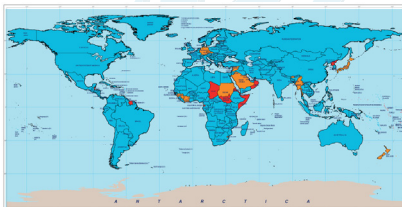




UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✳ **Expert Group Meeting, Major Public Events**
(Vienna, 4-6 June 2012)
- ✳ **Expert Group Meeting, Journalists and Anti-Corruption,**
(Vienna, 1-3 October 2012)
- ✳ **Third Session of the Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption**
(Vienna, 2012)
- ✳ **Third Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Prevention**
(Vienna, 2012)
- ✳ **Sixth Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery**
(Vienna, 2012)

UNCAC STATUS



Announcements

Last Ratification:
Solomon Islands 06 January 2012



Message from the Chief

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC! We hope that you will find this newsletter interesting and informative, and will strive to include developments both in Vienna and throughout the world in our anti-corruption initiatives and activities. With 159 States parties having ratified or acceded to the Convention, it is well on the way to reaching universal application. The Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) was held in Marrakech, Morocco, last October. The success of the Conference solidified its status as the main international anti-corruption event. We are now working towards the next Conference, which will be hosted by Panama in Panama City, and will keep you posted on developments.



Since its commencement over two years ago, the UNCAC Review Mechanism has been compared to “a living tree”, as the process of considering each others’ legislative and institutional frameworks with respect to UNCAC Chapters III (Criminalization and law enforcement) and IV (International cooperation) has facilitated dialogue and mutual trust. After learning much during the first year, we are now gaining significant momentum in the second year, and look forward to beginning the third year of the Mechanism later in 2012.

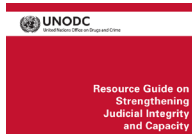
With my best wishes and warmest regards,

Dimitri Vlassis
Chief, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC

Executive Director of UNODC Launches the “Integrity IPO”, a new initiative for the Private Sector

In January, at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, the Executive Director of UNODC launched an initiative entitled "Integrity IPO", aimed at forging partnerships with the private sector. UNCAC, the world's only universal anti-corruption instrument and the gold standard for the various private sector integrity initiatives, is the blueprint for the Integrity IPO. Contributions to the Integrity IPO would be turned into a potent insurance policy for protecting private sector assets by investing in the integrity of public counterparts. This would be done by helping develop and strengthen the public anti-corruption infrastructure of the countries where international business is conducted. Based on a current analysis of the technical assistance needs, identified through the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism, support could be offered in such areas as investigation and prosecution; curricula development and public outreach; and guides and tools to target key sectors, including energy, education, health, transportation, telecommunications, water, oil and gas, and banking. In addition to capital investments, the private sector could also provide technical expertise and material support. For more information about this initiative, please contact Julia Pilgrim (julia.pilgrim@unodc.org) or Maria Adomeit (maria.adomeit@unodc.org).

CEB Publishes Resource Guide to Strengthen Judicial Integrity and Capacity



In December 2011, UNODC published the Resource Guide on Strengthening Judicial Integrity and Capacity. The purpose of the guide is to support and inform those who are tasked with reforming and strengthening the justice systems of their countries, as well as development partners, international organizations and other providers of technical assistance who provide support to this process. The guide draws together ideas, recommendations and strategies developed by contemporary experts on judicial and legal reform, and includes reference to successful measures taken in a range of countries to address particular challenges in strengthening the justice system. Ultimately, the guide aims to provide practical information on how to build and maintain an independent, impartial, transparent,

efficient and service-oriented justice system that enjoys the confidence of the public and lives up to the expectations contained in relevant international legal instruments, standards and norms. You can access the Guide at:

http://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/Publications/ResourceGuideonStrengtheningJudicialIntegrityandCapacity/11-85709_ebook.pdf

Regional Mentors Programme

UNODC provides technical assistance in combating corruption through its Global Anti-Corruption Mentor Programme. This Programme aims to provide specialized expertise through the placement of anti-corruption experts at the regional level to help foster geographical-based cooperation and coordination. These mentors provide rapidly deployable technical assistance capacity to States parties to meet ad hoc requests for assistance that may arise from both within and outside the review mechanism. Starting in the second half of 2011, for the first time, technical assistance was provided in response to needs identified within the framework of the review mechanism of the Convention. The anti-corruption mentors provided assistance in East Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, East Asia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo by developing new projects and providing support to on-going anti-corruption projects, including to the establishment of the Regional Anti-corruption Academy in Panama, providing advice to national anti-corruption government institutions, designing and delivering capacity- building training, and promoting public awareness. There are plans to deploy additional mentors in the Pacific, the MENA region and West and Central Africa. For more information on the Programme, please contact Virginia de Abajo-Marques (virginia.deabajo-marques@unodc.org).

TRACK – On Track against Corruption



As prosecutors and law enforcement agencies strengthen their efforts to combat corruption, a new database is logging government efforts to implement legislation that supports anti-corruption and asset recovery. Launched on 1 September 2011, the UNCAC Legal Library supports asset recovery and anti-corruption efforts. The database is co-funded by the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, a joint programme of the World Bank Group and UNODC. The UNCAC Legal Library is a comprehensive

database of anti-corruption and asset recovery legislation and jurisprudence from over 175 States, systematized in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. The legal library, which will be regularly updated, identifies laws that have been successfully used to recover assets as well as barriers to asset recovery caused by inadequate or incompatible legal frameworks. This practical and user-friendly resource will aid countries as they design and improve their legal frameworks so that they are more conducive to the recovery of stolen assets. The UNCAC legal library is accessible from UNODC's anti-corruption portal known as TRACK (Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge). In addition to the Legal Library, the TRACK portal contains an anti-corruption learning platform where analytical materials and tools generated by partner organizations can be accessed in one central location. TRACK is also a community of practice for partner institutions and practitioners. To access the database, visit (<http://www.track.unodc.org>)