



STATEMENT

adopted by the High-Level Meeting

REINFORCING POLITICAL WILL TO FIGHT CORRUPTION IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

10 December 2012, OECD Headquarters, Paris, France

ACN

Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Anti-Corruption Division
Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
2, rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16, France
Tel: +33(0)1 45241319, Fax: +33(0)1 44306307
anti-corruption.contact@oecd.org
www.oecd.org/corruption/acn

STATEMENT

We, Ministers, Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies and other High Level Officials from countries participating in the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as other participants of the High Level Meeting “Reinforcing Political Will to Fight Corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia” hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 10 December 2012 in Paris,

Recognising that corruption impedes sustainable economic growth and social development, threatens the stability and security of our countries, corrodes democratic institutions and undermines public trust in the state authorities,

Commending the significant efforts that have been made by our governments together with civil society, private sector and international organisations to reduce the level of corruption and to improve public and corporate governance,

Acknowledging, however, that corruption in many countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia remains a serious challenge, and that further reinforced efforts are needed to achieve progress in combating corruption,

Stressing that practical measures need to be taken by governments and other stakeholders against corruption, including measures to prevent corruption in public administration and in the private sector, to prosecute corruption-related crimes and to educate and involve society,

Noting that international standards established by the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and other international instruments provide direction for the governments towards effective fight against corruption,

Confirming that international cooperation, mutual learning and country reviews facilitated by the UNCAC implementation review mechanism, the OECD Working Group on Bribery (WGB) and the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) reinforce national anti-corruption efforts,

Convinced that regional anti-corruption initiatives such as the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) provide an effective mechanism for regional dialogue and mutual support in developing and implementing anti-corruption reforms, for promoting implementation of international standards and exchanging good practices on the regional level,

Recalling our commitments to strengthen the fight against corruption embodied in the Astana Statement on Good Governance and Fighting Corruption adopted under the auspices of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Kazakhstan in 2009,

Agree that fighting corruption will continue to be one of our top priorities and **commit to** further strengthen our efforts to:

1. Implement robust anti-corruption policies, ensure credible and transparent monitoring and reporting about progress in their implementation and involve civil society in this process in a meaningful way;
2. Bring anti-corruption legislation in full compliance with international standards to equip our law-enforcement systems with modern legislation necessary for the effective fight against the corruption crimes;

3. Build capacity of law-enforcement and criminal justice bodies to detect, investigate and prosecute corruption using modern investigative means such as financial investigations, and ensure integrity of these bodies to restore public trust in them;
4. Enforce anti-corruption legislation and ensure that corrupt behaviour is punished with effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions without any regard to the political, economic or social standing of persons committing those crimes;
5. Strengthen integrity of the judiciary and build capacity of courts to adjudicate corruption crimes without bias and using modern anti-corruption legislation;
6. Take legislative and institutional measures to prevent corruption in politics, ensure transparency of financing of political parties and electoral campaigns, and increase integrity among elected or political public officials;
7. Prevent corruption in public administration and protect professional public servants from undue political pressure, ensure merit based recruitment and promotion, enact ethical rules, adopt and enforce effective conflict of interest and asset disclosure regulations, promote reporting of corruption and protect whistleblowers;
8. Enact effective legislation on access to information, ensure proactive disclosure and fullest access to information of public interest; ensure transparency of information about ownership to limit possibilities for hiding corrupt profits;
9. Ensure independence of public financial control and audit institutions, strengthen their capacity to identify and prevent corruption risks, and improve their cooperation with law-enforcement and policy-making institutions;
10. Ensure transparency and integrity in the sectors with high risk of corruption such as public procurement, budget and expenditure systems, tax and customs administration, state inspections, issuing licences and permits, public education and other public services; launch targeted reviews of these sectors and based on such reviews implement effective anti-corruption measures;
11. Engage in a dialogue with the business sector, NGOs and media to prevent corruption, work with public and private companies and with business associations to raise awareness on risks of corruption, and support them in their efforts to promote internal control, ethics and compliance programmes and collective actions against corruption;

Support the implementation of the third round of monitoring under the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan, development of cross-country thematic reviews on prevention of corruption and promoting integrity in public administration and in the business sector, and further anti-corruption mutual learning of law-enforcement practitioners from the ACN countries with the aim to support practical implementation of UNCAC standards in the region;

Welcome Uzbekistan joining the Istanbul Action Plan in 2010, support Mongolia's joining the ACN, note Turkmenistan's participation in this High Level Meeting, and invite interested countries in the region to become members of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia;

Invite participating countries, donor countries and international organisations to support the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and other good governance and anti-corruption initiatives in Eastern Europe and Central Asia promoting implementation of requirements of the UNCAC. In doing so, it will be important to ensure effective co-ordination of assistance to national anti-corruption efforts, in line with Busan Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.