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Your Excellency,

Further to previous communication, I have the honour to invite your country to attend the **seventh session of the Assembly of Parties (AoP) of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)** that will take place in **Vienna, Austria, from 27 to 28 September 2018**, at the Vienna International Centre (VIC). I would also like to draw your attention to a number of relevant matters regarding the preparation of this session.

Established on 8 March 2011 as an intergovernmental organization, IACA comprises a constituency of 73 Parties to date. Since the last session of the Assembly, two more States 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 a forum for the 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 agenda item on “General discussion” starts with a **High-Level Segment** at the beginning of the session, so that representatives of the ministerial (and/or higher) rank have an opportunity to address the conference, afford guidance for its deliberations, and set a 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, I would like to underline that all States and International Organizations which have not yet done so are kindly invited to deposit their instrument of accession, ratification, acceptance, or approval with the Depositary of the IACA Agreement, the Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, at their earliest convenience. In accordance with Article XVIII of the IACA Agreement, for every State or International Organization which ratifies, accepts, approves, or accedes to the IACA Agreement, it shall enter into force sixty days after the date of deposit of the respective instrument. In this context, States and International Organizations wishing to be Parties in time for the seventh session and thus enjoy, *inter alia*, voting rights, should submit the respective instrument not later than **Friday, 27 July 2018**.

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. Certified copies of the Agreement as well as

templates of instruments of ratification/accession can be provided by the Secretariat and the Depositary, respectively, upon request.

In accordance with Chapter VI of the *Rules of Procedure for the Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy* (RoP), **delegations** shall be **duly accredited** and, therefore, are required to submit **credentials** for attending the AoP with full powers. In this context, please note that the Assembly's RoP allow for the **Permanent Representative 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 in the first place his/her general credentials to the organization. Allow me, therefore, to kindly renew the invitation to all Parties which have not yet done so to present such general credentials at their earliest convenience.

One of the agenda items foreseen for the seventh session of AoP is the **election of the Board of Governors** (BoG), in line with Article V, paragraph 3, of the IACA Agreement. Five places are up for election, as five Board members will end their first regular term of six years in 2018 (re-election is possible for one additional term of six years), including the representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Republic of Austria, that are each entitled to appoint one member, in accordance with Article VI of the IACA Agreement. The members of the BoG shall serve in their individual capacity and be (re)elected taking due account of their qualifications and experience, preferably as recognized personalities in their countries, as well as the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Parties that wish to propose candidates for the BoG are therefore encouraged to consult with their respective (United Nations) regional groups. The candidates for the BoG should provide a Curriculum Vitae and be prepared to present themselves *in persona* to the Assembly. The corresponding information should be communicated to myself in my capacity as the Executive Secretary of IACA's AoP at the earliest convenience.

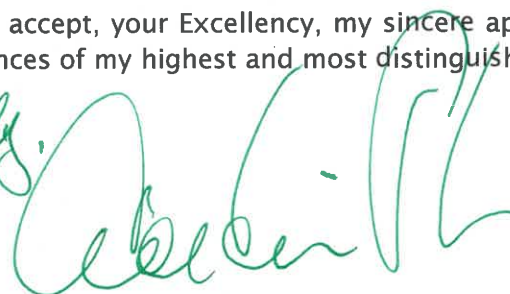
The Parties are furthermore encouraged to consider proposing draft resolutions on topics of interest, as well as proposals for organising side events in the framework of the session. These proposals should be submitted to the Secretariat at your earliest convenience.

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.

The provisional agenda and annotations, information for participants, draft programme, RoP, **explanatory note on the elections of the BoG members**, record of achievements, financial pledges form, and other documents are enclosed with this invitation. Additional information will be submitted by the Secretariat in due course. Relevant documents (including the ones from previous sessions of the AoP) are also available in the *Assembly of Parties* section of our website, www.iaca.int.

Please accept, your Excellency, my sincere appreciation for your support as well as the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration,

Sincerely,



Encl.: as stated