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United Nations



## General Assembly

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### 51/59. Action against corruption

The General Assembly,

Concerned at the seriousness of problems posed by corruption which can endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and development,

Also concerned about the links between corruption and organized crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime, including money laundering,

Convinced that, since corruption is a phenomenon that transcends national borders and affects all societies and economies, international cooperation to prevent and control it is essential,

Convinced also of the need to provide, upon request, technical assistance designed to improve public management systems and enhance accountability and transparency,

Recalling the Inter-American Convention against Corruption adopted by the Organization of American States at the Specialized Conference on the Consideration of the Draft Inter-American Convention against Corruption held at Caracas from 27 to 29 March 1996,

Recalling also its resolutions 45/121 of 14 December 18 December 1991, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/19 of 25 July 1992, 1993/32 of 27 July 1993 and 1994/19 of 25 July 1994,

Recalling in particular its resolution 50/225 of 19 December 1995 at its resumed session, on public administration and development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/14 on action against corruption,

Recalling also the work carried out by other international organizations in this field, including the activities of the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Organization of American States,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on action against corruption submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifth session;

2. Adopts the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials annexed to the present resolution, and recommends it to Member States to guide their efforts against corruption;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to distribute the International Code of Conduct to all States and to include it in the manual of measures against corruption, to be revised and expanded pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/14, with a view to offering technical assistance to States in the context of advisory services, training and technical assistance activities;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate information and legislative and regulatory texts from State and intergovernmental organizations, in the context of his continuing work on the problem of corruption;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and in cooperation with the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to elaborate a plan of implementation and submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixth session, in conjunction with the report submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/14;

6. Urges States, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to extend their efforts against corruption;

General their full support in elaborating the implementation paragraph 4 above;

7. Urges Member States carefully to consider the the international aspects of corrupt practices, especially international economic activities carried out by corporate study appropriate legislative and regulatory measures to e transparency and integrity of financial systems and transa by such corporate entities;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify hi cooperate with other entities of the United Nations system international organizations and to more effectively coordi undertaken in this area;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General, subject t of extrabudgetary resources, to provide increased advisory technical assistance to Member States, at their request, i elaboration of national strategies, the elaboration or imp legislative and regulatory measures, the establishment or national capacities to prevent and control corruption, as and upgrading skills of relevant personnel;

10. Calls upon States, relevant international orga financing institutions to extend to the Secretary-General and assistance in the implementation of the present resolu

11. Requests the Commission on Crime Prevention an to keep the issue of action against corruption under regul

## ANNEX

### International Code of Conduct for Public O

#### I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. A public office, as defined by national law, is a po implying a duty to act in the public interest. Therefore, loyalty of public officials shall be to the public interes as expressed through the democratic institutions of govern

2. Public officials shall ensure that they perform thei functions efficiently, effectively and with integrity, in or administrative policies. They shall at all times seek public resources for which they are responsible are admini

effective and efficient manner.

3. Public officials shall be attentive, fair and impart performance of their functions and, in particular, in the public. They shall at no time afford any undue preferential group or individual or improperly discriminate against any individual, or otherwise abuse the power and authority vested

## II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND DISQUALIFICATION

4. Public officials shall not use their official authority for the advancement of their own or their family's personal or financial interests. They shall not engage in any transaction, acquire any position or have any financial, commercial or other comparable interests incompatible with their office, functions and duties or those

5. Public officials, to the extent required by their position in accordance with laws or administrative policies, shall declare and financial interests or activities undertaken for financial purposes that raise a possible conflict of interest. In situations of potential conflict of interest between the duties and private interests of public officials, they shall comply with the measures established to eliminate such conflict of interest.

6. Public officials shall at no time improperly use public property, services or information that is acquired in the course of, as a result of, their official duties for activities not related to official work.

7. Public officials shall comply with measures established in administrative policies in order that after leaving their office they will not take improper advantage of their previous position or

## III. DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS

8. Public officials shall, in accordance with their position or as required by law and administrative policies, comply with and declare or to disclose personal assets and liabilities, as possible, those of their spouses and/or dependants.

## IV. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS OR OTHER FAVOUR

9. Public officials shall not solicit or receive direct gifts or other favour that may influence the exercise of their performance of their duties or their judgement.

V. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

10. Matters of a confidential nature in the possession of public officials shall be kept confidential unless national legislation, the public interest or the needs of justice strictly require otherwise. These provisions shall also apply after separation from service.

VI. POLITICAL ACTIVITY

11. The political or other activity of public officials shall be such as to impair public confidence in the impartial performance of their office shall, in accordance with laws and administrative regulations, be such as to impair public confidence in the impartial performance of their functions and duties.