



## The Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties Between the Special Session of the General Assembly and Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration



The editorial family of "Dameer Al Watan" Journal would not witness one of the historical situations during one of the most important stages of implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption without documenting it.

The ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, "City of Peace". This took place after the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, which adopted a political declaration, setting a road map to prevent and combat corruption in the coming years.

[A/RES/S-32/1](#) <sup>(1)\*</sup>

More than 2,130 representatives from more than 150 countries participated in the ninth session of the conference, which lasted for five days from 13 December 2021 to 17 December 2021. All attended either physically through their delegations or virtually. The conference was held with the participation of the presidents of five states who delivered their speeches through video conference and 50 ministers, 30 of whom attended physically. The conference was also attended by 30 chairmen of anti-corruption bodies, 268 international civil society organizations with consultative status at the United Nations, 257 NGOs and 47 research centers.



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The agenda of the conference sessions included many important and different events:

- The session was opened and the presidency of the conference was handed over to Minister Hassan Abdel Shafi Ahmed (Arab Republic of Egypt), president of the ninth session after Mr. Hareb Saeed Al-Amimi (United Arab Emirates), president of the eighth session, both of whom gave their opening speeches. In addition, the office board was elected; and Dr. Ghada Wali, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Crime and Drugs (UNODC), made her opening statement.
- The Prime Minister of Egypt, Mostafa Kamal Madbouly, gave an opening speech, in which he described the conference as the most important forum for exchanging best practices to combat corruption. He also affirmed that combating corruption was a central issue that overlapping with all aspects of development and that Egypt made significant efforts to combat corruption.
- The Conference of the States Parties commenced its first to fifth sessions held on December 13 and 14, 2021 in item 1 (f) of the agenda with a proposal under the title "General Discussion" and the discussion was chaired by President of

- the Conference.
- During its seventh and eighth sessions held on December 15, 2021, the Conference considered item 2 of the agenda under the title «Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption».
- During its eighth session held on December 15, 2021, the Conference considered item 3 of the agenda under the title "Technical Assistance". [CAC/COSP/2021/10](#) <sup>(2)</sup>
- During the same eighth session held on December 15, 2021, the Conference adopted a draft resolution entitled "Submission of draft resolutions for consideration by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption" [CAC/COSP/2021/L.11/Rev.1](#) <sup>(3)</sup>
- During the same session, the Conference adopted a draft decision entitled "The Venue of the Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption" [CAC/COSP/2021/L.12](#) <sup>(4)</sup>
- During its ninth and tenth sessions held on December 16,



2021, the Conference considered item 4 of the agenda under the title "Prevention".

- During its eleventh and twelfth sessions held on December 16 and 17, 2021, the Conference considered item 5 of the agenda under the title "Asset Recovery" « [CAC/COSP/2021/13](#) <sup>(5)</sup>

- as well as item 6 of the agenda under the title "International Cooperation" [CAC/COSP/2021/16](#) <sup>(6)</sup>

- During its twelfth and thirteenth sessions held on December 17, 2021, the Conference considered item no. 7 of the agenda under the title "Follow-up of the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and enhance international cooperation."

- During its twelfth session, the Conference also considered item no. 8 of the agenda entitled "Other matters". This item is intended to implement paragraphs 4 (c) and (d) of Article 63 of the Convention on cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations. It is also concerned with the appropriate use of relevant information prepared by other international and regional mechanisms to combat and prevent corruption to avoid unnecessary work duplication.

The ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption concluded its agenda and the Conference adopted "Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration", in addition to seven other resolutions and an agreement regarding the country to host the tenth session of the World Anti-Corruption Conference. Draft resolutions were issued as follows:

- «Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Strengthening International Cooperation in the Field of Preventing and Combating Corruption in Times of Emergency and Addressing and Recovering from Crises».

[CAC/COSP/2021/L.3/Rev.1](#) <sup>(7)</sup>

Following adoption of the resolution, the representative of Egypt (as a member state of the declaration) expressed his appreciation to the delegations for their efforts in preparing the resolution as

the first of its kind on strengthening international cooperation in combating corruption in all its forms in times of emergency and crises. He pointed out that the resolution embodied the awareness of the international community about the efforts made in this regard, stressing that crises should not impede the corruption prevention efforts. The representative also noted that the General Assembly indicated in its special session the importance of measures to combat corruption and that the resolution was an important addition to those efforts. It encouraged the States parties to share best practices during crises and states of emergency and to improve the tools available to combat corruption and other forms of crime.

Moreover, he indicated that the resolution was the first document to establish international principles in this field, and that it would enhance anti-corruption international cooperation.

"Our common commitment to work effectively to address challenges, implement measures to prevent and combat corruption and enhance international cooperation, and Follow-up of the General Assembly's Special Session on Combating Corruption"

[CAC/COSP/2021/L.4/Rev.1](#) <sup>(8)</sup>

- «Follow-up of the Abu Dhabi Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation between the Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Bodies to prevent and combat corruption more effectively, and to use information and communication technologies in this regard.»

[CAC/COSP/2021/L.5/Rev.1](#) <sup>(9)</sup>

- "Strengthening the Regional Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption"

[CAC/COSP/2021/L.6/Rev.1](#) <sup>(10)</sup>

- "Strengthening international cooperation between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities"

[CAC/COSP/2021/L.7/Rev.1](#) <sup>(11)</sup>

- "Follow-up of the Marrakesh Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption"

[CAC/COSP/2021/L.8/Rev.1](#) <sup>(12)</sup>

- "Promoting the use of beneficial ownership information to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime."

[CAC/COSP/2021/L.9/Rev.1](#) <sup>(13)</sup>

- "Strengthening Education, Awareness and Training in Combating Corruption" «

[CAC/COSP/2021/L.10/Rev.1](#) <sup>(14)</sup>

The adoption of Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration highlights the increasing risks of corruption, represented in economic expenditure and health relief, and calls for member states to collect best practices and challenges, with the aim of developing guidelines to enhance cooperation to prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption in times of emergency and during response and recovery from crises.

Dr. Ghada Wali, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, said: "The Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Combating Corruption in Times of Crisis will guide the impartial recovery from the pandemic, and will help countries be prepared for tomorrow's emergencies." In her closing speech to the conference, she added: "As the year 2021 approaches its end, with all its challenges, and with many important commitments in the fight against corruption that were made during this historic year, let us agree that 2022 will be the year of action. Nobody's behind."

Undoubtedly, the distinguished organizational capabilities of the Egyptian side, in collaboration with the various authorities and institutions, which supported the technical and procedural arrangements represented in the efforts of the staff of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, led to the success of the conference and raised hopes for the implementation of its outputs and draft resolutions. This includes enhancing the capabilities of member states to face corruption and supporting international cooperation among them in the same field, which prompted the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, represented by the editorial family of "Dameer Al Watan" Journal, to document this important and serious event.

(1)\* (2)\* (3)\* (4)\* (5)\* (6)\* (7)\*



[A/RES/S-32/1](#) [CAC/COSP/2021/10](#) [CAC/CO-SP/2021/L.11/Rev.1](#) [CAC/CO-SP/2021/L.12](#) [CAC/COSP/2021/13](#) [CAC/COSP/2021/16](#) [CAC/CO-SP/2021/L.3/Rev.1](#)

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