



Anti-Corruption Network for Transition Economies
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**Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan for
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Kazakhstan,
the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine**

ADVISORY GROUP

SIXTH MEETING

20-21 October 2005

Room 4, OECD New Building, 2, rue André-Pascal, 75016 Paris

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

This Draft Summary Record, prepared by the ACN Secretariat based at the OECD Anti-Corruption Division, summarises key decisions taken during the sixth Advisory Group meeting, which took place on 20-21 October 2005, back-to-back with the 4th Review Meeting under the Istanbul Action Plan.

Action Required: Advisory Group members are invited to provide comments to this draft by 20 December 2005.

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1. OPENING

The Advisory Group adopted the Summary Record of the previous meeting without changes.

In the view of the absence of two countries of the Istanbul Action Plan, the Advisory Group called on its members to ensure their regular attendance in the future. Full participation in the meetings of the Advisory Group is important in order to assess the progress of the Action Plan implementation and to advise the Secretariat about the next steps. Full participation in the review meetings is required to ensure the legitimacy of the peer review process and its decisions.

2. STATUS OF THE REVIEW OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Advisory Group acknowledged that the Russian Federation has presented an outdated and incomplete self-assessment report for the review. However, the review experts developed draft assessment and recommendations and presented this draft at the fourth review meeting. Most regrettably, the Russian Federation did not present an official delegation to negotiate and endorse the assessment and the recommendations during the review meeting. Consequently, the meeting was not able to complete the anti-corruption review of the Russian Federation.

Under these circumstances, the Advisory Group of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan called on the Russian Federation to update and complete its self-assessment report and to re-submit it for a complete review. Furthermore, the Advisory Group invited the Russian Federation to ensure that its National Coordinator for the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan provides effective coordination of all relevant bodies involved in the fight against corruption in the country.

3. UPDATED SCHEDULE FOR THE MONITORING AND ON-SITE VISITS

The Advisory Group agreed with the proposed updated schedule of the monitoring and on-site visits. The Advisory Group members, including the civil society representatives, further agreed to provide from one to three nominations of monitoring experts to the Secretariat within one month after the meeting. On the basis of these nominations the Secretariat will prepare a proposal as for the monitoring expert teams for all countries.

***Note from the Secretariat:** The monitoring on-site visit to Georgia, which was scheduled for the first week of November, was postponed for the second time due to the sickness of the Team Leader and taking into account the re-allocation of responsibilities for anti-corruption policy from the National Security Council, which takes place in November. This postponement may affect the overall schedule of the monitoring programme. The Secretariat will inform the Istanbul Action Plan members about such changes as soon as possible.*

Concerning the upcoming monitoring mission to Tajikistan, the Secretariat informed the meeting that the Russian Federation was invited to nominate an expert, in addition to already identified Latvian experts (since Latvia and Russia took part in the original review of Tajikistan), but no such nomination was provided. The Secretariat has invited Armenia to provide a replacement (since Armenia also took part in the original review of Tajikistan, and taking into account the overall schedule of activities under the Istanbul Action Plan countries).

The Secretariat further reminded the Istanbul Action Plan countries to consider the possibility of co-funding the monitoring process. Such co-funding may include financial or in-kind contribution, such as financial support for the national experts to participate in the country visits (travel and per diem), or any local logistical support (interpretation and translation, local transport and accommodation for the monitoring experts visiting the country, etc.)

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL ACTION PLAN WORK PROGRAMME

The Secretariat confirmed that the work on the Glossary of International Anti-Corruption Legal Standards is underway. The final draft will be sent to the countries for comments in winter 2005-2006. As a follow-up to this thematic activity, the Secretariat will be looking for funding to support a seminar for the dissemination of the Glossary and for the discussion about the responsibility of legal persons for corruption.

The UNODC representative informed the meeting about a series of training seminars organised by this organisation on confiscation and on prosecution. It might be useful to discuss a possibility of organising a joint practical seminar between for the Istanbul Action Plan countries by UNODC and ACN/OECD.

The Secretariat informed the meeting about the project on specialised anti-corruption institutions, which is prepared by the ACN and ABA CEELI for Ukraine, with the support of the US government. The project aims to produce an international study of models of specialised anti-corruption services (the draft of the study was already presented at the ACN general meeting in May 2005) as well as a study of law-enforcement models. The Secretariat will be looking for funding to support a seminar for the dissemination of both studies and for the discussion about guiding principles for specialised anti-corruption services.

The members of the Advisory Group agreed that in addition to the above activities, it is necessary to organise a seminars on civil service and administrative reform, to provide assistance to the Istanbul Action Plan countries with the implementation of recommendations in the field of 'transparency of civil service'.

The Secretariat has clarified that in order to support the above planned and requested activities, additional funding need to be sought. Support of the Istanbul Action plan countries in the fundraising for these activities will be useful.

ATTACHEMENTS

1. List of Participants
2. Country updates