



Handing over the Presidency of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) to the United States of America



Egypt's Presidency of the Conference of the States Parties from Sharm El-Sheikh to Atlanta Great Achievements despite Difficult Challenges

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Egypt's presidency of the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC over the past two years was not an easy process. The conference was held under difficult circumstances in the face of unprecedented challenges, including the Coronavirus pandemic, which spread in the whole world leaving unprecedented economic and social consequences. This was followed by a number of international and regional variables and crises. However, the Egyptian insistence on success was the secret behind adopting a large number of great resolutions and holding many activities as well as providing solutions to many problems during this period.

Here, we should acknowledge the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and its working groups in helping the States effectively to maintain consensus and the Spirit of Vienna throughout the term of Egypt's presidency over the past two years. This role helped to maintain collective work and send a message to the international community that we are "united against corruption."

The States met in Sharm El-Sheikh in December 2021, represented by the delegations of more than 155 countries and 2000 participants. Many activities were introduced; and 75 events were held on the sidelines of the conference, with a large number of non-governmental organizations participating in the conference.

In fact, Egypt had three main priorities during its presidency of the ninth session. The first was to ensure that the fight against corruption continued in a sound and effective manner, even during conflicts and natural crises, such as pandemics. The second was preserving consensus, known as the "Vienna Spirit", where eight resolutions were adopted in various fields, and the main resolution was the Declaration, sponsored by Egypt, regarding the fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crises response and recovery. This was our vision over the past two years.

In addition, we adopted resolutions related to cooperation between financial control and accountability agencies and anti-corruption authorities, implementation of the Conven-



A snapshot of the engaged attendees at the opening of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties in the United States

tion, as well as cooperation in the field of law enforcement, prevention, and asset recovery. Other important topics include education and public awareness, which are two essential elements in the international community's work for the prevention of corruption. Moreover, we adopted two resolutions by consensus during the conference, namely the United States hosting the tenth session as well as developing a mechanism for submitting the draft resolutions by the member states, one month prior to the conference date.

The third priority is to make real practical achievements in international cooperation that contribute to supporting anti-corruption operations. Egypt succeeded in this area despite many challenges, and the most notable achievements were:
- During the past two years, we prepared a three-year implementation plan to follow up on the Political Declaration issued by the United Nations General Assembly in 2021, under the title "Common Commitment to Effectively Addressing Challenges and Implementing Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Promote International Cooperation". We divided the articles of the Declaration based on the terms of reference of the working groups, where voluntary questionnaires were to be sent to the States Parties urging them to share challenges and successful practices to collect them and present them during the working groups meetings, as per specialization.

In addition, during the past two years, the focus of the conference and the Office was the future of phase 2 of the implementation review mechanism, which was almost completed in December 2023. The conference technical secretariat prepared a document including the lessons learned from other review mechanisms regarding their operation and the transition to the next phase. This document included the experiences collected in the context of the transition processes in the review mechanisms for about 6 mechanisms, covering the initial review phase, the review follow-up, and the institutional reforms and lessons learned. These experiences were

During the past two years, Egypt achieved remarkable success in strengthening international cooperation to combat corruption under the difficult circumstances that the world has experienced, including the epidemic and wars.

* Phase 1 of the review mechanism of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption is divided into two sessions. The first session includes Chapters Three and Four, which are concerned with criminalization, law enforcement, and international cooperation; while the second session includes Chapters Two and Five, which are concerned with preventive measures and asset recovery.

* The review mechanisms mean mechanisms for presenting the states' efforts, including successful practices and challenges.

Egypt had three main priorities during its presidency of the session: the first was to ensure that the fight against corruption continued in a sound and effective manner, even during crises. The second was to maintain consensus, and the third was to make real achievements that contribute to supporting the fight against corruption.

translated by both Egypt and the United States of America through submitting a draft resolution during the tenth session to extend the review period until December 2025, as well as determining the features of phase 2 of the implementation review mechanism.

There were also some objections to the participation of some civil society organizations during the ninth session, but the technical secretariat of the conference, in cooperation with the Egyptian Permanent Mission in Vienna, managed to solve such problems, hoping that they would be handled effectively in the future.

- Introducing amendments to the schedule of the inter-working groups, as the thematic discussions included some presentations made by the States to review the successful practices and challenges in various fields. In fact, about 15 thematic sessions were prepared during the past two years, with participation of about 45 representatives from the States Parties, international organizations and the civil society organizations. The aim of these sessions was to review successful practices and challenges in various fields, which contributed to exchanging experiences and enhancing cooperation between the States Parties.

In conclusion, presidency of the tenth session of the conference was handed over to the United States of America, to be held in Atlanta. However, there was a positive harvest of the Egyptian presidency over the past two years, represented in the efforts made to face global challenges. Egypt has achieved great remarkable successes in enhancing international cooperation and combating corruption under the difficult circumstances prevailing in the world through well-studied resolutions and strategic focus. Egypt will continue to lead global efforts in this area, which reflects its commitment to integrity and enhancing cooperation with a view to achieving the aspirations for a more sustainable future.