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Agenda item 106

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 June 2020

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/74/L.58/Rev.2](#))]

74/276. Special session of the General Assembly against corruption

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [54/205](#) of 22 December 1999, [55/61](#) of 4 December 2000, [55/188](#) of 20 December 2000, [56/186](#) of 21 December 2001 and [57/244](#) of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolutions [58/4](#) of 31 October 2003, [58/205](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/242](#) of 22 December 2004, [60/207](#) of 22 December 2005, [61/209](#) of 20 December 2006, [62/202](#) of 19 December 2007, [63/226](#) of 19 December 2008, [64/237](#) of 24 December 2009, [65/169](#) of 20 December 2010, [67/189](#) and [67/192](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/195](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/199](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/208](#) of 19 December 2016 and [73/190](#) of 17 December 2018, and Human Rights Council resolutions [23/9](#) of 13 June 2013,¹ [29/11](#) of 2 July 2015² and [35/25](#) of 23 June 2017,³

Recalling also its resolution [73/191](#) of 17 December 2018, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, in which it decided to convene in the first half of 2021 a special session of the Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation,

Recalling further the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁴ which is the most comprehensive and universal instrument on corruption, and recognizing the need to continue to promote its ratification or accession thereto and the full and effective implementation of its obligations,

Bearing in mind that the prevention and eradication of corruption is a responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another, with the

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

² Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/70/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

³ Ibid., *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.



support and involvement of individuals and groups outside the public sector, and noting with appreciation the endeavours by States to promote their active participation,

Recognizing article 4 of the Convention, according to which States parties shall carry out their obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, and recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015,

Bearing in mind that nothing in the Convention shall entitle a State party to undertake in the territory of another State the exercise of jurisdiction and performance of functions that are reserved exclusively for the authority of that other State under its domestic law,

Noting with appreciation all relevant regional political declarations of States Members of the United Nations against corruption,

Stressing the importance of the special session for preventing and combating corruption and strengthening international cooperation for that purpose by, *inter alia*, promoting the full and effective implementation of the obligations of the Convention,

Stressing also that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵ addresses the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and concerned about the seriousness of the problems and threats to the stability and security of societies posed by corruption, which undermine the institutions and values of democracy, ethics and justice and jeopardize sustainable development and the rule of law,

1. *Decides* that the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation shall be convened for three days, from 26 to 28 April 2021, at United Nations Headquarters, in New York;

2. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements for the special session shall be as follows:

(a) The special session shall consist of plenary meetings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.;

(b) The opening of the special session shall include statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(c) The plenary meetings shall include statements by Member States, States and regional economic integration organizations parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, observers to the General Assembly and, time permitting, a limited number of representatives from relevant organizations attending the special session, in line with subparagraphs (d) and (e) below, selected by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, with due regard for geographical balance and gender equity; the list of speakers shall be established in accordance with the established practices of the Assembly,⁶ and the

⁵ Resolution 70/1.

⁶ In accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, if there are speakers from other non-governmental organizations that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, this should be considered by Member States on a non-objection basis.

time limit for the statements will be five minutes for individual delegations and seven minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;

(d) Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the special session in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

(e) Recalling the established practice of the General Assembly, the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the special session, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for the meaningful participation of women, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, and submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis;⁷

3. *Reiterates* the central role of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to improve the capacity of and cooperation among States parties to achieve the objectives set forth in the United Nations Convention against Corruption⁴ and to promote and review its implementation;

4. *Also reiterates* its invitation to the Conference of the States Parties to lead the preparatory process for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner;

5. *Invites* all relevant United Nations system entities, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, to participate in the special session;

6. *Requests* the extended Bureau of the Conference of the States Parties to organize all actions to be taken by the Conference in preparation for the special session and to address all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended and transparent manner, including by appointing facilitators for the informal consultations on the draft political declaration;

7. *Also requests* the extended Bureau of the Conference of the States Parties, in consultation with Member States, to develop a workplan and timeline to advance consultations on the draft political declaration;

8. *Affirms* that the intersessional meetings of the Conference of the States Parties on the preparations for the special session will be open to participation by all States parties and observers, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference and established practice;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide substantive expertise and technical support;

10. *Requests* the Conference of the States Parties to produce, in due time, a concise and action-oriented political declaration agreed upon in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations under the auspices of the Conference for adoption by the General Assembly at its special session;

⁷ The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

11. *Also requests* the Conference of the States Parties to hold a special session for the purpose of approving the political declaration for subsequent transmittal to the General Assembly for adoption at its special session against corruption;
12. *Further requests* the Conference of the States Parties to report to the General Assembly at its special session on the preparations that have been undertaken by the Conference for the session;
13. *Reiterates* the importance of an inclusive preparatory process, including extensive substantive consultations, and invites the Conference of the States Parties to hold up to three intersessional meetings, as required, to advance such consultations, encourages organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the preparatory process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect such contributions, including specific recommendations on the issues to be addressed by the General Assembly at its special session, and make them available to the Conference;
14. *Requests* the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to prepare a report on creating synergies between the work and outcomes of the special session of the General Assembly and the forthcoming Conference of the States Parties to be held in 2021 and to present this report to the proposed intersessional meetings to be discussed and adopted by States parties;
15. *Invites* all Member States, observer States and observers to the General Assembly to consider being represented at the special session at the highest possible level;
16. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level supporting event on the margins of the special session on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation;
17. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to organize a youth forum to discuss ways for young people to contribute to efforts to prevent and counter corruption, and invites a youth forum representative, selected by the President of the General Assembly, to participate in the special session, including through the delivery of a statement on the outcome of the discussions at the youth forum, during the opening segment of the special session;
18. *Reaffirms* its decision in resolution [73/191](#) to conduct the special session and its preparatory process from within existing resources.

1 June 2020
