

Thematic consultation 2: Accelerating the Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable
financing and building trust

Statement by Mr. Thomas Stelzer
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Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

- It is an honour to be here today to address this thematic consultation on “Accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable financing and building trust.”
- Corruption is one of the primary obstacles to achieving the SDGs. As was stated in the report of the FACTI Panel, of which I was a member; cross-border corruption drains resources from sustainable development, it worsens inequalities, fuels instability, undermines governance, and damages public trust.
- For many years the spectre of corruption hung over sustainable development efforts and was perceived almost as a force of nature which could not be tackled.
- That situation is now changing. The international community recognises that the challenge of corruption not only can be taken on, but must be taken on, if we are to have any chance of achieving the SDGs.
- We also recognise that we now have the tools we need to effectively fight corruption and thereby build trust and redirect funds to where they are needed most.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The International Anti-Corruption Academy was conceptualized to facilitate implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Its activities thus correspond to key proposal 6 of

“Our Common Agenda” report, which calls for “Action to tackle corruption in line with the UNCAC.”

- The Academy, in its dual role as both an international organisation and an institute of higher learning, has been engaged in fighting corruption for just over a decade. 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 two years 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 and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- In this way, the Academy contributes to the development of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions, as described in SDG16 and as laid out in proposal 6 of “Our Common Agenda.”
- As such, IACA is ideally placed to assist states to act on this proposal. 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.
- Thank you and I wish you a fruitful discussion.