

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

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Statement by the Officer-in-Charge of the International Anti-Corruption Academy

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3 October 2019

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 eighth Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) here in the wonderful setting of Nur-Sultan.

Let me first express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Kazakhstan for generously hosting this session, and for extending such a warm welcome to us.

Looking around the room, I am humbled that national and institutional delegations from all regions of the world are here. Distinguished delegates, your presence here in Nur-Sultan is a strong signal of your continued commitment to IACA and to the global fight against corruption.

Allow me to thank the outgoing Bureau of the Assembly, under the leadership of Mr. Gocha Lordkipanidze, 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, as well as welcome its new Chairperson, Mr. Alexey Konov, and Vice Chairperson, Mr. Guo Yong, who were elected last March. I would also like to sincerely thank Mr. Eduardo Vetere for his excellent leadership as Chairperson between 2016 and 2019,

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.

A special mention should also be made of the former Dean, Mr. Martin Kreutner, who played a crucial role in developing IACA.

Dear delegates, before going any further, I would like to first remind you of the statement IACA delivered at United Nations SDG Summit in September 2015 on the occasion of the unanimous adoption by all UN Member States of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: *“Investing in anti-corruption education and empowerment is the smart way towards sustainable development, safeguarding human rights, and strengthening the rule of law on the road to 2030 and beyond.”* This remains as true today as it was four years ago and is, I feel, an important truth to bear in mind as we gather here for this perhaps most crucial Assembly of the Parties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

since its establishment in 2011, IACA has grown significantly in terms of our constituency, our programmes and, our reputation as a centre of excellence for providing the highest levels of education in anti-corruption studies. All of this was achieved with extremely limited resources.

Please allow me to share with you some of the accomplishments of IACA since we last convened in the seventh session of the Assembly of Parties in Vienna one year ago.

- IACA'S Constituency currently comprises 78 Parties, following the accession of Bangladesh, Honduras, Paraguay, the State of Qatar, and EUCLID.
- MACS in-class module starts in two weeks for the 2018-2020 class. Both MACS and IMACC 2019 classes started the day before yesterday.
- IACA's Summer Academy, our largest open-enrolment training, has so far welcomed more than 550 professionals from about 120 countries.
- The Regional Summer Academy South and East Asia took place in early September in Seoul, welcoming 49 participants from 11 countries. Moreover, the Regional Summer Academy Central and South America just took place in São Paulo, welcoming 70 participants from 12 countries.
- Tailor made trainings keep enjoying strong demand. This year multiple trainings were organized both at IACA's Laxenburg campus and other locations worldwide. Some of the beneficiaries of such trainings include senior anti-corruption civil servants from Central Asia and Afghanistan, the Indian Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the Korean Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Slovak police forces and academy, the Saudi National Anti-Corruption Commission (NAZAHA), and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) experts. Trainings were also provided to private companies.
- The Alumni network now boasts over 2,250 from about 160 countries
- With regard to scholarships, IACA has provided a total of 11 programme fee waivers to MACS and IMACC students in 2019 for the whole duration of the academic programmes. IACA has also supported open trainings participants with a total of 54 full scholarships and 14 tuition waivers between October 2018 and September 2019.

Feedback on our programmes and trainings is a 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 in IACA's 2018 Annual Report, is available on the IACA website.

Distinguished delegates,

While we can all be very proud of what IACA has achieved since its establishment, as you know at the end of 2018 the Academy suffered a crisis which represented a real threat to its continued existence. IACA very nearly reached the point of irreversible illiquidity. The Academy was forced to make desperate appeals for funding to allow it to continue to function. The seriousness of the crisis cannot be underestimated and IACA is far from recovered from its effects. The shadow of the crisis still looms large over our organisation, both in its day-to-day running, and in its future planning.

At this time last year we had 33 staff members - which even then were only half the number that had been foreseen for the organisation - now, due to resignations, we have 16, and one seconded staff member. The planned PhD programme remains suspended. We have not been able to develop new trainings or augment in-house faculty. Much needed I.T. upgrades and building maintenance have been sidelined. These issues create serious operational and financial risk in the medium and long terms. In short, it borders on miraculous that the list of accomplishments which I mentioned a moment ago is as long as it is.

Over the past few months the situation has improved due to two main factors; firstly the generous contributions of some of our Parties. In this regard I would like to express my sincere thanks to Afghanistan, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Chile, China, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation, for their timely contributions during the period of most acute financial difficulties faced

by the Academy. At the same time, I hope that other Parties will find it possible to follow this example and financially support the activities of the Academy.

Secondly, the situation has improved in no small part due to the tireless efforts of the remaining IACA staff. Despite the temporary suspension of salaries for up to four months, they volunteered to continue working to ensure that the academy's core functions were maintained during that time of crisis. Even now, many staff fulfill roles beyond their job description. Without their dedication and sacrifice we would not be here today.

In addition, the implementation of some of IACA's programmes and activities would not have been possible without the financial support provided by the Siemens Integrity Initiative. We appreciate highly the fact that Siemens remained committed to our partnership through those difficult times for the Academy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While we are in a healthier position now than we were at the beginning of this year, our problems are far from resolved. The systemic issues that led to the crisis remain. I do believe that the future is bright for IACA but solutions need to be found to allow for sustainable and regular income for the organisation. The hard work and dedication of our staff alone cannot guarantee the future of IACA. For that your commitment and leadership is required.

In the constituency meetings held in November and December of last year which were aimed at addressing the crisis, the first priority set out was for IACA to survive. We have survived and we now need to move to the next phases, which are to maintain and to develop.

At last year's Assembly in Vienna, and the year before in Sharm El Sheik, the Board of Governors and the former Dean appealed repeatedly to the Assembly both for financial contributions and for the systemic changes needed to ensure the financial sustainability of the Academy. I hope that after the shock of the crisis perhaps some of these could be revisited.

The ideas that had been raised in the past included;

- An additional instrument that would allow for willing Parties to further describe and define their financial commitments to IACA;
- opening positions of IACA's faculty for endowed professorships and other staff, permanently paid for by endowment(s);
- organizing joint donor conferences;
- proposing possible modalities for drawing funds on the basis of the "let crime pay" principle;
- establishing a recommendatory framework for Parties on an annual voluntary contribution sum;

In addition, further alternative ways of supporting the organization are contained in the Work Programme such as inviting contributions to help upgrade the IACA library and increase the size of the IACA scholarship fund.

This list is not exhaustive but highlights some of the bigger ticket ideas that have been raised in recent years.

In an effort to develop further possible solutions, this year saw the establishment of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Financial Matters and the adoption of their report in July. I would like to thank the group for their hard work and dedication and for the multitude of useful recommendations contained in their report. These are reflected in the draft Resolution on General Matters submitted by Malaysia which I hope will be adopted by the Assembly.

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. A closer relationship has been fostered between the Academy and the Parties as a result. It is my hope that this will continue to develop and lead to increased engagement between our staff in Laxenburg and our colleagues in the Permanent Mission in Vienna and those back in capitals.

Better communication between all of us is necessary. We hope that enhanced dialogue will be established between various IACA organs and the Parties. On our side, we will do our utmost to enhance the sharing of information on the current and planned activities of the Academy. We hope that thanks to this the Parties will engage more actively in various activities within IACA framework thereby assuming greater ownership of the organization.

The Secretariat also started to develop concrete ideas in strengthening its role in project management. We would be grateful to the Parties if they could consider financially supporting projects such as the one recently distributed on the UNCAC implementation together with UNODC.

IACA Parties are also taking the initiative. The Republic of Austria, for example, has started discussions with the IACA Secretariat on modalities of its financial contribution for the year 2019. Moreover, we were informed that Austria

envisages a multiannual financial commitment to IACA and would welcome and support similar initiative by other Parties.

Between those ideas of the past worth revisiting, the new recommendations of the Working Group, and new initiatives by the Parties, there is plenty to discuss and no shortage of workable ideas for addressing the issues faced by the organisation. I hope that we can, over the coming days, move towards concrete solutions to put the Academy on a steady footing as we move forward together.

While the types of systemic changes I have just mentioned are imperative to the future of IACA, we also still need your direct financial support to maintain the Academy in the short and medium terms.

To that end I would like to take this opportunity to highlight our new Preferential Treatment scheme which was launched this year. The goal of the scheme is to further incentivize and value membership, commitment, participation, and ownership among the parties. Parties that provide voluntary contributions to the general budget of IACA and their nationals will be entitled to benefit from the scheme including tuition-free places in the IACA' masters programmes, their modules, and the Summer Academy.

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 evaluated positively the way IACA has been conducting its financial business in the course of the last year. At the same time, they called for the Academy to develop better and more understandable reporting and management control tools. We have already started to implement these recommendations. In particular, 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. At the same, the Independent External Auditors observed that despite the fact that the year 2018 was closed with a net profit, IACA continues to be at risk of insolvency, particularly due to the insufficient amount of received contributions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I have already mentioned, we would not be here today without the hard work and dedication of those staff members who remained throughout the crisis and kept the Academy running.

Now we need to rely on the hard work and intense effort of you, the Parties, to hammer out, over the coming days, the resolutions and recommendations which can ensure the stability and sustainability of our organisation going forward. But it is not only over these few days that we need you. Your active support, engagement, and collaboration in the months and years ahead is crucial. Together we can build on what we have achieved to date and ensure that IACA becomes an even stronger actor in the global fight against corruption.

In this spirit I look forward to productive deliberations, with concrete outcomes and plans of action. IACA is in your hands and at your disposal.

Thank you.