



International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities

**11th Annual Conference of
International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities
“Charting A New Path to Combat Corruption”**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
People’s Republic of China**

22-24 May 2024

**International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities
Hong Kong Declaration
on Strengthening International Cooperation
in Preventing and Fighting Corruption**

We, the representatives of Anti-Corruption Authorities, gathered in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China for the 8th ICAC Symposium, which also serves as the 11th Annual Conference of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA), under the theme “Charting a New Path to Combat Corruption”,

Concerned about the seriousness of the problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law,

Recalling the adoption of United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, and the political declaration “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution S-32/1 of 2 June 2021,



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Emphasizing the continued relevance and importance of all resolutions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC, from its first to tenth sessions, and the need for their full implementation,

Reaffirming the importance of the Beijing, Bali, Kiev, Macao, Marrakech, Kuala Lumpur, Panama, St. Petersburg, Tianjin and Vienna Declarations of IAACA in reinforcing the objectives of IAACA in facilitating the effective implementation of UNCAC and enhancing international collaboration against corruption,

Recognizing the indispensable roles of anti-corruption authorities in effectively implementing UNCAC and addressing corruption through law enforcement, preventive measures, engagement with different sectors of society, international cooperation, asset tracing and recovery, technical assistance, and information exchange,

Recalling paragraph 1 of resolution 8/7 adopted by the 8th session of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC which encourages States parties to give adequate consideration and resources to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies and agencies with anti-corruption responsibilities, consistent with Article 6 of UNCAC, in order to meet the emerging challenges in preventing and combating different forms of corruption,

Recognizing that anti-corruption authorities have a significant role in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the implementation of its Goal 16 which emphasizes, inter alia, building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms,

1. *Express* our profound gratitude to the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China for its leadership and vision for launching IAACA in 2006 at the first annual conference and general meeting of IAACA held in Beijing, China, and holding the founding presidency and administering the secretariat from 2006 to 2016 which fostered IAACA to become a dedicated, professional and non-political anti-corruption organization to promote the effective



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implementation of UNCAC and for congregating anti-corruption authorities around the world to assist each other in preventing and fighting corruption;

2. *Express also* our great appreciation to the Attorney General's Office of the State of Qatar for holding the presidency and secretariat of IAACA from 2016 to 2022, steering IAACA to overcome the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and sustaining IAACA's importance in international cooperation against corruption;

3. *Extend* our appreciation to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China for assuming the presidency and administering the secretariat of IAACA since 2022 with the vision of enhancing partnership of IAACA with regional and international organizations, and assisting anti-corruption authorities in building their capacity through training and experience sharing;

4. *Express* our gratitude to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China for its warm hospitality for hosting the 8th ICAC Symposium, which also serves as the 11th Annual Conference of IAACA;

5. *Underline* the synergy of cooperation between ICAC and IAACA in co-organizing the 8th ICAC Symposium, which also serves as the 11th Annual Conference of IAACA, to provide an international platform for anti-corruption authorities, stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the academia to exchange, discuss and explore innovative methods to prevent and combat corruption;

6. *Encourage* States parties to identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of UNCAC and make every effort to address such gaps and challenges by drawing on the observations and good practices emanating from the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism;

7. *Encourage* anti-corruption authorities to fully utilize UNCAC in international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and *call upon* anti-corruption authorities to, according to their capacity,



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afford one another the widest possible measures of technical assistance in enhancing anti-corruption capacity through training, exchange of relevant experience, sharing of good practices, specialized knowledge and skills, innovative approaches and solutions;

8. *Applaud* the establishment of the Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption (HKIAAC) by ICAC on 21 February 2024, which serves as a platform for multilateral cooperation in anti-corruption training, experience sharing and research, and *look forward to* closer collaboration among IAACA, ICAC and HKIAAC in providing technical assistance to anti-corruption authorities to enhance their capacity in preventing and fighting corruption;

9. *Also look forward to* the enhanced cooperation among IAACA, HKIAAC and the International Anti-Corruption Academy by sharing knowledge and expertise, and organizing joint professional training for anti-corruption authorities and relevant stakeholders;

10. *Call upon* States parties to strengthen their efforts to implement the relevant provisions of UNCAC in relation to international cooperation in criminal matters, including, as appropriate, through considering concluding bilateral and/or multilateral agreements and arrangements;

11. *Further call upon* States parties to afford one another the widest possible measures of cooperation and assistance in preventing and detecting the transfer of proceeds of corruption, the recovery of illicit assets, and denying safe havens to fugitives and corrupt and illicit assets in accordance with their domestic law;

12. *Urge* States parties to strengthen mechanisms to facilitate international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings and investigations related to corruption in accordance with their domestic law;

13. *Welcome* the launch of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on 3 June 2021, and *encourage* anti-corruption authorities to strengthen



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communication and informal spontaneous cooperation in the form of preliminary discussion, exchange of information, sharing of experiences, intelligence, good practices, lessons learned and other aspects of operational work through the GlobE Network to accelerate international cooperation in line with Article 46(4) of UNCAC and to facilitate cooperation in preventing and combating corruption;

14. *Emphasize* the importance of the “Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies” annexed to the Panama Declaration of IAACA together with its Colombo Commentary, and *reiterate* our invitation to States parties to take them into account in order to promote and strengthen the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies in accordance with Articles 7, 11, 30 and 36 of UNCAC, thus consolidating national and international action against corruption;

15. *Underline* the importance of enhancing transparency in public administration, including with regards to its organization, functioning and decision-making processes by strengthening public reporting in accordance with Article 10 of the UNCAC;

16. *Emphasize* the significance of the participation and continued involvement of the private sector, and the engagement of different sectors of society in preventing and combating corruption, and the raising of public awareness of corruption and its adverse impact on societies, in a holistic manner to sustain anti-corruption momentum;

17. *Further emphasize* the importance of education, the integration of integrity values and anti-corruption elements into teaching and learning programmes at all levels of education to cultivate a society with zero-tolerance for corruption;

18. *Welcome* the launch of the Global Resources for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative by UNODC, and the publication of the “Policy Guide for National Anti-Corruption Authorities on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Anti-Corruption Work” under the partnership of UNODC, ICAC and IAACA, and *encourage* anti-corruption authorities, individually or in cooperation with UNODC, ICAC,



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IAACA and other stakeholders, to implement initiatives in engaging the youth more meaningfully in their anti-corruption work with reference to the policy guide;

19. *Encourage* States parties, within their means and in accordance with their domestic law, as appropriate, to consider developing reliable methodologies and indicators to measure corruption risks, trends and prevalence with a view to developing and implementing corresponding measures to tackle the areas with greater corruption risks, as well as work in partnership with each other and with UNODC and other stakeholders on sharing expertise, knowledge and good practices in measuring corruption;

20. *Underline* the increasing importance of information and communications technology, as well as expert and professional knowledge of digital and financial forensics in preventing, detecting and combating corruption, and *encourage* anti-corruption authorities to adopt cutting-edge tools and methods in preventive and law enforcement efforts, as well as to share their expertise and specialized knowledge with one another through training and mutual exchange;

21. *Emphasize* the importance of the adoption of digital system for the management of public procurement and public contracts for promoting transparency and accountability in the management of public finances in accordance with Article 9 of the UNCAC;

22. *Recognize* the inauguration of the Perdana International Anti-Corruption Champion Fund by IAACA on 22 January 2019 which exemplifies our united efforts to bolster the global anti-corruption framework, offering critical support to investigators and prosecutors and a wider array of stakeholders, including whistle-blowers, media personnel, and advocates for community education on corruption prevention, and to provide necessary assistance and cultivate a robust international support network to significantly advance the objectives of UNCAC and enhance our collective capability to undertake comprehensive and effective anti-corruption measures;

23. *Extend* our gratitude to the Executive Director of UNODC and her staff for their important role as the secretariat of the Conference of the



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States Parties to UNCAC and as guardian of UNCAC in supporting States parties in their implementation of UNCAC, and as observer to IAACA in supporting the work of IAACA and enhancing the collaborative partnership between UNODC and IAACA,

24. *Express* our appreciation to IAACA Executive Committee Members, Regional Coordinators as well as Members of Regional Groups for their engagement in coordinating the various IAACA activities with anti-corruption authorities within their regions as well as implementing initiatives to promote networking in different parts of the world.

25. *Decide* that the text of this declaration be widely circulated by the relevant anti-corruption authorities in their respective countries and that it should be submitted to the eleventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC, scheduled to take place in Qatar in December 2025.

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