Prevention of corruption by promoting transparent, accountable and efficient public service delivery through the application of best practices and technological innovations

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Concerned about the seriousness of the problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies through its undermining of the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and its jeopardizing of sustainable development and the rule of law,

Convinced that effective measures for the prevention of corruption promote good governance in all sectors, reinforce trust in public institutions, increase corporate social responsibility in the private sector and can lead to enhanced economic growth,

Welcoming the Sustainable Development Goals and, in particular, targets 5 and 6 of Goal 16, which are to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms, and to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Corruption,1 and recognizing the prominence that the Convention has given to the prevention of corruption by devoting its entire chapter II to measures to prevent corruption in both the public and private sectors,

Acknowledging the need to facilitate the exchange of information among States parties on successful practices for preventing corruption,

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Recognizing that, while the implementation of the Convention is the responsibility of States parties, promoting integrity, transparency and accountability and preventing corruption are responsibilities to be shared by all sectors of society and stakeholders involved in the fight against corruption, in accordance with articles 7 to 13 of the Convention,

Bear in mind the importance of safeguarding integrity and encouraging the rejection of corruption in the public and private sectors,

Acknowledging that efficient, accessible, accountable and transparent public service delivery consistent with citizens’ needs and feedback is one of the key components in building an anti-corruption environment in the public sector,

Stressing in that regard the important role of Governments in the effective use of information and communications technologies in their design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 69/204 of 19 December 2014,

Underlining that the increased application of technological innovations and electronic services in public service delivery can play an important role in reducing corruption by promoting transparency and can improve the environment and tools necessary to foster public access to information on preventing and combating corruption,

Welcoming the important activities undertaken by United Nations entities, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in promoting best practices in the field of transparent, accountable and efficient public service delivery,

1. Notes with satisfaction the anti-corruption efforts undertaken by States parties to ensure efficient, accountable and transparent public service delivery through the application of best practices and technological innovations;

2. Calls upon States parties to take measures, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to enhance programmes that meet the fundamental requirements of the Convention for integrity, transparency and accountability in public administration and to promote efficient public service delivery through such programmes;

3. Encourages States parties with relevant expertise in the application of technological innovations and electronic services in public service delivery to share, where applicable and upon request, their best practices with and transfer their knowledge to other States parties through appropriate bilateral, regional and multilateral channels of cooperation;

4. Encourages States parties to continue to promote those best practices for e-services in public service delivery that can lead to increasing trust in public institutions, and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of funding, to provide States parties with a compilation of best practices for e-services in public service delivery;

5. Encourages the relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to continue promoting and disseminating best practices in the field of public service delivery that are aimed, inter alia, at
enhancing transparency in public administration with a view to contributing to the
fight against corruption;

6. Underlines the important role of the United Nations Public Service Awards, as the most prominent international recognition of excellence in public service within the United Nations system, in identifying and promoting new innovations and concepts in public administration that minimize the risks for corruption, and encourages the United Nations and other international organizations to continue to promote and reward such initiatives and their replication;

7. Encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international and regional organizations and bilateral donors providing technical assistance and capacity-building efforts in the field of combating corruption to consider incorporating programmes on efficient, transparent and accountable public service delivery, including through the application of technological innovations, into their work programmes and to facilitate the exchange of best practices in the field among States parties;

8. Invites States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.