

16 October 2018

Declaration for a Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities

15-16 October 2018

The Anti-Corruption bodies, organisations and institutions,

Supported by members of Parliament, governments, and relevant international institutions;

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity among its members;

Conscious of the importance of strengthening international co-operation and exchange of information in the fight against corruption through prevention;

Emphasising that corruption represents a major threat to the rule of law, democracy and human rights, fairness and social justice, hinders economic development and endangers the proper and fair functioning of market economies;

Recognising the adverse financial consequences of corruption to individuals, companies and States, as well as international institutions;

Convinced of the importance for civil law and administrative cooperation to contribute to the fight against corruption;

Recalling the statements made by the Ministers of Justice or their representatives at the High-Level Conference which took place in Croatia, on 15-16 October 2018;

Taking into account the role and activities of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) of the Council of Europe;

Having regard to Article 5.4¹ and 61.2² of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as the resolution 3/2 of the Conference the States Parties (Preventive measures)³ to the UNCAC;

¹ Article 5. Preventive anti-corruption policies and practices: "4. States Parties shall, as appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal system, collaborate with each other and with relevant international and regional organizations in promoting and developing the measures referred to in this article. That collaboration may

Having regard to Principle 20 of Resolution (97)24⁴ on the Twenty Guiding Principles for the Fight Against Corruption of the Council of Europe;

Commit to work towards the establishment of an international network of relevant public authorities for the detection and prevention of corruption, with a view to promoting the systematic collection, management and exchange of information, intelligence and good practices among these authorities⁵, in partnership with interested international institutions (such as the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption).

This declaration is signed in Croatia, on 16 of October 2018.

The declaration is open for signature and implementation to all interested national public authorities active in fighting corruption, as well as other relevant supporting parties and institutions.

include participation in international programs and projects aimed at the prevention of corruption (see at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/).

² Article 61. Collection, exchange and analysis of information on corruption: "2. States Parties shall consider developing and sharing with each other and through international and regional organizations statistics, analytical expertise concerning corruption and information with a view to developing, insofar as possible, common definitions, standards and methodologies, as well as information on best practices to prevent and combat corruption" (see at <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/>).

³ That established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption and mandated it to assist the Conference in, inter alia: (a) developing and accumulating knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption; (b) facilitating the exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices; (c) facilitating the collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices in the prevention of corruption; and (d) assisting the Conference in encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption (see at <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/CAC-COSP-session3-resolutions.html>).

⁴ "to develop to the widest extent possible international co-operation in all areas of the fight against corruption" (see at <https://rm.coe.int/16806cc17c>).

⁵ Information exchange among the participating authorities shall be carried out in conformity with the internal law of the country concerned.