



Astana Statement on Good Governance and Fighting Corruption



Adopted on 16 September 2009 in Astana, Kazakhstan

We, High Level Officials and Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies from countries participating in the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan countries, as well as other participants of the Conference.

Hosted by the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Fighting Economic and Corruption Crime (Financial Police) and organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), with support from the US Department of State, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on 16-18 September 2009 in Astana.

Acknowledging that corruption threatens the stability and security of societies, democratic institutions and sustainable economic and social development of our countries, especially during the current global financial crisis, and taking into account that corruption undermines growth and prosperity and corrodes public trust in state authorities,

Noting the significant efforts that have been made by our governmental institutions together with civil society, representatives from businesses and international organisations to reduce the level of corruption and to improve public and corporate governance and,

Recognising, however, that corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia remains a serious challenge, and that further sustained efforts are needed to achieve progress in combating corruption;

Stressing that a comprehensive strategy is essential to combat corruption and that it should include practical measures to prevent corruption, to prosecute corruption-related crimes and to educate and involve society in the prevention of and fight against corruption,

Convinced that such a strategy will help to build trust in society, protect human rights and justice, foster sustainable economic and social development and attract investment,

Recalling the international standards established by the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and other international instruments and best practice,

Agreeing that meeting periodically under the auspices of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia reinforces our efforts to prevent and combat corruption through policy dialogue and sharing lessons learned.

Confirm that fighting corruption will remain one of our highest priorities and therefore **agree to**:

- promote good governance and strive to build more accountable and efficient public administrations and justice systems, including through efficient internal and external oversight in public institutions, providing access to information, increasing the publication of information about the use of public resources, providing protection for witnesses and encouraging whistleblowers;
- combat corruption at all levels in public procurement, public education and vulnerable sectors, such as the extractive industry, taking into account international best practice including OECD guidelines and recommendations and provisions of the UNCAC;
- work with companies and business organisations to promote integrity in both private and state-owned enterprises and draw on guidelines and recommendations developed in this area by the OECD and other best practices;
- punish corrupt acts and apply effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions to all corrupt persons, including high and low level public officials, legal entities and persons committing bribery in the private sector;
- work individually and jointly to deny the entry of corrupt individuals into our countries as well as the transfer and transit of proceeds of corruption through our financial systems;
- foster international cooperation to prosecute bribery of foreign public officials;
- deliver prompt assistance in provision of information for the criminal investigation of corruption cases and consider signing agreements on mutual cooperation among countries participating in the Conference;
- strengthen our anti-corruption institutions by ensuring that they are specialised, independent from undue influence and have the resources necessary to carry out their mandate;
- provide effective criminal procedure tools to support the robust and efficient investigation and prosecution of corruption crimes, while ensuring respect for human rights and freedoms;
- participate in joint training projects on anti-corruption, exchange methodologies, legal and regulatory documents about prevention and fight against corruption;

Call upon countries that have not yet ratified the UNCAC to do so and to implement it without further delay,

Agree that international cooperation, mutual learning and country reviews reinforce national anti-corruption efforts and therefore welcome existing mechanisms such as the OECD Working Group on Bribery (WGB) and the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and support a review mechanism for the UNCAC,

Support the continuation of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan, a programme for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine, with participation of other countries of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and OECD member countries and WGB countries; remain committed to the implementation of the second round of monitoring and a peer learning programme of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan,

Invite interested countries in the region to consider becoming members of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan;

Call upon donor agencies and international organisations to support the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan and other good governance and anti-corruption initiatives in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in particular by promoting implementation of requirements of the UNCAC. In doing so, it will be important to ensure effective co-ordination of assistance to national anti-corruption efforts, in line with Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.