

To the Permanent Representatives of the
Parties and Signatories to the IACA Agreement
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Martin KREUTNER
Dean & Executive Secretary

Muenchendorfer Str. 2
2361 Laxenburg
AUSTRIA

T: +43 2236 710 718 101
E: martin.kreutner@iaca.int
www.iaca.int

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Your Excellencies,

I have the pleasure to share with you some information concerning preparations for the fourth session of the IACA Assembly of Parties (AoP), to be held in Vienna, Austria, between 9 and 11 December 2015. During its first meeting on 10 September 2015, **the Extended Bureau** of the third session discussed procedural aspects and **agreed** on several organizational matters.

The meeting was chaired by the President of the third session of the AoP, Mr. Zakir Garalov (Azerbaijan), and attended by (the representatives in Vienna of) the Vice-Presidencies (Malaysia and Turkey) and the Rapporteurs (Chile and Nigeria) as well as the (representatives of the) chairmanships of the regional groups.

The fourth session is planned to start in the early afternoon of Wednesday, 9 December 2015, and to end at noon on Friday, 11 December. The opening of the session coincides with International Anti-Corruption Day. The Agenda of the fourth session was adopted by the previous session by Resolution AOP3-Res-3 on "*The convening and agenda of the fourth session of the Assembly of Parties*". The venue of the conference is not yet decided, but the options include the Vienna International Centre (VIC), another venue in Vienna, or the seat of IACA in Laxenburg/Vienna. Further information will be provided in due course.

The Assembly's General Discussion will start with a High-Level Segment at the beginning of the session (as was the practice in previous sessions of the AoP) so that representatives of ministerial (and/or higher/equal) rank have an opportunity to address the conference, afford guidance for its deliberations, and set the political direction for the work of the organization.

The Extended Bureau therefore noted that Parties and observers are invited to be represented at the highest possible political level and include in their delegations policymakers and experts on the issues to be covered by the Assembly.

It was further reiterated that States and International Organizations wishing to be Parties in time for the fourth session and thus enjoy, *inter alia*, voting rights have to submit their respective instrument (of accession/ratification) not later than Friday, 9 October 2015. The issue of submitting the credentials for Parties' Delegations for attending the session with full powers, in line with the Assembly's Rules of Procedures, was also reiterated.

The Budget proposal for 2016, and additional documents, will be distributed to IACA's constituency as soon as the BoG approves them. The next meeting of the BoG is scheduled for 8 and 9 October 2015.

The Extended Bureau also agreed that the deadline for submitting draft resolutions to the Secretariat is 9 November 2015. The draft proposals will be discussed during informal consultations, which may start already during the sixth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 2 – 6 November 2015. IACA's constituency will be notified on this issue at the earliest convenience. Proposals for side-events during the fourth session of the Assembly should be communicated to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible.

The agenda item on the elections for the vacancies in the BoG was extensively discussed. The Executive Secretary informed the Extended Bureau that six places are up for election during the fourth session of the AoP, as five Board members will end their first regular term of three years in 2015 and one member has resigned due to professional reasons. Re-election is possible for one additional term and all future BoG members will be elected for a six-year period. It was also recalled that BoG members serve in their personal capacity.

As of 10 September 2015, the Executive Secretary had received five proposals, one each from Azerbaijan, Brazil, Jordan, Nigeria, and Thailand (in alphabetical order). In this context, Resolution AOP1-Res-2 regarding elections of the present members of the BoG was recalled, *inter alia* underlining the stable geographical diversity, including the call for participation from the African Group, as mentioned in the preamble paragraph of this Resolution. It was notified that other Parties may wish to propose further personalities as candidates and notify the Executive Secretary thereof at the earliest convenience.

The Extended Bureau consented that the proposals for candidates shall be consulted and discussed early among the respective regional group(s) in order to avoid competitive elections at the Assembly. The forum also agreed that ideally the Assembly should be offered a regionally balanced, pre-consulted slate of candidates, which – in line with the Assembly's Rules of Procedures – could be decided on without taking a (secret) ballot. Furthermore, the Extended Bureau agreed that an explanatory note regarding the elections of the members of the BoG during the fourth session of the AoP be circulated to the constituency and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare and distribute it. The explanatory note is annexed.

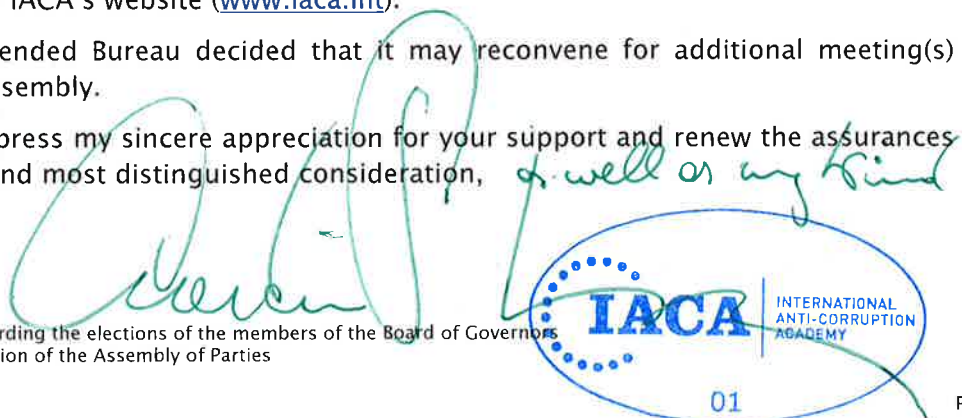
Finally, the Extended Bureau took note of the fact that there will be a vacancy among the organization's three Independent External Auditors (see Resolutions AOP1-Res-3, operative paragraph 10, and AOP2-Res-4) and that Parties are invited to propose possible auditors. The Executive Secretary also expressed IACA's interest in receiving ideas and proposals regarding hosting the 2016 AoP.

Last but not least, it was reminded that all relevant documents for the AoP (including the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly and Resolutions of previous sessions) are available on IACA's website (www.iaca.int).

The Extended Bureau decided that it may reconvene for additional meeting(s) closer to the Assembly.

Allow me to express my sincere appreciation for your support and renew the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration,

regards



Annex:

Explanatory note regarding the elections of the members of the Board of Governors during the fourth session of the Assembly of Parties



**Explanatory note
on the elections of the members
of the Board of Governors during
the fourth session of the Assembly of Parties**

Vienna, 9 – 11 December 2015

In line with Article V, paragraph 3 of the *Agreement for the Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy as an International Organization* (IACA Agreement), the Assembly of Parties (AoP) shall elect the members of the Board of Governors (BoG) in accordance with Article VI.

In accordance with Article VI of the IACA Agreement, the members of the BoG shall serve in their individual capacity and shall be elected taking into account their qualifications and experience. Having considered the mandate of the BoG, in particular that it shall decide on the strategy, policies, and guidelines for the activities of the Academy, it is expected that the members of the BoG are prominent national personalities, with extensive political and international experience.

Furthermore, the principle of equitable geographical distribution shall be observed, in accordance with Article VI of the IACA Agreement and with Resolution AOP1-Res-2 adopted by the AoP at its first session in 2012. This Resolution refers also to the election of the members of the BoG and their respective terms.

Since no African country had ratified the IACA Agreement before the start of the first session of the AoP, Resolution AOP1-Res-2 on the elections of the present members of the BoG intentionally underlined in the preamble paragraph the call for “*stable geographical diversity [...] in all organs of the Academy, including participation from the African Group*” to be observed at future elections.

This year, five members will end their first regular term of three years. In addition, one member resigned in 2014 due to professional reasons. Therefore, the Assembly is called to elect new members of the BoG during its fourth session in December 2015 for the six vacancies. Re-election of present BoG members is possible for one additional term of six years (this time).

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Republic of Austria are each entitled to appoint one member, in accordance with Article VI of the IACA Agreement. In order to respect the principle of equitable distribution, the other nine places should be distributed equally to all five regional groups, taking into consideration that the Republic of Austria is included in the Western European and Others Group (WEOG). In special circumstances (e.g., lack of candidates), the Assembly may wish to fill vacancies from one regional group with candidates from another (or elect any other personality); however, it shall be noted that in line with the IACA Agreement all future terms of BoG members will last six years and members are elected in their personal capacity (i.e. a vacancy in the BoG does not revert back to the Party that originally proposed a candidate but goes directly back to the Assembly for new election).

The regional distribution of BoG vacancies (as of this date), taking into account present and continuing BoG membership, is thus as follows:

- African Group: two vacancies
- Asia-Pacific Group: one vacancy
- Eastern European Group (EEG): no vacancy
- Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC): two vacancies
- Western European and Others Group (WEOG): one vacancy

By the first meeting of the Extended Bureau of the third session of the AoP on 10 September 2015, the Executive Secretary had received five proposals for new membership of the BoG: one each from Azerbaijan, Brazil, Jordan, Nigeria, and Thailand (in alphabetical order).

IACA continues to encourage Parties that wish to propose candidates for membership of the BoG to circulate and consult on their intended proposals with their respective regional group. Parties are also kindly requested to provide information on proposals to the Executive Secretary of IACA's AoP at the earliest convenience. IACA recalls that the AoP, in previous sessions, wished to be provided with comprehensive *Curricula Vitae* of respective personalities running for Board membership and that they should be prepared to present themselves *in persona* to the Assembly.

There is no formal procedure to propose and/or pre-consult on potential candidates for BoG membership. In the same vein and pursuant to Rule 65 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedures, there shall be no nominations.

However, at its recent meeting the Extended Bureau consented that the proposals for candidates shall be consulted and discussed early among the respective regional group(s) in order to avoid competitive elections at the Assembly. The forum also agreed that ideally the Assembly should be offered a regionally balanced, pre-consulted slate of candidates, which – in line with the Assembly's Rules of Procedures – could be decided on without taking a (secret) ballot (Rule 65 of the AoP's RoP).

Please be reminded that all relevant documents for the AoP (including the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly as well as Resolutions of previous sessions) are available on IACA's website (www.iaca.int).

It goes without saying that the Secretariat is always at your disposal for any further queries.

