

Ref#: IACA-2017-ER-0008-07

Excellency,

Further to previous communication, including such of 3 May and the *Save the Date* note of 30 June 2017, we have the honour to affirm to you that the **sixth session of the Assembly of Parties** to the International Anti-Corruption Academy (AoP to IACA), as confirmed by the (Extended) Bureau of the Assembly at its latest meeting, will take place in **Sharm El Sheikh, the Arab Republic of Egypt**, from **2 to 4 October 2017**. We would thus like to draw your attention to a number of relevant matters regarding the preparation of this session.

Established as an intergovernmental organization on 8 March 2011, IACA comprises a constituency of 71 Parties to date. Since the last session of the Assembly, three more countries have joined the organization.

Pursuant to Article V of the *Agreement for the Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy as an International Organization* (the IACA Agreement), the Assembly serves as the forum for Parties to consult on the overall policy of the organization and on other matters of interest. As with previous sessions of the AoP, it is intended that the General Discussion starts with a **High-Level Segment** at the beginning of the session, so that representatives of the ministerial (and/or higher or equal) rank have an opportunity to address the conference, afford guidance for its deliberations, and set the political direction for the work of the organization.

Parties and Observers, including Signatories, are therefore encouraged to be represented at the highest possible **political level**, and to include in their delegations policymakers and experts on the issues to be covered by the Assembly.

Furthermore, we would like to invite all States and International Organizations that have not yet done so, to deposit their instrument of accession, ratification, acceptance, or approval with the Depositary of the Agreement¹ at their earliest convenience. In accordance with Article XVIII of the Agreement, for every State or International Organization that ratifies, accepts, approves, or accedes to the Agreement, it shall enter into force sixty days after the date of depositing the respective instrument².

On a procedural note, it is recalled that - in accordance with Chapter VI of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure (RoP) - **delegations shall be duly accredited**. In this context, please note that the Assembly's RoP allow for the **Permanent Representative**

¹ The Austrian Minister for Europe, Integration, and Foreign Affairs

² Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession have to be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government, or Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State, in accordance with its domestic law, or in the case of an International Organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Upon request, certified copies of the Agreement as well as templates of instruments of ratification/accession can be provided by the Secretariat and the Depositary, respectively.

of a Party to IACA to notify the Assembly of the composition of his/her country's delegation and issue **credentials** thereto. The Permanent Representative shall have, however, presented his/her general credentials to the organization in the first place. Allow us, therefore, to kindly renew our invitation to all Parties which have not yet done so to present such general credentials at their earliest convenience.

One of the provisional agenda items for the sixth session of the Assembly of Parties, as adopted by Resolution AOP5-Res-3, foresees the adoption of the **Work Programme 2017-2020** and the **Budgets 2017 (second half-year) and 2018**. The first was drafted after conducting a survey among Parties in line with AOP5-Res-1; all suggestions and proposals were incorporated into the draft to the extent possible. Pursuant to Article VI para 2 (f) of the IACA Agreement, both documents (draft) were intensively discussed in the organization's Board of Governors and approved to be further submitted to the Assembly for adoption. The draft documents will be circulated by the Secretariat to IACA's Parties in due course.

The Parties are furthermore encouraged to consider proposing (additional) draft **resolutions** on topics of interest, as well as proposals for organizing side events in the framework of the session. These proposals should be submitted to the Secretariat at your earliest convenience.

Please note that, as in previous years, **informal rounds of consultations** among IACA's constituency are intended to be organized in preparation for the session (starting here in **Vienna**). At your convenience, the Secretariat will also offer its services to the (chairmanships of the) regional groups. The provisional agenda and annotations, including information on accreditation, and financial pledges form are enclosed. The dates of informal consultations, information for participants, including **logistical arrangements**, registration form, programme, and other relevant documents will be submitted by the Secretariat in the next days.

In any case, relevant documents are/will also be available and constantly updated in the *Assembly of Parties* section of IACA's website, www.iaca.int.

Please accept, Excellency, our highest and most distinguished consideration. We will be honored and pleased to welcome you and your country's delegation in Sharm El Sheikh in October,

Vienna, 24 July 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a blue circular stamp. The stamp contains the IACA logo (a circle of dots) and the text "IACA" in large letters, with "INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACADEMY" in smaller letters below it. The number "01" is printed at the bottom of the stamp.

The Secretariat of the Assembly of Parties