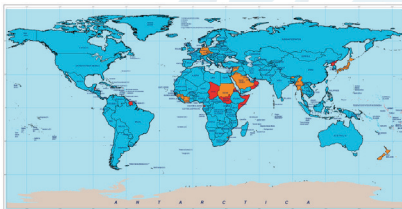## UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Third Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Prevention** (Vienna, 27-29 August 2012)

* **Sixth Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery** (Vienna, 30-31 August 2012)

* **First session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Meeting on International Cooperation** (Vienna, 22-23 October 2012)

* **Resumed third session of the Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption** (Vienna, 14-16 November 2012)

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Update on the Implementation Review Group

The third session of the Implementation Review Group was held from 18 to 22 June 2012, during which the reviewing States were drawn for the 37 States under review in the third year of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism. Thematic reports were presented covering implementation of Chapters III (Criminalization and law enforcement) and IV (International cooperation), based on information gathered from the completed reports of 19 States in the first two years of the UNCAC review cycle. Topics of particular interest included illicit enrichment, bribery in the private sector and liability of legal persons. It was emphasized that technical assistance to assist requesting States in further implementing the Convention constitutes an integral part of the Review Mechanism. The resumed third session of the Implementation Review Group will be held 14 to 16 November 2012 in Vienna.

At High-Level Forum, UN Officials Highlight Costs of Corruption on Societies

On 9 July 2012, at a high-level panel discussion on accountability and transparency, United Nations officials highlighted the costs that corruption has on societies, and called on countries to forge partnerships to combat the problem. "Corruption hampers the ability of nations to prosper and grow," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the closing of the panel discussion, at UN Headquarters in New York. "Neither peace, development nor human rights can flourish in an atmosphere of corruption."

Organized by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in cooperation with UNODC, the ECOSOC 2012 High-Level Panel on 'Accountability, Transparency and Sustainable Development: Turning Challenges into Opportunities' sought to spotlight the negative consequences that corruption and lack of transparency can have on sustainable development, while giving participants the opportunity to exchange views on innovative approaches and partnerships in combating the issue. The High-Level Panel also promoted a renewed commitment for the ratification of or accession to the UN Convention against Corruption by countries that have not yet done so.

Addressing the event, Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, said that there was a great potential for universality of the UNCAC in the not too distant future. "But, ratification is only the first step. The full implementation of UNCAC is crucial for success against corruption at the grass roots level", he said. The Executive Director emphasized that Governments could not win the fight against corruption alone: "preventing and combating corruption is the shared responsibility of all sectors of society". The Executive Director stated that UNODC was working actively with both the public and the private sector and had developed a number of initiatives that engage the key stakeholders in the fight against corruption.

Anti-Corruption Initiatives Obtain United Nations Public Service Award

Seven anti-corruption initiatives from across the world obtained the United Nations Public Service Award 2012. The category 'Preventing and combating corruption in the public service', a collaboration between UNODC and UNDESA, is the newest of five categories and the award was given for the second time in 2012. The awards for all categories were presented to the institutions behind these initiatives in a ceremony during the United Nations Public Service Forum, held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2012.

The recognition and promotion of good practices through the annual UN Public Service Award is intended to motivate countries to continue their efforts towards excellence in the public service, to inspire other countries, and to enrich thematic discourse and collaboration between States. The Integrity Assessment, an initiative of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) of Korea which received an award in 2012, is already turning these aspirations into practice. After assisting Indonesia and Bhutan in the successful adoption of the Integrity Assessment, the ACRC was approached by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) of Thailand in order to support the development of a similar system tailored to the local context. The UN Public Service Award hopes to give a further push to such fruitful exchange and collaboration efforts. More information can be found at: http://www.unpan.org/unpsa. Nominations for next year's award can be submitted from September/October 2012 onwards. More details on the process can be found under the same web link.

2012 UNPSA Winners – 1st Category: Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Public Sector

	Africa		Asia and the Pacific	
1st Place Winners	Initiative: Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Public Service Independent Commission against Corruption	Mauritius	Initiative: The Integrity Assessment Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission	Republic of Korea
2nd Place Winners			Initiative: Promoting Accountability for Procurement of Public Projects Building and Construction Authority	Singapore
	Latin America and the Caribbean		Western Asia	
1st Place Winners	New Model of Control and Audit of Public Works Ministry of Public Service	Mexico	SMS Information System Ministry of Justice	Turkey
2nd Place Winners	National Public Procurement System Ministry of Public Service	Mexico	Georgian Electronic Government Procurement System State Procurement Agency of Georgia	Georgia

Cambodian Judges and Prosecutors in Lively Judicial Integrity Dialogue

Phnom Penh (Cambodia), 6 July 2012 - Cambodian judges, prosecutors and senior Government ministers gathered recently at a judicial integrity workshop in Phnom Penh to discuss candidly breaches in ethical judicial practice in Cambodia and their consequences. They also debated the values and qualities that make for a fair and ethical judge, and how to ensure that judges can better uphold judicial integrity and its values in Cambodia's courtrooms. Organized by Cambodia's Ministry of Justice with support from UNODC and Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project (ARTIP), the workshop's aim was to ensure that participants understood the provisions of relevant international and national laws, including Cambodia's judicial Code of Ethics.

"What's interesting about this workshop is the interactive aspect. Discussions were very candid. Participants' willingness to discuss problems and to propose solutions was noteworthy," said Mr. Shervin Majlessi, UNODC Regional Anti-Corruption Advisor, and one of the organizers for the workshop. Participants agreed that more concrete laws be established to increase the support they receive from society and the government, decrease outside influences, and ultimately help them make more independent, impartial and just decisions.