



**Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations
Convention against Corruption**

**Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Prevention of
Corruption, Vienna, 27 to 29 August 2012**

**Statement by
the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to address you on behalf of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) under agenda item 3 “Future priorities and establishment of a multi-year workplan”.

I myself was privileged to participate in the fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Marrakech (24-28 October 2011) and to attend the last meeting of this Working Group in 2011.

In my statement today, I would like to share recent developments at the Human Rights Council and other human rights mechanisms of the United Nations relevant to the discussions of this Working Group.

Last March, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights (HRC/RES/19/20). This resolution represents a cross-regional initiative spearheaded by Australia, Chile, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Poland. In the resolution, the Council recognized that effective anti-corruption measures and the protection of human rights are mutually reinforcing, and that the fight against corruption at all levels plays an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights and in the process of creating an environment conducive to their full enjoyment. The Council also stressed the importance of policy coherence and coordination in intergovernmental processes in the area of human rights, on the one hand, and of anti-corruption, on the other.

As requested by the Council, OHCHR, in consultation with relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, is preparing a report outlining the role of public service in the promotion and protection of human rights. The report will include a compilation of good practices based on information received from States, United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, as well as national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations. This report will be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session in September 2013.

At the 20th session of the Human Rights Council which took place in June this year, Morocco on behalf of 132 States, made a cross-regional statement on corruption and human rights. The

statement notes that corruption constitutes one of the biggest obstacles to the effective promotion and protection of human rights and affirms the mutually reinforcing relationship between the implementation of human rights and anti-corruption efforts. It urges anti-corruption and human rights movements to work together in combating corruption. The statement further calls for deepening reflection on the close connection between human rights and anti-corruption measures. The 132 delegations representing all regions behind this statement unanimously support the promotion of human rights-based policy coherence and coordination in the deliberations and actions by States and in the intergovernmental processes of implementing the United Nation's Convention against Corruption. The statement concludes that the coordination of action and cooperation between Member States in Geneva and Vienna, as well as close collaboration between the OHCHR and UNODC are vital, especially for sharing experiences and expertise regarding policy coherence in the implementation of international human rights obligations and anti-corruption laws.

United Nations human rights mechanisms are increasingly mindful of the importance of effective anti-corruption measures for the realization of human rights. For instance, the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, a process by which the Human Rights Council reviews the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States every four years, considered the reports of 16 countries at its October 2011 session. Of these countries, 7 received recommendations related to human rights and anti-corruption from the Council.

In her latest report (A/HRC/20/19) on the role and responsibilities of prosecutors, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Mrs. Gabriela Knaul (Brazil), highlighted the need to adopt specific measures to combat corruption in prosecution services. She recommended the adoption of effective measures, including ethics codes for prosecutors as an important tool for enhancing professionalism and integrity. The Special Rapporteur also referred to the importance of appropriate remuneration which can reduce the risk of corruption.

These recent developments clearly illustrate growing awareness of the links between human rights and corruption and the need for continued cooperation between OHCHR and UNODC.

In this regard, I would like to mention a current project of our office. At the request of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR is developing a guide book on human rights and anti-corruption for practitioners. We will finalize this publication next year by working closely with UNODC and UNDP.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I would like to express our hope that the future priorities and a multi-year workplan of this Working Group will pay due attention to the calls by the Human Rights Council to adopt a human rights-based approach to the prevention of corruption, and in this respect, encourage continued cooperation between OHCHR and UNODC. We believe that prevention of corruption through human rights is equally important for the post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you for your attention.