

Commission on Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice

Twenty-fifth session

Statement by the
International Anti-Corruption Academy

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mister Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), it is a pleasure to be here with you in Vienna today to discuss how we can work together to help prevent and counter terrorism and build a safer and more prosperous world.

Ladies and gentlemen, terrorism is an immediate and constant threat to our peace, security, and well-being. In the last few months alone, tragic events in Lahore, Brussels, Paris, Beirut, and Ankara—to name just a few cities across the globe—have served as horrific reminders of this fact.

Terrorism is a multidimensional challenge. Effectively combating it involves addressing its many root causes—and one of the biggest of these is corruption. So identifying the links between corruption and terrorism is absolutely crucial.

Corruption undermines political and legal institutions, weakens armies, police forces, and border controls, and cripples economies. It fuels extremism and helps to give terrorists access to finance and weapons. It erodes human rights, the rule of law, prosperity and development, and equity and equality. And it destroys countries.

Let us be clear: corruption helps to create conditions in which terrorism can thrive.

The international community still does not have a sufficient overall picture of how terrorist groups operate and finance themselves. This creates challenges for countries and regions trying to target such groups, as well as for private sector actors whose cooperation is vital.

But by attacking the scourge of corruption, we can make a meaningful contribution to preventing and countering terrorism. And by multiplying our efforts to combat these twin threats, we will increase our chances of fulfilling the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which the United Nations General Assembly adopted last September in New York. The challenges, and the potential benefits, could not be greater.

Ladies and gentlemen, we know that fighting corruption and fighting terrorism are difficult, frequently dangerous, long-term struggles. They require courage, persistence, and flexibility. And they require us not only to build on approaches that already work, but also to engage in fresh thinking and come up with new initiatives. However, with leadership from

the very top, nationally and internationally, in both the political and corporate world, and with further investment in anti-corruption education and empowerment, then we can prevail.

We very much look forward to further discussions with you on the links between terrorism and corruption. With this in mind I would encourage you to come to a side event on precisely this theme on Thursday at 13:10. This is being organized jointly by IACA and the OECD and features a panel of distinguished speakers, so please come and share your views.

At IACA we take a broad, holistic approach to fighting and preventing corruption, and we place great emphasis on the importance of partnerships with our stakeholders. We are therefore ready and willing to contribute any way we can to a better understanding of the links between corruption and terrorism—including the financing of terrorism.

Firstly, IACA stands ready to cooperate further with other international organizations and institutions working on the nexus between corruption and terrorism. This reflects our status as an independent intergovernmental organization with a constantly growing constituency of 67 Parties that brings together two-thirds of the world's population. In this same building back in December, hundreds of delegates representing our entire constituency voiced their strong support for IACA's work at the fourth session of our Assembly of Parties.

In addition, IACA is open to ways of integrating this topic more closely in, *inter alia*, our technical assistance, capacity-building, and awareness-raising activities; our anti-corruption programmes and related research; and our global alumni network of some 800 anti-corruption and compliance professionals in 140 countries.

In November 2015 our work received explicit tribute in a resolution adopted by the sixth Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. This followed a similar tribute in a resolution adopted in July last year by the Human Rights Council of the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

In this context, IACA has a full agenda of academic programmes, practice-oriented trainings, and other activities for the remainder of 2016 and beyond.

We are currently accepting applications for the fourth class of our Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS), which starts in October this year. The MACS is a unique two-year "in career" programme designed for working professionals that was developed in consultation with numerous international stakeholders including UNODC and the OECD. In addition, we are

preparing to launch a second master's programme in 2017 on collective action, compliance, and (private sector) anti-corruption.

IACA's agenda for July includes our sixth annual Summer Academy, our latest **"Best Of"** seminar with Johann Graf Lambsdorff (a leading global anti-corruption expert), the annual Anti-Corruption in Local Governance Training, and our third alumni reunion. August and September, meanwhile, will see – among other activities – our Procurement Anti-Corruption Training and also the IACA Regional Summer Academy-Eastern Africa in Kampala, Uganda.

Demand is also very **strong for IACA's tailor-made** trainings—our customized anti-corruption programmes for specific organizations, corporations, or institutions. We will deliver about a dozen of these at IACA in the coming months, including two this week alone for participants from Indonesia and Eurasian Economic Union Member States.

If you want to learn more about **IACA's** recent institutional developments, programmes, and trainings, then you are warmly invited to our Missions Briefing here at the VIC on Wednesday at 14:00.

On behalf of IACA I thank you for your attention and look forward to further fruitful discussions on this vital issue during the remainder of this week.