



INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
ACADEMY

**Second Session of the
Assembly of Parties
of the
International Anti-Corruption Academy**

Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand
09 – 11 December 2013

Statement by the Dean of IACA and
Executive Secretary to its Assembly of Parties,
Mr. Martin Kreutner
09 December 2013

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On this day, we would like to first of all wish a happy belated to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, who turned 86 four days ago. Let us also recall and follow his humble and wise message calling for peace and resolution, and for security and stability in this most beautiful country.

Today we also pay tribute to Nelson Mandela, who passed away on 5 December at the age of 95. *“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart”*, he once said. More than a quarter of a century behind bars was Mr. Mandela’s sacrifice to his cause; his sacrifice to bring change and equality to South Africa and beyond for generations to come. History will remember him as one of the greatest men who ever lived. May you rest in peace, Mr. Mandela.

Furthermore, today, on this 9th of December, we mark International Anti-Corruption Day; a day for raising awareness about corruption and the role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) more than ever; and a day that serves to remind us that the anti-corruption cause is not to be misused for the political ends of anyone. On this 10th anniversary of International Anti-Corruption Day, observed annually since 2003 in commemoration of the passage of the UNCAC, I urge you all to do your part – and to also do it jointly, *viribus unitis* - in helping make our societies and our countries better, fairer, and more prosperous to live in. Let us also join forces to make sure that the prevention of and the fight against corruption, involving and carried out by all sectors of society, will constitute a strong component of the post-2015 development agenda. If I may reiterate UNSG Ban Ki-moon’s words from last year, “all of us have a responsibility to take action against the cancer of corruption”.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honoured to be here with you today and witness yet another landmark in the evolution of the International Anti-Corruption Academy. A couple of years ago it was here in Bangkok on the occasion of the UN Crime Congress that some of us sat together at Interpol’s Group of Experts on Corruption and for the first time deliberated on the idea of a unique institution; an institution which

would focus on addressing shortcomings in knowledge and practice in the field of anti-corruption and empowering professionals for the challenges of tomorrow. In the fall of 2010, our vision became a reality as we observed the inauguration of the International Anti-Corruption Academy. By the end of 2010 we had 53 Founding Members, Signatories – a number reaffirming the importance of such an endeavor; an endeavor that came to symbolize one of the most successful international initiatives in regard of its fast growing constituency. On 8 March 2011, IACA became an international organization and over the years managed to assert itself as a leading global player. Its progress has moved with remarkable speed.

Last year, our first Assembly of Parties took place in Vienna, Austria, bringing the transition phase to an official end. Today we join forces in Bangkok, the place where the idea was born, owing our sincerest gratitude to the Kingdom of Thailand, its people, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, the country's government, and Thailand's National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). We thank them for making the convening of this conference possible and for their impeccable organization and hospitality despite unforeseen alterations. Welcome to the second session of IACA's Assembly of Parties.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are about to enter the fourth year of IACA's establishment. Now is the time to guide this organization towards its full potential, to fulfill its mandate, to turn our commitment into results, and to take full, sustainable, and lasting ownership. IACA and its future are in your hands. I cannot stress this enough. We encompass half of the world's population by way of our constituency countries by now, and we urgently need to meet the resources required not only to go further, but it in order to fulfill our peoples' just expectations for this organization, to strengthen IACA's operational capabilities, to preserve its credibility and accountability, as well as its impartiality and legitimacy. In particular, the latter parameters must always be duly observed and guide the path of the organization.

With your permission, let me once more quote Nelson Mandela, when he said, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". We at IACA have the mandate to train and empower professionals who learn as they go along the ingredients of a successful anti-corruption regime and how they can tailor it to their own environment. And they will pass these lessons on – through their work in the field of anti-corruption and act as multipliers in our common cause. Education lies at the core of our mandate.

I thus encourage you to broadly make use of IACA as an educational institution and technical assistance provider in relation to the UNCAC and other international and regional instruments. Through education, training, and support, we stand ready to assist states and stakeholders in identifying best practices, providing support for meeting the needs identified, and guiding capacity development efforts. We stand ready to empower professionals.

Allow me to use this opportunity to briefly update you on some undertakings in the course of the past year in my capacity as the Executive Secretary to this Assembly. We have regularly been liaising with a high number of states, organizations, potential partners, businesses, and donors in order to promote IACA, foster closer ties, and attract funding, and have had the honour to represent the Academy at a number of notable events.

Since the last Assembly session in Vienna, the number of Parties to the *Agreement for the Establishment of IACA as an International Organization* has risen from 35 to 50. By last week, Cambodia and Kazakhstan also deposited their instruments of accession, meaning that we will reign into February 2014 with at least 52 Parties. I am also happy to inform you that we have received signals from a few other countries of their intention to join the Academy in the near future.

In addition, our cooperative relationships continue to intensify and grow. During this year, we have worked with a number of our partners in organizing joint events, trainings, and providing mutual assistance. Through memoranda of understanding, we have also formalized cooperation with six new partners, while negotiations on other cooperative arrangements are currently underway.

This year, we also worked to establish closer links with both the G20 and B20. In July, the Basel Institute of Governance was awarded with the B20 Collective Action Hub on Anti-Corruption, together with IACA, the UN Global Compact Initiative, and other major stakeholders. In a nutshell, IACA will support the Basel Institute on Governance in administering this action hub, which aims to promote and strengthen collective action initiatives against corruption by bringing together leading businesses from the G20 member countries, governments, and civil society organizations. With regard to the G20, in October we had the chance to take part in the G20 Anti-Corruption Working

Group Meeting in Paris where the start of an intensified dialogue between this forum and IACA was initiated.

We also recently attended the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Panama, in our capacity as an observer. In my speech to the plenary, I informed the delegations of IACA's latest undertakings and how it can serve to provide technical assistance under the umbrella of the Convention. Furthermore, we held a side event on anti-corruption education and training, where attendees had the opportunity to hear firsthand experiences on our flagship Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) programme from the first intake participants. Two additional side events were organized together with UNODC, the first on "Public-Private Partnership for Probity in Public Procurement" and the second on "Incentives for Corporate integrity and Cooperation in accordance with the UNCAC".

Earlier this year, IACA's senior management participated in and contributed at conferences such as the Police Accountability in Democracies Congress in Los Cabos, Mexico, the Corporate Responsibility and Anti-Bribery Business Forum in Jerusalem, the Third St. Petersburg International Legal Forum in St. Petersburg, the Community of Democracies VII Ministerial Conference in Ulaanbaatar, and the 5th GOPAC Conference in Manila, just to name a few.

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that IACA has applied for observer status with the United Nations General Assembly. The motion was tabled on the initiative of the host country, Austria, supported by 45 other UN Member States. It positively passed the UN's 6th Committee in November and is due for a final decision in the General Assembly within the next few days. The Academy already holds observer status with the UN Economic and Social Council and the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption. With the latter, we will jointly organize, among other activities, a conference on the emerging trends from the Fourth Evaluation Round centering on parliamentarians, prosecutors, and judges in April 2014.

A full account of IACA's joint events as well as programmes and trainings, will be brought to your attention in a separate report.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, much work lies ahead of us in bringing this organization forward, and I encourage you to use this session of the Assembly of Parties to the fullest. An ambitious work programme is before us; a work programme which is

broad enough to allow for the reflection of future developments. I encourage you to discuss it, adopt it, and most importantly to facilitate its implementation.

The work programme, as the organization itself, is contingent on the availability of funds. IACA operates with a small team that needs more resources in order to meet the requirements of a “50 plus Member State organization”. We are most aware of the financial strains many countries face particularly in light of the economic crisis, but at the same time we need to ensure the stability, sustainability, accountability, and eventual growth of this organization. I, as all of you present here today, would not like to see it undermined and its credibility compromised. I therefore invite you to take full ownership by directing contributions to IACA’s general budget.

The *Financial Framework of IACA*, endorsed by the first session of the Assembly of Parties, states that, “... *as the Academy is still in a phase of building up its capacities, special emphasis shall be given on the provision of a suitably well-defined general budget allocation*”. This notion has also been reiterated by Resolution AOP1-Res-3 of the first session of this Assembly, which reads “*strongly encouraging all Parties and Signatories, donors from the public and private sector, and the international community to support the Academy’s resources [...], taking into due account that special emphasis shall be given to the provision of a suitably well-funded general budget allocation, allowing the Academy to pursue its mission and objectives and to maintain its integrity and independence*”.

Distinguished delegates, these were the words endorsed by this Assembly. It is time to step up to the extent possible. The financial ownership of the organization is a shared responsibility among all its stakeholders. We can only attract so much from the private sector and other donors, however, this must be well balanced vis-à-vis IACA’s Members in order to ensure integrity, impartiality, and accountability. I will leave you with these thoughts.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish us all highly constructive deliberations and a smooth and most successful second session of the Assembly of Parties, generously hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand. Thank you again Thailand! My special gratitude for most constructive cooperation in the last twelve months is also directed to the Bureau of the Assembly, to the Board of Governors and its Chairperson, to the two Advisory Boards and to – last but definitely not least – all permanent, partnering, and visiting staff of IACA for all the efforts made and the resounding results achieved.

In alluding to the words of Nelson Mandela: let us talk the same, strong language of anti-corruption so that it goes to hearts and minds equally and globally and allows IACA to operate strongly and sufficiently.

I thank you all.