



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME BRANCH ANTI-CORRUPTION UPDATE

<http://www.unodc.org/corruption>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

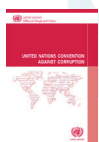
- Seventh Session of the Implementation Review Group
(Vienna, 20 to 24 June 2016)
- Seventh Session of the Working Group on Prevention
(Vienna, 22 to 24 August 2016)
- Tenth Session of the Working Group on Asset Recovery
(Vienna, 25 to 26 August 2016)
- Resumed Seventh Session of the Implementation Review Group
(Vienna, 14 to 16 September 2016)
- Fifth Session of the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Meeting on International Cooperation
(Vienna, 17 to 18 November 2016)

UNCAC STATUS



Announcements

Latest State party:
New Zealand, 1 December 2015
Signatories: 140 Parties: 178



Message from the Chief

On International [Anti-Corruption Day](#), I would like to reflect on the important events of the year and look forward to what lies ahead.

2015 was a milestone year for the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Conference of the States Parties held its [sixth session](#) in Saint Petersburg and received, for the first time, a message by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. His was a simple message: to achieve sustainable development, we must end corruption. With the advent of Agenda 2030 and especially Sustainable Development Goal 16, a strong theme throughout the Conference was the renewed link between anti-corruption and sustainable development.

The Conference agreed on an unprecedented number of ten resolutions that move forward the international efforts against corruption. Most notably, the Conference launched the second cycle of reviews under the UNCAC peer review mechanism, which will look into the important chapters on prevention and asset recovery. Further, States explored innovative channels for enhancing prevention, through resolutions on transparent, accountable and efficient public service delivery, technological innovations, education and training, as well as public-private partnerships in the prevention and fight against corruption. Three resolutions were adopted in the field of international cooperation and asset recovery, including one urging action on settlements in corruption cases, drawing on "[Left out of the Bargain: Settlements in Foreign Bribery Cases and Implications for Asset Recovery](#)" by the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative. The Conference also focused attention on anti-corruption efforts in small island developing States. In plenary, over 150 States and dozens of international organizations and non-governmental organizations had the opportunity to discuss their cooperation in the implementation of the Convention.

On 14 December 2015, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. As we take stock of the remarkable

achievements during the short life of the Convention, and the lessons learned in the first cycle of reviews, the need to redouble our efforts and renew our commitment towards full implementation of the Convention is apparent. One area where this is particularly important is to strengthen the response to technical assistance needs identified through the UNCAC peer reviews, especially as we look toward the work ahead and we strive to ensure that the second cycle of reviews is even more successful than the first.

With my best wishes for the Holiday Season,
Chief, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch



Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons

UNODC launched a new knowledge product, the [Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons](#). The Resource Guide has been produced in response to the increasing demand for assistance in the area of whistleblower protection. Under the UNCAC Review Mechanism approximately 70% of the States parties that have been reviewed so far received a recommendation to adopt or strengthen measures in relation to article 33 of the Convention and more than 30% highlighted technical assistance needs. The Resource Guide showcases examples from different countries across the world as well as key learning points that should be considered when establishing systems for the protection of reporting persons. Due to the increasing prominence of the topic of whistleblower protection at the international level and a growing body of research, UNODC also added a new, dedicated [sub-page on reporting of corruption and whistleblower protection](#) to UNODC's TRACK website to provide a platform for continued sharing of academic knowledge and research material.

Strategy and how it can be used to fight corruption

The importance of adopting "effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability" has been recognized by UNCAC in its article 5. Responding to a request by the Conference of the States Parties in its resolution 5/4 to identify and disseminate good practices on the development of national anti-corruption strategies, and in accordance with its responsibility to provide technical assistance to States parties to help them meet their obligations under the Convention, UNODC has developed "[National Anti-Corruption Strategies – A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation](#)". The Guide offers specific recommendations for countries considering drafting or revising a national anti-corruption strategy, drawing on practical experiences of UNCAC States parties and focusing on how to engage all stakeholders in a meaningful and productive drafting process which would culminate in a realistic, measurable and implementable strategy. Many of the recommendations contained in the Guide may also be relevant to countries that plan to meet their obligations under article 5 without adopting a formal strategy document.

Effective management and disposal of seized and confiscated assets

UNODC conducted an international expert group meeting in September 2015 in Vienna involving over 40 participants from more than 15 jurisdictions in response to the growing necessity of creating and further developing competent national systems for the management, use and disposal of assets that are seized and confiscated from criminal organizations and corrupt networks. The meeting noted that the seizure or freezing of criminal assets entailed a holistic approach encompassing investigation, appropriate judicial processes and an adequate and effective system of asset management. The higher the volume and complexity of criminal assets identified and seized or frozen prior to confiscation, the greater the need for an appropriate asset management regime. As an outcome, a compilation of national experiences in this field will be developed to help those directly tasked with developing policy frameworks as well as the management of such assets in learning from these experiences and avoiding and/or managing some of the risks and liabilities involved. The [meeting report](#) seeks to identify important issues with which countries are confronted in designing their own asset management structures for seized and confiscated assets.

Comprehensive report on the state of implementation of UNCAC launched

Established in 2009, the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism continues to produce an unprecedented wealth of information on the way in which States parties are translating their commitments under UNCAC into tangible action. With a view to capturing and analyzing this rich and diverse information, UNODC has produced the first edition of the [State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Criminalization, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation](#). This report provides for the first time ever an in-depth analysis of the information gathered in the context of the country reviews of almost 70 States parties against the requirements of chapters III (Criminalization and law enforcement) and IV (International cooperation) of UNCAC. In doing so, the report identifies good practices as well as substantial challenges and highlights the key emerging inconsistencies in the interpretation of UNCAC by States parties, providing a solid basis for advancing and further improving the effective implementation of the Convention.

Interested to learn more about the countries undergoing the UNCAC review process?

Visit the [IRG Country Profile Pages](#)

The most recent Executive Summaries added are from the following countries:



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[Guatemala](#)



[Gabon](#)