

**Seventh Session of the  
Conference of the States Parties to the  
United Nations Convention against Corruption**

**High-Level Segment**

Statement by  
**Mr. Martin Kreutner**  
Dean & Executive Secretary of the  
International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

Vienna, Austria  
8 November 2017

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As at previous sessions of this important gathering, it is an honour to address this Conference and to share perspectives and reflections from the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) on our collective progress, yet also our collective challenges, in the global action against corruption.

I really must emphasize the word “collective” here, because successful anti-corruption efforts rely on international cooperation – not only in spirit and with warm words, but also through practical steps and concrete deeds.

This cooperation is central to the further implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), with its state-owned review mechanism, and it also underpins IACA’s work in empowering anti-corruption and compliance professionals around the world.

However, distinguished delegates, we are gathered here in Vienna this week amid a generally growing crisis of multilateralism and international cooperation. This reflects, among other things, rising tensions between major powers, a lack of trust in and among leaders at all levels and in all sectors, discussion and discourse too often driven by dichotomous language of “black and white”, by simple shine and staccato superlatives rather than significant substance.

This deeply worrying state of affairs is weakening our collective ability to tackle the many serious threats to a sustainable future. These include wide (and in many cases widening) social, societal, political, and economic divisions, the refugee and migration crises, climate change, and rising populism and radicalism, to name just a few.

Corruption, I hope you will all agree, also is right at the top of this list. It destroys lives, economies, and nations, and risks undermining the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development unanimously adopted by UN Member States in New York two years ago, an agenda that could indeed serve as the new global social contract.

Working harder together to implement the UNCAC is crucial to fulfilling all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16 with its target to “substantially reduce corruption and

bribery in all its forms”. Should we fail in this task, future generations will judge us harshly and ask why we didn’t do more.

That, Ladies and Gentlemen, is why this Conference is so important.

With this in mind let me share with you IACA’s own contributions to UNCAC implementation and the action against corruption since our establishment in 2011, and in particular since the previous session of this Conference in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, in November 2015.

IACA is itself a member state-owned organization with a global constituency of 72 Parties as of today. During the last two years Bahrain, Côte d’Ivoire, El Salvador, Guinea, Lebanon, Sudan, Togo, and Uganda have all acceded to or ratified the IACA Agreement, and we warmly invite other UN Member States and intergovernmental organizations to join this global community at their earliest convenience.

Just last month the sixth session of IACA’s Assembly of Parties, which was generously hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt in beautiful Sharm El Sheikh, unanimously adopted seven resolutions that are vital to our organization’s future work and beyond. One covers IACA’s new Work Programme for 2017 to 2020, while another relates to facilitating trainings, capacity-building, and research in asset recovery and return - one of several important themes also at this Conference. These results will enable us to keep expanding our education, training, research, capacity-building, technical assistance, and awareness-raising activities, all of which contribute, *inter alia*, to the further implementation of UNCAC. Indeed, UNODC, the guardian of the Convention, was one of IACA’s initiating partners and remains a highly valued stakeholder.

Let me share, if I may, just a few examples of how IACA’s programmes and trainings help countries to enhance their anti-corruption capacities in accordance with relevant chapters of the UNCAC, particularly those dealing with prevention and asset recovery.

IACA’s two-year *Master in Anti-Corruption Studies* (MACS) programme for working professionals has an entire module on prevention, most recently hosted in Georgia. Another module focuses on corruption, enforcement, and the public sector and includes themes such as “Asset Tracing and Recovery” and “Money Laundering and Corruption”. Parts of this truly international academic degree programme have been held in Malaysia, Brazil, and Georgia, and we are presently considering seeing future modules being hosted in Chile, Egypt, Finland, the Russian Federation, the United States, and other regions.

Students from more than 40 countries and jurisdictions in all regions have already applied the knowledge gained via the MACS to their own national environments. And just this Monday, 6 November, the fifth MACS class came to IACA's campus for the first time.

Prevention and asset recovery from a corporate perspective are covered in our *International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action* (IMACC), a new programme aimed specifically at business professionals. It starts soon and there is still time to apply.

IACA's new PhD programme, which we launched at our Assembly of Parties in October, is the first international *PhD in Anti-Corruption Studies* and will further contribute to knowledge and understanding of UNCAC implementation.

The annual *IACA Summer Academy*, our biggest open-enrolment programme, also has a strong focus on prevention, asset recovery, and law enforcement and has seen almost 500 professionals from 110 countries take part in its seven editions to date. In addition, a third *IACA Regional Summer Academy*, this time for the Middle East, will take place next month in Kuwait City, co-organized by the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority. This follows successful sessions in Argentina in 2015 and Uganda in 2016.

Last and by no means least, there is record demand for IACA's customized, "tailor-made" trainings that help Member States and organizations prevent and fight corruption in accordance with the UNCAC. Since its establishment IACA has delivered such trainings for experts from dozens of countries, including programmes for national audit bodies from Indonesia and Thailand that focused on transparency and accountability in management of public finances under Article 9 of the UNCAC.

All these activities have generated highly positive feedback from participants and explicit tribute for IACA in numerous United Nations resolutions. Most recently, in December 2016, UN General Assembly Resolution 71/208 mentioned IACA as a "centre of excellence" for education, training, and academic research in the anti-corruption field.

IACA's programmes and their final diplomas are broadly recognized under the EU's "Bologna Process". They have also been well acknowledged by other States and institutions, one of which places the MACS in the prestigious academic company of only five other universities globally: Harvard, Cambridge, Johns Hopkins, Duke, and Oxford.

In order to incentivize and value membership, commitment, participation, and ownership *vis-à-vis* IACA, its constituency, and its alumni and in order to further expand and foster those, the organization has recently established a scheme that sets out discounts on fees for

IACA's programmes and activities. This scheme grants all passport-holders of IACA member countries discounts for almost all of IACA's academic and educational activities. Just another incentive to join the Academy.

What is more, thanks to earmarked donor funds we have also been able to support more than 20% of our students, coming from LDCs and other ODA areas, with full scholarships or full tuition fee waivers.

IACA already has an alumni network of professionals from 153 countries and jurisdictions. These inspiring individuals act as multipliers in our common fight against corruption and also embody the spirit of international cooperation that lies behind the UNCAC.

Distinguished delegates, as we all take stock during this Conference of progress achieved and the way forward in UNCAC implementation, IACA invites you to take advantage of the many services we offer in this area. We are ready to support and assist you in any way we can.

We would also be delighted to welcome you to one or both of the side events that IACA is organizing this week. The first of these is a panel discussion this Wednesday on "Development of Anti-corruption Compliance and Collective Action: Modern Challenges and Trends". The second, on Thursday, is jointly organized with INTERPOL and will look at "Corruption and Economic Crime in Cyberspace".

Ladies and Gentlemen, I firmly believe that 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. And I am convinced that by working together we have the power to make a difference, and thus move towards more social, economic, and political prosperity, towards a fairer world, and towards more equity and equality.

On that note IACA pledges its full support to this Conference, to the further implementation of the UNCAC, and to our collective efforts towards a better and most sustainable future.

Thank you.