Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities
Virtual Plenary Meeting
16 December 2020

Public Minutes of the NCPA Eighth Meeting

- **Item 1. Opening remarks by the NCPA Presidency**

The NCPA President opened the virtual plenary meeting. As this was his last meeting as President, he took the opportunity to highlight the major achievements of the Network over the year despite the many challenges encountered. He expressed his gratitude to all members, observers, and partners for their unwavering commitment, as well as to the Council of Europe for their enduring support. He then warmly welcomed the new NCPA member from Kazakhstan. Finally, the NCPA President wished his successors the best fortune in leading the Network and stressed his confidence that they would fulfil this mission with great success.

- **Item 2. Updates on new members and partners**

The NCPA Presidency shared updates on a new member of the Network, as well as information about the candidacy of a prospective member. The floor was given to potential partners attending the meeting as observers. They were encouraged to introduce their organizations and their role in corruption prevention.

- **Item 3. Overview of the NCPA's activities in 2020**

The NCPA Presidency provided an overview of the activities carried out by the Network in 2020, focusing on the achievements and challenges of the past year.

Marked by the global pandemic, this year confronted the NCPA with unprecedented challenges. It was highlighted however that the Network still managed to keep its momentum, while working entirely remotely, as evidenced by its rapid expansion.

In 2020, seven new members from different regions of the world joined the Network. In particular, the NCPA forged working relations with Supreme Audit Institutions, breaking down the silos between these entities and anti-corruption agencies. Moreover, the role of partners was consolidated. The NCPA concluded four partnerships with prominent experts in the field of

compliance and the fight against corruption. In this sense, the Network became more open, diverse, and knowledgeable.

Besides, with the support of the Council of Europe, three virtual plenary meetings were organized. The NCPA Presidency enhanced the visual identity and communications tools of the Network by designing its logo and creating a LinkedIn page, which was regularly updated and had almost 800 followers. In addition, a call for contributions was launched to feed the "Reference Library" of the NCPA website. Some documents were already gathered and could soon be uploaded.

Several articles and statements were published throughout the year. In particular, the NCPA published a declaration advocating for the implementation of anti-corruption safeguards during the COVID-19 crisis. This declaration is available in English, French and Arabic. Furthermore, a statement celebrating the second anniversary of the NCPA was released in October.

The NCPA Presidency highlighted that these various actions had tangible results: the Network was increasingly being recognized as a key hub for connecting anti-corruption practitioners around the world. For instance, the NCPA was recently featured on a publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and on an article of the FCPA blog, a website that had numerous readers. Members were invited to give feedback on the work of the outgoing presidency.

- **Item 4. Results and latest developments of ongoing projects**

The NCPA members presented the results and latest developments of their ongoing projects.

➢ *Using modern tools and technologies to prevent and detect corruption*

The deadline to provide inputs to this project was extended in order to ensure a broad participation of new NCPA members. By collecting first-hand reports, the project sought to compile concrete experiences and lessons learned on how to adapt and use new technologies to prevent and fight corruption

➢ *Global mapping of anti-corruption authorities*

The results of the global mapping have been continuously disseminated since their publication in May 2020. Two articles, one in English and another in French, were published in academic journals in December. A French translation of the project's analysis report was also prepared. An international directory of anti-corruption authorities was being finalized and should be shared with the members and the respondents of the survey in 2021. After this, the global mapping would be considered as concluded.

➢ *Guidance on facilitation payments*

Participants were updated on the developments of the project. A first draft of the NCPA practical guidelines to help businesses in dealing with facilitation payments was shared with the Network in November, and a new version incorporating all their feedback and suggestions was being drafted. The project's ultimate goal was to produce guidelines that offer concrete solutions, while remaining broad enough to encompass the diversity of legal contexts in which companies may operate. Once submitted to the members, the final version was expected to be translated in many languages and to be later published on different platforms of the NCPA.

➢ *Key success factors in anti-corruption training*

Fifteen NCPA members answered the questionnaire circulated in November, providing information on their anti-corruption training initiatives. The contributions were being reviewed with a view to identifying common trends and best practices. A special workshop could be organized to further discuss this topic.

➢ *Perception of corruption in relation to prevention of corruption*

Participants were informed that the first thematic paper on perception of corruption was finalized and would soon be published. The drafting of a follow-up paper was under consideration.

➢ *Asset declarations*

A questionnaire on asset declarations was recently shared with the NCPA members. This survey aimed to gather information on the various asset disclosure systems implemented in different regions of the world.

➢ *Whistleblowing*

A presentation was delivered on the measures implemented at the national level to guarantee the recognition and protection of whistleblowers. As part of continuous efforts to raise awareness on integrity issues and whistleblower's rights, a national campaign would be conducted throughout 2021.

➢ *Transparency in the business sector*

A presentation was delivered on the goals pursued under this project, which focused on promoting transparency in companies of all sizes. The adoption and effective implementation of best compliance standards on this field was acknowledged as a driver of business integrity. As part of the project, NCPA members were invited to provide contributions on their own relevant legislations, experiences, and best practices.

➢ *Public integrity*

It was pointed out that this comprehensive project on public integrity covers a wide range of areas, such as corruption risk management, behavioral insights for integrity, and the production of tailored teaching materials. Implemented in partnership with the OECD, the project provides a good example of a fruitful collaboration between an international organization and national authorities. As the project would also cover anti-corruption measures in the business sector, the member expressed its interest in knowing more about foreign experiences in this area, with a particular attention to the mandatory anti-corruption compliance standards introduced by the French Law known as "Sapin II".

➢ *The role of media in corruption prevention and detection efforts*

An overview of the initiative was provided. This project, which aimed to foster a supportive environment for investigative journalism, would examine the role of the media in addressing corruption by exploring its benefits, limitations, and perspectives for improvement. Based on the contributions of several NCPA members, a booklet on the relation between anti-corruption authorities and the media would be produced.

➢ *Information exchange sessions on the prevention mandate of members*

The project aimed to gather information and subsequently organize meetings, in which the institutional designs, mandates, activities, cooperation, and limitations of the NCPA members would be further explored. This initiative was conceived as a continuation of the global mapping of anti-corruption authorities, for it also endeavored to improve knowledge about the functions of authorities tasked with preventing corruption and to identify cooperation opportunities within the NCPA. In particular, cooperation between anti-corruption agencies and Supreme Audit Institutions could be enhanced, in line with international recommendations on the matter. For the first phase of the project, a questionnaire was shared with the NCPA members.

➢ *Transparency in the legislative process and citizens' incentives for integrity*

A presentation was shared on good practices regarding public consultation in the legislative process and the development of citizens' incentives for integrity. Several key documents and policies related to these issues were mentioned. A cooperative approach, based on the collaboration between public agencies and citizens, was put forward to effectivity identify and address corruption. Moreover, increasing the transparency of institutions was recognized as way to bolster accountability and openness in government.

▪ **Item 5. New projects, future initiatives, and emerging priorities**

Participants were invited to propose new projects, share information about future initiatives or events, and discuss emerging priorities for the Network's activities.

A partner thanked the members for their interest in the [DATACROS](#) project, which aimed to develop a tool to assess corruption risk factors in firm's ownership structure. A demonstration of the tool prototype would be organized for the members of the Network, who would be encouraged to provide their feedback. A special webinar on the subject would be held in January 2021.

A member presented a project proposal concerning the "Challenges and good practices identified in the monitoring process of the implementation of national anti-corruption strategies". An explanatory note would be shared with fellow members shortly after the plenary meeting. Members were asked to provide information regarding: the process of drafting their anti-corruption strategies, the content of these strategies, the way they were implemented and monitored, and whether any particular success or challenge had been identified. These inputs would be compiled in a dedicated document.

Another member took the floor to salute the members, highlight the numerous anti-corruption initiatives carried out by their institution, and to offer their technical assistance and support.

Furthermore, a partner expressed its interest in exchanging views on how to include anti-corruption Collective Action into national anti-corruption strategies, and how to implement this further, particularly regarding the private sector. A webinar on this topic could be organized in 2021.

▪ **Item 6. Perspectives for the consolidation of the NCPA**

A proposal for supporting the development of the NCPA and addressing its current vulnerabilities was presented. Taking note of the achievements and the potential of the NCPA, while recalling the shortcomings of similar networks, the proposal included a number of perspectives to consolidate the NCPA, ensure its sustainability in the long term, and enhance the outreach of its work. Members expressed their interest and gratitude for the proposed support. The next steps of this project could be further discussed by the NCPA Steering Committee in 2021.

▪ **Item 7. Election of the 2021 NCPA president and vice-presidents**

Candidates for the positions of president and vice-presidents of the Network briefly explained why they were running for election and how they intended to fulfill their mandates. By consensus, the Serbian Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (ACAS) was elected to the

NCPA Presidency. The French Anti-Corruption Agency (AFA), the Croatian Commission for Conflict of Interest (CCCI) and the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) were appointed as vice-presidents.

- **Item 8. Closing remarks**

The outgoing NCPA Presidency concluded the last plenary meeting of 2020, thanking all participants for their valuable contributions over the year and wishing them a happy holiday season.