

Terms of Reference

Task Force for Strengthening the Effectiveness of Collaboration between Anti-Corruption Authorities (ACAs) and Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)

BACKGROUND

Article 1 (c) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) states one of the purposes of the Convention is to “promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property”. Article 5 (paragraphs 1 and 2) takes this concept further to anticipate that the policies and practices are put in place by the State Party to achieve the stated purpose. This requires the accountability and responsibility for such policies and practices to be identified within the anti-corruption landscape (Article 6). The specific person(s) or entity(s) responsible are the bodies to whom this initiative is related.

The SAIs have in turn taken their responsibility for SDG 16 into their strategic planning process, particularly in relation to contributing to targets 16.5: “substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms” and 16.6: “develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”.

Through Articles 9 and 10 of the UNCAC, the synergy between the role of SAIs and those of ACAs in terms of SDG 16 can be discussed. The opportunity to explore the practices, capacities and gaps is an area for discussion. Preliminary research has suggested that the area of procurement as envisaged by Article 9 (paragraph 2) is a clear area of potential overlap.

FOCUS AND POTENTIAL AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

To facilitate the process, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). The possibility of creating a framework for operating between the SAIs and the ACAs has been enabled. Furthermore, an intention is to set forth a resolution at the 8th session of the Conference of States Parties (CoSP) to the UNCAC to provide authority for ongoing collaboration. A meeting will be convened before the CoSP on 14 and 15 December 2019 where SAIs and ACAs will be given the opportunity to jointly explore synergies and long-term opportunities towards enhancing collaboration for the effective prevention of corruption.

A Task Force will provide the thought leadership for the way forward and methods of collaboration between SAIs and ACAs. At this stage, the initial thoughts based on discussions with experts from both SAI and ACA communities, include the following potential areas for collaboration:

- Joint seminars to maximize knowledge sharing;
- Research projects to build evidence for improving practices and developing improved norms and standards;
- Joint training and capacity-building activities to support dissemination of best practices;
- Other initiatives.

LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force will comprise selected participants from both SAI and ACA communities, in addition to UNODC and other entities active in the field of preventing corruption at international level.

The SAIs of UAE and Ecuador will serve as co-chairs of the Task Force. Membership is open and will be accepted through the co-chairs.

Members of the Task Force can be coopted to engage through in-person and virtual meetings.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Task Force matters will be approved by consensus, based on constructive engagement and discussion among its members. When necessary, decisions could be adopted by a simple majority.

The Task Force will seek to reach consensus on interim and final products. Feedback on key products will be solicited through correspondence or during meetings.

The working language will be English.

WORK PLAN

The Task Force will develop an annual work plan starting in 2020, to prescribe activities under the potential areas for collaboration above identified. The annual work plans will include activities, tasks, expected deliverables, schedules, and responsibilities.