike while the iron is hot. The time is ripe to support IACA with the resources and political backing it needs to achieve its full potential and fulfill its mandate.

I look forward to a productive Assembly today. IACA is in your hands and at your disposal.

Thank you.