

Resolution

2006/24

International cooperation in the fight against corruption

The Economic and Social Council,

Reiterating its deep concern about the impact of corruption on the political, social and economic stability and development of societies,

Convinced that a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach is required to prevent and combat corruption effectively and recognizing the need for closer coordination and cooperation among States and other relevant entities in this regard,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, in which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and reaffirming that the Convention constitutes a significant development in international law and an important instrument for effective and multidimensional international cooperation against corruption,

Recalling also that, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹ Heads of State and Government urged all States that had not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the relevant international conventions on organized crime and corruption and, following their entry into force, to implement them effectively, including by incorporating the provisions of those conventions into national legislation and by strengthening criminal justice systems,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 60/207 of 22 December 2005, on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Welcoming the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,² adopted at the high-level segment of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005, in which Member States stated that the proper management of public affairs and public property and the rule of law were essential to the prevention and control of corruption, and recognized that, in order to curb corruption, it was necessary to promote a culture of integrity and accountability in both the public and the private sector,

Welcoming also the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, for Africa, adopted by the Round Table for Africa, held in Abuja on 5 and 6 September 2005, in which the need to prevent and combat corruption in Africa is highlighted,

¹ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex.

Recalling its resolution 2005/18 of 22 July 2005, on action against corruption: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the entry into force and subsequent implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Noting the regional conventions on corruption and the work already done by regional organizations on this issue,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Convention against Corruption;³

2. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,⁴ and urges Member States from all regions of the world and relevant economic integration organizations that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as soon as possible in order to facilitate its effective implementation;

3. *Looks forward* to the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to be held in December 2006, and, taking into account article 63 of the Convention, urges Member States to contribute to the successful outcome of the Conference;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to hold intensive consultations and make proposals for the preparation of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including by open-ended consultations facilitated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the Office,⁵ and without prejudice to the mandate and work of the Conference of the States Parties;

5. *Stresses* the value of participation at the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption of experts on specific aspects of the Convention, including representatives of preventive anti-corruption bodies, and encourages Member States to facilitate the participation of such experts at the Conference of the States Parties;

6. *Commends* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its work in promoting the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and looks forward to the finalization and dissemination of the legislative guide designed to facilitate the ratification and subsequent implementation of the Convention;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, building on the experience gained in the preparation of the legislative guide and work done by others, including by the members of the International Group for Anti-Corruption Coordination, to continue its collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in its ongoing efforts to prepare a technical guide

³ E/CN.15/2006/9.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex.

⁵ This language does not provide a basis for an increase in the regular budget or requests for supplemental increases.

aimed specifically at supporting practitioners in the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Urges* all Member States, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to abide by the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility and equality before the law and the need to safeguard integrity and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability and the rejection of corruption;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the financial support provided by several donors to facilitate capacity-building in the fight against corruption, and encourages Member States to continue to make voluntary contributions to promote the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, through the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund or in direct support of such activities and initiatives;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the resources necessary to enable it to promote, in an effective manner, the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to discharge its functions as the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties in accordance with its mandate;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the Office,⁵ and in particular through its Global Programme against Corruption, to continue to assist States, upon request, with sustainable capacity-building focused on the promotion of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to cooperate with others, within its mandate, in the field of preventing and combating corruption, and encourages the Office to increase further such cooperation;

13. *Invites* relevant entities of the United Nations system and international financial institutions and regional and national funding agencies to increase their support to and their interaction with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to benefit from synergies and avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that, as appropriate, activities aimed at preventing and combating corruption are considered in their sustainable development agenda and that the expertise of the Office is fully utilized;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, for their active participation in the prevention of and the fight against corruption;

15. *Calls for* international cooperation to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular its chapter V;

16. *Encourages* Member States to consider utilizing the public awareness materials offered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and to engage in special activities, including, if appropriate, with relevant sectors of civil society, in particular on International Anti-Corruption Day, on 9 December, in order to focus on the problem of corruption;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, if the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption so decides, to make available to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for its information, the reports of the Conference;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixteenth session and thereafter to share its report with the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

*41st plenary meeting
27 July 2006*