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Your Excellency,

The International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) presents its sincere compliments to its Parties, Signatories, other United Nations Member States and international organizations, and partners.

Further to the communication of 23 June 2014, I have the honour to renew our **formal invitation** for the **third session** of IACA's **Assembly of Parties** (AoP), which will be convened from **19 to 21 November 2104 in Baku, Azerbaijan**, and to attach the provisional agenda with its annotations along with other relevant documents.

IACA brings together 59 Parties and 53 Signatories to date. Our constituency encompasses circa two thirds of this planet's population; a symbol of strong international support and also a growing responsibility to provide the best services to the states and peoples we account for.

Pursuant to Articles IV and V of the *Agreement for the Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy as an International Organization* (IACA Agreement), the Assembly of Parties serves as a forum for Parties and stakeholders to consult on the overall policy of the organization and on other matters of interest. While only **Parties** have voting rights, the Assembly's Rules of Procedure (RoP) allow for broad participation of observers. In line with Chapter V of these RoP, we therefore also invite all **Signatories**, Non-Signatories, entitled UN Bodies, Specialized Agencies and Funds, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to take part in the forthcoming session as **Observers**.¹

The high-level segment of the Assembly will be held at the beginning of the session, under the agenda item "General discussion", so that high-level representatives would have an opportunity to express their views and set the political direction for the conference. **Governments are therefore kindly encouraged to be represented at the highest possible political level.** A number of Deputy Heads of State, Speakers of Parliament, Ministers, and senior officials have already confirmed their attendance.

In line with Art VI, paragraph 3, of the IACA Agreement, the BoG is called to submit to the Assembly the work programme and budget of the Academy for adoption. By Resolution AOP2-Res-1, on 11 December 2013, the second session of the Assembly of Parties adopted a three-year *Work Programme 2014 - 2016* (attached) and the budget for 2014. The Resolution emphasizes that only with a suitable general budget, which serves as the organization's main financial resource, can it continue to build up, carry out its daily operations, and implement the Work Programme.

The BoG, at its latest meeting held on 18 September 2014, decided on the Budget Proposal 2015 (attached); it is based on the approved figures from the budget for 2014. As outlined in the chapeau to this proposal, it is the BoG's firm understanding that IACA's budget for the year 2015 should be seen as one which provides for the further development of the organization's capacities

¹ Please consult the RoP (annexed) for details on entitlement, procedures, and requirements.



in line with its declared mandate and the Strategic Objectives, while at the same time duly reflecting issues of ownership, credibility, and legitimacy.

In order to best prepare for fruitful deliberations and smooth decision-making in Baku, the Secretariat will organize **informal consultations in Vienna, Austria**. The dates and times will be notified by the Secretariat by e-mail in the next days and will also be available in the "Assembly of Parties" section of our website.

On a different and procedural note, please recall that in accordance with Chapter VI of the Assembly's RoP, delegations shall be duly accredited. Details on "**Credentials**" are also provided in the annotations of the Provisional Agenda. In this context, please note that the Assembly's RoP allow for the **Permanent Representative of a Party to IACA** to notify the Assembly of the composition of his/her country's delegation and issue credentials thereto. The Permanent Representative shall have, however, presented his/her general credentials to the organization in the first place. Allow me to thus kindly renew our invitation to all Parties which have not yet done so to present such general credentials at their earliest convenience.

In line with Art V paragraph 3, the Assembly is called **to decide on/elect members to IACA's Board of Governors** (BoG). As one member of the BoG, by end of last week, forwarded a resignation due to a permanent professional transfer to another region of the globe, and the membership of another Board member seems pending, the AoP may find itself in a position to be called to elect new members to the BoG. I will be pleased to share further information, upon receipt, to an (extended) Bureau meeting as well as to Parties in due course. In the meantime, the Secretariat has taken the liberty to amend accordingly the draft agenda of the Assembly (see annotations) for final consideration and approval by the Assembly.

On a similar note, the *Resolution on the Independent External Audit of the International Anti-Corruption Academy*², in its version as amended by last year's Assembly session, calls for the appointment of three **external auditors** to carry out IACA's external audit. The auditors are to be chosen from senior members of national Supreme Audit institutions or other suitable institutions of volunteering Parties. Having received two candidatures as of now, the BoG has appointed one external auditor from the Russian Federation and one from Austria. As the external audit of IACA shall be performed by three external auditors, we would therefore **encourage all Parties interested to nominate candidates**³ by informing the Secretariat at the earliest convenience.

All relevant documents including, *inter alia*, the Invitation, draft Programme, Assembly of Parties' Rules of Procedure, Resolutions of previous Assembly sessions, etc. as well as the latest updates on the event are accessible in the "Assembly of Parties" (www.iaca.int/governance/assembly-of-parties) section of our website.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration and I look forward to seeing you in Baku,

With kind regards,

Annexes:

Provisional Agenda and Annotations
Information for Participants
Budget Proposal 2015
Assembly of Parties' Rules of Procedure
Financial Pledge Form
Resolution AOP2-Res-1
Resolution on the Independent External Audit of the International Anti-Corruption Academy

² See attachment.

³ Preferably including a CV.