

**Special Session of
the General Assembly against Corruption**

Statement by
Mr. Thomas Stelzer

Dean and Executive Secretary of the
International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

New York

DATE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam/Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

- It is an honour to be here today. I believe this Special Session of the General Assembly could mark a turning point in the global fight against corruption. It is the culmination of a long process which has brought corruption into sharp focus for the UN and the international community in general. The international community now recognises the extent of the challenge of tackling corruption and the great gains that can be made towards achieving the SDGs by taking it on. Most importantly, we recognise that this challenge can only be overcome together.
- The International Anti-Corruption Academy, conceptualized to facilitate implementation of the United Nations Anti-Corruption Convention UNCAC, has been engaged in fighting corruption for a decade this year. In that time, we have developed the expertise and experience needed to fulfill our unique mandate of providing anti-corruption education and technical assistance to those who need it most. Over the last year we have begun to scale up delivery of services to reach the widest audience possible including by enhancing our e-learning infrastructure.
- Through our training and capacity-building activities, IACA provides crucial anti-corruption tools particularly to practitioners from developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). In this way IACA contributes to the development of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions, as described in SDG16. We stand ready to provide our unique tools and capacities to all UN Member States in their efforts to tackle corruption and to achieve the SDGs

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- While the academy can have a significant impact on its own, we know that partnership is the key to achieving lasting results. That is why, over the past year IACA has greatly extended and strengthened its partnerships, particularly with members of the UN system.
- For example, the Academy together with UNITAR now offers joint masters and joint Executive Diploma courses on anti-corruption and diplomacy. We also have a new joint project with UNODC, on *Providing Specialized Training on Anti-Corruption Legislation to Least Developed Countries to Fast-Track UNCAC Implementation*.
- I am very pleased to see that the draft declaration calls for our relationship with UNODC and other UN entities to be strengthened. I believe our unique mandate can complement the work of the UN in anti-corruption while avoiding any duplication of efforts. The more closely we work together, the more effective and efficient we can be in achieving our common goals.
- The draft also recognises the importance of education and training in anti-corruption. This is firmly in line with our beliefs at IACA and the core idea that one must first understand corruption to be able to combat it effectively.

Dear Colleagues,

- Let me conclude by saying that since taking up my post as Dean of IACA in early 2020, I have looked forward to this meeting as the time when the challenge of corruption would be placed squarely in the sights of the international community. Now the day has come, I firmly trust that we will capitalise on the momentum that has been built and set in

motion the initiatives which can turn the tide in the global fight against corruption.

Thank you.

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