

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

Baku, Azerbaijan

19 – 21 November 2014

Statement by the Dean of IACA and  
Executive Secretary to the Assembly of Parties

Mr. Martin Kreutner

19 November 2014

Mister President,  
Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I wish to convey my warm and sincere greetings to all of you gathered here today for the third session of the International Anti-Corruption Academy's (IACA) Assembly of Parties.

Your attendance and the long distances many of you have travelled serve as a reminder of the importance of our common cause and this organization. We are bringing the world together on anti-corruption yet again, and I am most honoured to be part of it.

Let me also use this occasion to thank the Government of Azerbaijan for being our gracious hosts; for their warm welcome and for their hospitality.

Distinguished delegates, we have come far since the Academy stood as a proposal awaiting a patron a few years after the turn of the century; since the first signature was laid to the Agreement establishing it as an international organization back in September 2010; and since the first two sessions of this forum most successfully convened in Vienna and in Bangkok, respectively. IACA is to become *the* global hub for anti-corruption training and education, for technical assistance, and for benchmarking. Our services have efficiently evolved over time, our recognition has been substantially strengthened, and our relations with states, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders have grown ever stronger and closer.

We stand here today with 60 Parties and 53 Signatories from all corners of the globe. Our broad membership is not only an achievement in its own right but also an indication of the energetic dynamism of the organization. With a constituency that brings together over five billion people, we are well-placed to promote training, dialogue, technical assistance, and cooperation that can lead to sustainable solutions, to effective empowerment.

The challenges facing our societies have changed in the course of globalization, but the wrath of corruption has remained. Nations worldwide are still wrestling to ward off the significant human development setbacks that come along with it. New threats are emerging and will continue to emerge. All harbour an intertwined, devastating corruption component

that thrives in their shadows – shadows which we need to shine a strong light on and build robust resilience to.

Indian scientist Abdul Kalam said once: *“If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother, and the teacher.”* It is in particular with reference to the latter that IACA has been entrusted with a pivotal mandate – to empower professionals in the fight against corruption – and thus, to eventually help raise the quality of life of every child, adolescent, and adult so that we can move together towards a better and fairer world.

So the key question before us today, distinguished delegates, is how we can best join together to respond to the needs of the anti-corruption community and collectively strengthen IACA’s capabilities. How can we further empower IACA so that it can continue to empower professionals who will pass the expertise on and act as multipliers?

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, allow me to briefly update you on some institutional developments in the course of the past year. We have regularly been liaising with states, organizations, partners, businesses, and potential donors in order to promote IACA, increase international cooperation, and attract funding.

Since the last session of the Assembly, the number of Parties to the *Agreement for the Establishment of IACA as an International Organization* has risen from 50 to 60.<sup>1</sup> Based on our manifold meetings with several other UN Member States, I think it is safe to say, that many more will join in the near future.

To add to that, shortly after the second session of the Assembly of Parties in Bangkok last year, IACA was granted observer status with the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 68/122 of 16 December 2014; a motion tabled by 46 UN Member States. Let me extend my gratitude to all constituency Members for supporting this important document. Aside from being invited to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly as an observer, we have also had the opportunity to contribute to that forum during the High-Level Event on Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Post-2015 Development agenda in June, where the necessity to ensure good governance, including strong and stable anti-corruption regimes, was emphasized; the inclusion of an explicit anti-corruption component was also called for in the post-2015 responsive framework.

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<sup>1</sup> While Argentina, Greece, and Mozambique ratified the Agreement, Armenia, Botswana, Cambodia, the People’s Republic of China, Finland, Kazakhstan, and Malawi acceded to it.

We have again participated in or co-sponsored a number of important anti-corruption fora this year – from the APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Groups in Beijing, PRC, to the Cambridge Symposium on Economic Crime in the U.K., from another joint workshop for civil society with UNODC to the South East European Cooperation Process Anti-Corruption Conference in Bucharest, Romania. We have also organized main international conferences at our own campus – on development cooperation and humanitarian aid with the Austrian Development Agency and Transparency International as well as on GRECO Round IV Evaluations with the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) of the Council of Europe and other partners. We continue to roll out tailor-made and standardized trainings, we launched three novel programmes, and we recently welcomed the second class of our Master students. It gives me pleasure to inform you that the first cohort of IACA's Master programme, the world's first international, inter-disciplinary, post-graduate programme in anti-corruption studies designed for working professionals, will formally graduate this 9 December, on International Anti-Corruption Day.

I will share a full report on these and many other programmes and activities with you under a later agenda item of this Assembly.

On an institutional note, I would like to continue by outlining that the organization is regularly liaising to strengthen links with major international stakeholders like the United Nations, the OECD, as well as both the G20 and B20. In this context, let me recall that, *inter alia*, through the G20 Leaders' Saint Petersburg Declaration of September 2013, the G20 Leaders placed a high value on implementing and raising awareness regarding effective anti-corruption education programmes to build and reinforce a culture of intolerance towards corruption. We are also supporting the B20 Collective Action Hub on Anti-Corruption which the Basel Institute of Governance was awarded together with IACA, the UN Global Compact Initiative, and other major stakeholders.

Compliance, private sector anti-corruption, and especially collective action, are relatively new areas for the fight against corruption. To reinforce research, training, and technical assistance in these fields, we are ready to meet demand for in-depth analyses, engage in benchmarking activities, and offer standardized and, eventually, degree programmes to this effect. As such, we are currently negotiating a project on compliance, private sector-anti-corruption, and collective action with a potential donor.

Distinguished delegates, last year the Assembly of Parties unanimously adopted the *Work Programme 2014-2016* and agreed on five strategic objectives that IACA should achieve by the end of 2016:

- 1) Establish, Strengthen, and Safeguard Academic and Expert In-house Capacities;
- 2) Enhance the Internal Architecture;
- 3) Engage Into and Expedite Anti-Corruption Benchmarking, Standard Setting, and Branding;
- 4) Ensure Financial Ownership and Participation, Stability and Sustainability; and
- 5) Expand and Enlarge Stakeholder and Partner Relations.

This forum also approved a most reasonable budget needed to implement that same Work Programme, but as many of you know, the fulfillment of the 2014 budget is regrettably still miles away. The organization needs resources – adequate financial resources to meet the targets set by its constituency. Without these we can hardly build on our in house-capacities; we can barely augment our internal architecture and best streamline operations; we cannot increase high-quality technical assistance, research or trainings; and we can hardly engage in thorough benchmarking or standard-setting activities.

Through Resolution AOP-2-Res-2, the Assembly calls for the effective and efficient implementation of the *Work Programme 2014-2016*. Meeting Strategic Objective 4 – Ensure Financial Ownership and Participation, Stability and Sustainability – is the operative path for the active achievement of the other strategic objectives as well as all other parts of the Work Programme.

To quote Abraham Lincoln, “we shall not escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today”. We need to live up to the commitments we made. We need to secure a stable source of funding – a reality all constituency members recognized in Vienna in 2012 and in Bangkok in 2013. As laudable and good as it is, this organization cannot go forward solely on the basis of goodwill, political backing, and momentum. We shall not roll the dice and risk thwarting all progress made.

We will therefore continue to appeal to the private sector and other donors for funding. We will continue to explore the alternative ways of funding stipulated under Strategic Objective 4. We will also continue to work on the basis of proposals included in the International Senior Advisory Board’s statement, presented to you.

However, any financing potentially attracted from these sources must be well balanced vis-à-vis IACA’s constituency in order to ensure integrity, impartiality, credibility and accountability. IACA is a member-owned organization, bringing together two-thirds of this planet’s population by way of its 60 Parties and 53 Signatories. Financial ownership is another shared responsibility among all states. Voluntary contributions by Parties are a core element of funding.

My gratitude extends to all those states and other donors that have financially contributed to IACA over the years. Our host country, Austria, deserves special recognition in this respect, for its substantial involvement both in terms of finances and seconding personnel. I would also like to extend my special thanks to those other states that have given pledges to the 2014 budget – Bulgaria, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and the Russian Federation – as well as those that have provided IACA with seconded personnel this year – Austria, Greece, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, and Romania.

Mister President, distinguished delegates; “Fighting corruption is not a one-night affair”, former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, is quoted with saying. We created this organization and thus engaged in a long-term “marriage”. Let us make history here today and further empower it.

In concluding, I wish the Assembly constructive deliberations and successful outcomes. Thank you again Azerbaijan for allowing this session to take place here in Baku. My gratitude also goes to the Bureau of the Assembly and the distinguished representatives of the Regional Groups, to the Board of Governors and its Chairperson, to the two Advisory Boards, and last but not least – to all permanent, partnering, and visiting staff of IACA.

Thank you very much.