



of enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors, given the private sector's significant part related to the illicit financial flows. Therefore, mechanisms that promote coordination and cooperation between the public and the private sectors, such as whistleblower or internal reporting mechanisms, will significantly contribute to reducing such flows. The event also revealed the close relationship between illicit financial flows and asset recovery, because asset recovery contributed to reducing illicit financial flows.

This event has revealed the significance of the illicit financial flows issue and has demonstrated the great and vital role played by the Financial Intelligence Units in preventing such flows. The event has also highlighted the important role played by Egypt in this regard through the Unit for Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, for implementing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy within a more comprehensive and generic framework, namely, the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Third: Best Practices and Major Challenges in Recovering the Proceeds of Corruption

The Egyptian Public Prosecutor's Office held a special event titled: "Best practices and challenges for recovery of the proceeds of corruption," in which it demonstrated the best actions taken by the Egyptian Public Prosecutor's Office in the area of asset recovery. Most significant among these measures was the Promulgation of Act No. 28 of 2015 on the establishment and organization of the National Committee for the Recovery of Funds, Assets and Assets Illegally Moved Abroad. The Committee includes the Attorney-General and certain concerned ministries and regulatory and judicial bodies with the aim of unifying efforts in taking the necessary measures to trace and recover funds and to promptly resolve requests for reconciliation. Those efforts have been successful, as the Committee has been able to recover approximately 9 billion Egyptian pounds, equivalent to USD 600 million, from the proceeds of corruption crimes after the perpetrators had applied for reconciliation with the Committee.

The event also reviewed the procedures for issuing restraining orders regarding disposal of the funds of the people accused in corruption cases, including their own funds and the funds of their wives and minor children in addition to extension of the scope of those orders within and outside Egypt to cover known and unknown funds. The efforts of a number of stakeholders are synchronized to implement these measures, headed by the Administrative Control Authority, the Public Funds Intelligence Unit and the Unit for Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism.

Moreover, the event addressed the progress made at the international cooperation level in relation to asset recovery, where several requests for judicial assistance have recently been filed to foreign States for the investigation,

Egypt reviewed many of the steps it has taken for combating money Laundering and the financing of terrorism in order to combat all forms of illicit financial flows. The Egyptian State's experience in establishing comprehensive supervisory and control systems on various forms of cash flows.

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freezing, confiscation and returning of all assets and proceeds of corruption. Those efforts included direct contact with specialists from other States through numerous bilateral meetings, establishing direct and indirect channels of communication with officials of the States concerned, successfully obtaining issuance of decisions by the European Union and the Swiss Federation for freezing the funds and assets of the accused abroad. Finally, they also included tracing the accused through the issuance of international arrest warrants and the placement of the accused on the lists of the International Criminal Police Organization Red Notice.

The event also involved discussions on the main substantive and procedural challenges to recover the proceeds of corruption from abroad. Those challenges include excessive formalities and delay in responding to legal assistance requests, such as identifying the location of funds to be frozen within the financial institutions in the concerned State. More challenges include delay or failure to respond to the implementation of sentences in absentia due to the different legislative and legal systems, and refusal of some States to disclose the identity of the true owners of cross-border companies. This ultimately results in extending the period of tracking and recovery of the looted funds, returning them and issuing final judgments.

The event concluded with several important recommendations to promote the recovery of proceeds. Those recommendations included the pressing need to develop mechanisms to communicate more effectively before sending requests for legal assistance so that they could be properly formulated to be accepted before foreign courts. Requested States should not overcomplicate their formal procedures and show genuine political will to return corruption proceeds to their owners. Like the preceding two events, this event highlighted the efforts and actions of the Egyptian State in preventing and combating corruption, and the role played by the Egyptian Public Prosecutor's Office in recovering the proceeds of corruption.

The special events organized by the Arab Republic of Egypt were well-received by the participating delegations and the representatives of States, the civil society organizations and the international and regional bodies involved in combating corruption. They involved a large number of comments, feedback and discussions that enriched those events and came up with numerous practical recommendations that could be implemented in the areas of combating corruption in all its shapes and forms. These events, with all the procedures that have been taken and the challenges that have been overcome, reflected Egypt's strong political will to combat corruption and meet its regional and international commitments to address this phenomenon, which has a major impact on the development process.



**In his speech at the concluding session
Chairman of ACA:**

We explained to the international community that combating corruption is still at the top of the political agenda

Major General Hassan Abdel-Shafi, the Chairman of Administrative Control Authority, during the concluding session, stated that the Conference explained to the international community that combating corruption is still at the top of the political agenda.

Esteemed delegates, ladies and gentlemen

We concluded the proceedings of the Conference of the State Parties in its ninth session. The Conference considered several vital issues about the future of the Convention. This session ends up a year of combating corruption.

This Session was held after the exceptional session of the General Assembly for combating corruption, which adopted a political declaration that maps out the way we work to prevent and combat corruption for the coming years.

We demonstrated to the international community that combating corruption is still at the top of the political agenda. In addition, the states are renewing and enhancing their efforts for implementing the principles and standards of the Convention. The Conference undertook several important tasks for the future. We are expecting more work to do, and I will be pleased to work with the esteemed delegation on our way to the Tenth Session.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the effective role played by all of you in this Conference: governments, international governmental organizations and civil society. The civil society played a major role as explained in the Convention. It was found out again that our collective contributions in the efforts to combat corruption within the framework of the Convention lead this Conference to achieving successful results.

Please allow me to assert that the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt was pleased to host this session. I am also pleased

with this session and would like to express my appreciation to the assistance provided by the extended bureau in the work of the Conference.

I would like to express my appreciation to the vice-presidents of the Conference for the support they provided through chairing the general session and meetings held in parallel with it.

I believe I am speaking in the name of all the delegations when I express our appreciation to all the Secretariat staff who contributed to our work and facilitated it by preparing the documents, drafting the Session report as well as providing advice and support to all the delegation in the different stages of our proceedings.

I would like to add that we thank all the persons who worked behind the scenes and provided insightful help to us this week. We also thank all the Conferences service staff who undertook the meeting, including those who edited, translated, copied and distributed our documents, as well as the interpreters and sound engineering technicians.

I also would like to extend my deep thanks and appreciation to the Secretariat and the conference service team who enhanced the efforts to minimize the harmful environmental impacts resulting from holding this Session, especially reducing paper waste by encouraging the use of electronic documents and online services. In addition, I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude to the leading role played by Dr. Ghada Wali, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Her role was not limited to this Conference only; rather, her role also manifested in her leading the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Finally, allow me to wish you a safe return to your home countries.