



The International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities Notes of 12th General Meeting (Online)

**Thursday, 8 December 2022
6:00 pm, Hong Kong Time (UTC+8)**

Opening remarks by the President

The President welcomed Members to the 12th General Meeting and expressed appreciation to Members for their concerted efforts in putting into implementation the Regional Coordination Mechanism and fostering the work of IAACA in the past year which had reaped fruitful outcomes. He stated that this General Meeting, originally scheduled for 9 December 2022 to tie in with The International Anti-Corruption Day, was convened one day before in order that more Members could participate.

2. The President informed Members that Mr Danny Woo, the new Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Hong Kong, China had appointed him as the Special Adviser and a specifically delegated official representing the ICAC in IAACA. He would continue to serve as the President and to steer IAACA towards the mission of fostering the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

3. Upon the invitation of the President, Mr Woo delivered remarks at the meeting indicating his appointment by the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China as the Commissioner of ICAC Hong Kong with effect from 1 July 2022. Mr Woo furthered that as the dedicated anti-corruption agency in Hong Kong, the ICAC had been carrying out its mission to stamp out corruption through a three-pronged approach which combined enforcement, prevention and education. Apart from fighting corruption in Hong Kong, ICAC was also an active member in the international anti-corruption community and would continue its support to IAACA and the collaboration with IAACA members. Mr Woo also invited Members to attend the ICAC Symposium in 2024 which is the signature event of a series of ICAC's 50th anniversary activities.

4. The President informed the meeting the appointment of new heads of three organisational members in the ExCo, namely Datin Paduka Hajah Anifa Rafiza binti Haji Abdul Ghani, Director of Anti-Corruption Bureau of Brunei, Ms Alexandra Rogkakou, Interim Governor of National Transparency Authority of Greece and Ms Karen Chang, Director and Chief Executive of Serious Fraud Office of New Zealand. The President welcomed Madam Rafiza and Ms Rogkakou to the meeting and conveyed Ms Chang's apologies for not being able to attend.

Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

5. The Secretary-General referred Members to Annex I for minutes of the 11th IAACA General Meeting held under the former President and as convened by the Former Secretary-General. Members unanimously confirmed the minutes without amendments.

Adoption of the Agenda

6. The meeting adopted the Agenda at Annex II without amendments.

Remarks by Representative from UNODC

7. Ms Kari Ann Lucas, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), remarked that similar to IAACA's Regional Coordination Mechanism, UNODC had taken forward two initiatives to advance the implementation of UNCAC. The first one was the establishment of regional anti-corruption platforms which covered jurisdictions across Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, South America and Mexico, Southeast Asia, Western Sahara Africa, Western Balkan and Central America and the Caribbean. Countries within the same region could share challenges and good practices with one another, thereby enabling them to better fast track their anti-corruption goals. The second initiative was the launch of the regional anti-corruption hubs which aimed to put together anti-corruption experts in tailoring responses to meet the needs of different regions. Ms Kari Ann Lucas stressed that UNODC would continue the partnership with IAACA to create synergies in the global fight against corruption.

Endorsement of new organisational members

8. Referring to GM Paper 1/2022, the Secretary-General stated that 32 anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) applied for IAACA membership and they had all fulfilled the admission criteria set out in the Constitution. The ExCo had agreed to recommend their admission to the General Meeting in accordance with Article 9(C)(g) of the Constitution. The General Meeting endorsed the new admission unanimously. The Secretary-General welcomed the new members and looked forward to their active participation in IAACA.

9. Mr Natiq Eyvazov and Mr Oleksii Sukhachov, respectively the Anti-Corruption Directorate with the Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan and Director of the State Bureau of Investigation of Ukraine, expressed their appreciation to the meeting for accepting their membership applications. Both of them emphasized the importance of international cooperation and looked forward to the cooperation with members.

10. Ms Soumaya Sadiki, International Cooperation Project Officer of the National Authority for Probity, Prevention and Fight Against Corruption of Morocco, raised a question about the right to vote granted to individual ACAs from the same country which might have conflicting views on certain issues. In response, the President shared that the mission of the Association was to enroll as many ACAs as possible as its members. In the past, the Association had always been striving to reach decisions through consensus instead of voting. The ExCo was well aware of the need to have a fair representation from various regions of the world.

Report on the work progress by the Training Committee

11. The President apprised Members that the Training Committee convened its 1st meeting of this term in May 2022 and one of the major initiatives was to co-host the 3rd IAACA Training Programme with The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC) of Qatar in February 2022. However, the programme would be postponed to a later time according to ROLACC.

12. In order to address the keen demand for training on forensic investigation as reflected in the training needs survey, IAACA would

organise an online training on the topic for all members and ACAs worldwide through the joint efforts of ICAC Hong Kong, ACB Brunei Darussalam, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) of Malaysia, Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) of Singapore and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) of India. The two-day training was scheduled for February 2023 with details to be announced later. Members were encouraged to take part in the training and mobilize ACAs in their regions to enroll.

Report on IAACA's work in 2022 by the Secretariat

13. The Secretary-General reported that IAACA had made substantial achievements in the past 11 months with the ExCo of this term setting to steer its work towards three strategic directions namely (i) fostering members' communication and collaboration through the Regional Coordination Mechanism; (ii) enhancing IAACA's involvement in the international community and (iii) strengthening the secretariat support to the Association. She continued to update Members on the progress made under these three areas:

(i) **Fostering members' communication and collaboration through the Regional Coordination Mechanism**

14. Under the newly implemented Regional Coordination Mechanism, IAACA successfully recruited 32 new members this year, expanding the total membership number to 155.

15. Mr Lawrence Chung of the Secretariat continued to give an overview of the accomplishments in each region.

African Region

16. Two regional meetings hosted by the Regional Coordinator (Adv Mothibi, Head and Chief Executive of SIU, South Africa) were held in February and October 2022, which agreed to group the African States under five sub-regions. Each sub-regional coordinator was assigned to approach the ACAs in their sub-region (EACC Kenya for East Africa, INPPLC Morocco for North Africa, OFNAC Senegal for West Africa, SIU South Africa for Central Africa, ICAC Mauritius for Southern African Development Community (SADC) region) to collect feedbacks on training needs for

tailoring capacity building programmes which would be arranged in 2023 to enhance ACAs' anti-corruption capabilities.

17. Regional group members were also active in networking with and participating in events organised by various organisations in Africa, such as the Commonwealth Africa, the anti-corruption committee of SADC and the African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (AAACA) to promote IAACA.

Asia-Pacific Region

18. Two regional meetings were held in February and December 2022, during which regional members agreed to group the Asia-Pacific States under four sub-regions for better coordination and outreach to ACAs (ICAC Hong Kong for Central & South Asia, ACB of Brunei Darussalam for Middle East, CPIB of Singapore for Pacific Islands and MACC of Malaysia for Southeast and East Asia). Assistance was also sought from UNODC Field Office in Central Asia to reach out to more ACAs in the region to explore collaboration.

19. Besides the online training on forensic investigation reported earlier at the meeting, Fiji Independent Corruption Against Corruption and IAACA were planning to jointly organise a regional anti-corruption conference for the Pacific Islands in 2023.

Eastern European Region

20. Substantial progress was made in the past year with 15 ACAs joined IAACA. The Regional Coordinator (Minister Mammadov, Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan) promoted cooperation through the platform of IAACA at bilateral meetings with the President of the European Partners Against Corruption and the European contact-point network against corruption (EPAC/EACN), Attorney General of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, etc. He also liaised with the UNODC Office for Central Asia and the South Caucasus in November to explore joint initiatives between IAACA and UNODC.

21. A Regional Seminar on "Asset Recovery in the Fight against Corruption" was organised in June 2022 in Baku of Azerbaijan which had attracted more than 100 anti-corruption and law enforcement officials

from 11 countries.

Latin American and Caribbean Region

22. The Regional Coordinator (Comptroller General Bermúdez of Chile) promoted IAACA at the meeting of the Commission for the Fight against Transnational Corruption of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS) held in June 2022. To echo UNODC's initiative of strengthening partnership between Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and ACAs, the Secretariat had also been exploring cooperation opportunity with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and OLACEFS.

23. The Secretariat also sought assistance from the UNODC Field Offices in Ecuador, Peru, Central America, Colombia and Mexico as well as the Consulate General of Mexico in Hong Kong in expanding IAACA's outreach to ACAs in the region. IAACA had connected with ACAs such as the Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control (CPCCS) of Ecuador and the Executive Secretariat of the National Anti-Corruption System (SESNA) of Mexico. The latter joined IAACA and referred some other ACAs in Mexico to IAACA for the purposes of networking and joining IAACA.

Western European Region

24. The Regional Coordinator (Director Duchaine of AFA, France) held a regional meeting in September 2022, during which members agreed to partner with active anti-corruption networks in Europe to promote IAACA, e.g. Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities (NCPA), EPAC/EACN, etc. and organise a Regional Webinar on topics of common interest in the first semester of 2023. It was also learnt that ACAs in the region were involved in the development of NCPA's "Compendium of emerging challenges and good practices".

(ii) Enhancing IAACA's involvement in the international community

25. Leveraging the extensive network of ExCo members and the Secretariat, IAACA had strengthened working relationship with various international and regional counterparts. The President and various ExCo members had met different regional networks in Europe for promoting IAACA. The President also established contacts with and introduced

IAACA to several international ranking institutions, such as Transparency International, TRACE International, World Justice Project etc.

26. The President, Vice Presidents and Secretary-General also participated in different regional or international conferences and meetings to introduce the latest development and work initiatives of IAACA. For example, the President addressed participants of UNDOC Regional meeting for South America and Mexico in March 2022, Vice President Advocate Mothibi promoted IAACA at the Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in the Commonwealth Africa in May 2022 and Secretary-General introduced the work of IAACA at the 21st EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly in November 2022. The Secretariat would explore more opportunities to gain mileage for IAACA and further enhance its visibility.

(iii) Strengthening the Secretariat support to the Association

27. In addition to enhancing the internal operations of the Secretariat, the latter also kept Members abreast of IAACA's latest development through various means including the publishing of regular electronic newsletters, ad-hoc e-alerts on specific events and themes, and revamping the contents and structure of the existing website of IAACA. Three issues of electronic newsletters and a number of e-alerts had been issued so far. The Secretariat would launch a new website for IAACA with enhanced features and functionality in January 2023.

Major Initiatives for 2023

28. The Secretary-General gave an overview on the major initiatives of IAACA for 2023 which were summarized in paragraphs 29 - 34 below:

29. For direction (i), IAACA planned to recruit more ACAs to join in order to achieve better synergy through the IAACA network. Currently, only about 34% (i.e. 155) of some 450 ACAs worldwide¹ was IAACA members and less than half of the ACAs in each continent had joined IAACA. There was much room for expanding the IAACA network in different regions. The Secretary-General therefore appealed for Member's assistance in stepping up efforts to update the ACA lists of their

¹ The number of ACAs is an estimate according to the research of the Secretariat.

regions and follow up with each ACA closely.

30. She also encouraged Regional Coordination Groups to organise capacity building activities to meet the specific training needs of the ACAs in their regions. In the pipeline were the online training on forensic investigation, IAACA-ROLACC Joint Training Programme, sub-regional anti-corruption conference jointly organised by Fiji ICAC and the Regional Coordination Group of Asia-Pacific States, and other regional or sub-regional seminars to be hosted in Africa and Western Europe in 2023. The Secretary-General also highlighted that the IAACA Training Committee was going to convene the 2nd meeting in mid-2023 to pave way for the 4th IAACA Training Programme, which would be held in Hong Kong in 2024.

31. Mr Shakeel Anjum Nagra, Director of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) of Pakistan, stated that the NAB was looking forward to the online training which would be beneficial to their officers and investigators.

32. For direction (ii), the Secretary-General also stated that the work of IAACA would continue to be promoted in different international platforms. IAACA was planning to form a delegation to participate in the 10th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC to be held in December 2023 in the United States.

33. She further informed Members that as a joint project among UNODC, ICAC Hong Kong and IAACA, a Policy Guide on the "Meaningful Engagement of Youth in Anti-Corruption Efforts for Policymakers and National Anti-Corruption Agencies" would be produced to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of UNCAC in 2023. To support the development of the Policy Guide, a questionnaire survey on initiatives implemented by ACAs to engage young people in the anti-corruption mission would be conducted. All ACAs would be invited to contribute to this survey in early January with the submission deadline falling on 31 January 2023. IAACA would also help promote the Policy Guide in mid-2023 which would be the first ever global policy guide of its kind for reference by policy makers and national ACAs.

34. Moreover, in support of the call of the UN for strengthening cooperation between SAIs and ACAs, IAACA was actively seeking

collaboration with the INTOSAI and related organisations such as OLACEFS. The President had already sent emails to the new presidents of these two organisations with a view to establishing partnership.

35. For direction (iii), a dedicated office of IAACA with meeting and training facilities would be set up in Hong Kong in April 2023. A new IAACA website was being developed with enriched contents and enhanced features including, for example, a repository of anti-corruption resources, an “e-Forum” which allowed Members to have instant communications with each other, etc.

Long-term Goals of IAACA

36. The President, while acknowledging that corruption was still a major challenge to the world and it had become more difficult to tackle with the advance of technologies and free flow of capital, appealed to Members for exerting best efforts in the international cooperation of fighting corruption in order to attain the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal 16.5 to “substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms” in the remaining eight years running up to 2030.

37. He also encouraged Regional Coordinators and ExCo members to update their work plans regularly and continue to put in efforts to connect with ACAs in their regions. He undertook that the Secretariat and ExCo members would work closely together under the newly implemented Regional Coordination Mechanism with the purpose of strengthening collaboration with ACAs worldwide and enhancing the capacity of fellow anti-graft fighters.

Presentation on the “Practical Guide on Enhancing Collaboration between SAIs and ACAs” by UNODC

38. The Secretary-General briefed Members that the “Practical Guide on Enhancing Collaboration between SAIs and ACAs” (the Guide), launched in November 2022, was an initiative in support of the global implementation of the Resolution 8/13 (referred to as Abu Dhabi Declaration) and Resolution 9/3 adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CoSP). The

Guide was a very important tool for both ACAs and SAIs in enhancing synergy in combating corruption and was being promoted in different international platforms including IAACA. She then gave the floor to UNODC to brief Members on the initiative.

39. Ms Sumaya Al Marzooqi, Manager of the Institutional Development and International Relations, Supreme Audit Institution of United Arab Emirates, delivered her pre-recorded speech. She pointed out that the launch of the Guide was a milestone in enhancing cooperation between SAIs and ACAs which had been tested as a successful training model in last September in the Latin America region. Ms Sumaya Al Marzooqi recommended Members to take advantage of the Guide and its tools in exploring areas of improvements and make the maximum gain of such a valuable product.

40. Mr Giovanni Gallo, Chief of the Implementation Support Section of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC, stated that the Guide was a contribution from over 150 experts from over 50 countries. Taken into account the common features of ACAs and audit institutions which included the promotion of integrity, transparency, accountability as well as proper management of public property and resources, the Guide would be very useful in fostering anti-corruption cooperation. Ms Zorana Markovic, Regional Adviser of Anti-Corruption of UNODC, supplemented that Members could access to the Guide in English on the internet and it would be available in other languages next year. A video clip introducing the Guide was played at the end.

41. The President expressed gratitude to UNODC for publishing the Guide and stated that collaboration with audit institutions was a brand new area in the realm of anti-corruption. Referring to the report by the Secretariat earlier, he would continue to explore initially collaboration opportunities with INTOSAI and OLACEFS and encouraged Members to take initiatives to get in touch with local audit institutions.

Any other business

42. The President suggested Members to visit the new IAACA website next month and make good use of its new functions to communicate with

other members and the Secretariat. Members' feedbacks were welcomed and the Secretariat stood ready to provide assistance and support to the Members.

Date of next meeting

43. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the end of 2023. The exact date was to be fixed.

44. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 07:30pm (Hong Kong Time).

[A list of participants was prepared at Annex III]



**IAACA Secretariat
January 2023**