UNCAC Coalition
Association for the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption

Charter of the Association

§1: Name, location and area of activity
1. The name of the Association is "UNCAC Coalition – Verein zur Umsetzung der UN-Konvention gegen Korruption".
2. In English, its name is "UNCAC Coalition – Association for the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption".
3. In everyday communication, the name "UNCAC Coalition" may be used.
4. It is based in Vienna and carries out activities in Austria and the rest of the world.
5. The Association does not intend to create subsidiary associations.
6. Its budget year is based on the calendar year.

§2: Purpose of the Association
1. The purpose of the Association is to promote the [interest of the] general public in the fields of democracy and the rule of law, development aid, consumer protection, adult education, science and research, as well as civil rights and fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and information, the right to a fair trial and to an effective complaint.
2. The Association is pursuing these purposes in an objective and independent manner that is solely and directly beneficial to the public in line with §§ 34 et seq of the BAO [the Austrian Federal Tax Code]. The activities of the Association are not aiming to generate profit.

§3: Means to achieve the purposes of the Association
1. The Association will implement the following activities (ideational means) to achieve its purposes and goals, and to foster global collaboration between civil society organisations to mobilise broad civil society action on the national, regional and international level to achieve the ratification, implementation, enforcement and monitoring of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC):
   1.1. Conducting and supporting scientific research on the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and on other issues linked to the purpose of the Association;
   1.2. Organisation and attendance of meetings, workshops, trainings, conferences and discussions related to the UN Convention against Corruption and other issues linked to the purpose of the Association;
1.3. Raising awareness and the general level of knowledge on issues linked to the purpose of the Association, both domestically and abroad, by attending, organising and holding trainings and information events such as courses, seminars, lectures, trainings, film screenings, workshops as well as talks and discussions, congresses, symposia and conferences;

1.4. The operation of websites, including http://uncaccoalition.org;

1.5. The production and publication of material for research, education and training, articles, books, brochures, reports, statements and other publications using all available media, including audio and video content, on topics related to the purpose of the Association;

1.6. The publication and distribution of analyses, letters, blog posts and press releases;

1.7. Gathering, editing and providing information on corruption, the prevention of corruption, the fight against corruption, fundamental and human rights, developments around the UNCAC and its implementation as well as other topics linked to the purpose of the Association, for the members of the Association and the general public;

1.8. The establishment and operation of knowledge collections and knowledge platforms, of (scientific) archives, libraries and other collections of things serving the purpose [of the Association];

1.9. The operation of profiles and pages in social media;

1.10. The provision of fora (including email newsletters, mailing lists, working groups, teleconferences) and platforms that support the exchange of information, discussion and cooperation on issues linked to the purpose of the Association;

1.11. Communication and meetings with representatives of international and multinational organisations, state delegations, associations and organisations, pressure groups, the private sector and other actors;

1.12. Meetings and assemblies;

1.13. The organisation and coordination of, or contributions to, civil society campaigns, initiatives, research and public relations;

1.14. The gathering, summarising and releasing of data, information, examples and experience on the implementation of the UNCAC on a national, regional and global level as well as on other issues related to the purpose of the Association;

1.15. The support of members and other civil society actors contributing to processes and fora around the UNCAC and the monitoring of its implementation on the national level, for example by providing guidance, questionnaires, trainings and workshops, assistance in the production of contributions, statements and reports, editing, peer-review, translations, print and the publication of reports;
1.16. Advertisement of any kind and public relations [activities] to raise awareness and understanding of the public for issues linked to the purpose of the Association at home and abroad, the provision of information and guidance of any kind to inform the public, including in cooperation with other institutions, organisations and the media as well as by using media of all kind to provide information to the public;

1.17. The organisation and hosting of charity and fundraising events, such as fundraising dinners, other social events and parties by the Association;

1.18. The implementation of projects in line with the purpose of the Association and of scientific projects and research on issues that are in line with the purpose of the Association, as well as the creation of concepts, proposals and applications, cooperation with universities and other relevant third persons or organisations;

1.19. Other advisory or consulting on issues related to the purpose of the Association at home and abroad;

1.20. Employment of staff to implement activities in line with the purpose of the Association;

1.21. Cooperation with other associations, foundations, non-governmental organisations, umbrella groups and coalitions, international organisations, multilateral organisations, state bodies, regions, cities, interest groups, universities, legal and natural persons as well as other relevant associations of people, institutions and entities of the public sector and the private sector;

1.22. Building and expanding cooperation in relevant national, regional and international networks, membership in national, regional and international organisations, associations, coalitions and other institutions as well as contributions to relevant citizens’ initiatives, coalitions and networks;

1.23. The establishment and operation of club houses and offices at home and abroad;

1.24. The letting, provision and renting of movable and non-movable, material and immaterial assets of the Association, such as real estate, buildings and rights;

1.25. The Association may use third natural and persons, so-called vicarious agents. It can, for example, award contracts for the implementation of envisioned activities and projects to employees, contractors, partner organisations, member organisations, companies, consultants and third parties or other implementation agents. Cooperation and project partnerships with implementation agents are to be designed in a way that allows the Association to directly influence the fulfilment of the goal of
the cooperation. The Association can also itself be an implementation agent in the framework of its purposes.

2. Non-monetary means originate from the Association’s members, volunteers and supporters who volunteer and contribute their time to its cause as well as from experts and partner organisations who contribute to the activities of the Association and the implementation of its goals.

3. The required material and financial means of the Association are raised by:
   3.1. Contributions by members and supporters (membership fees, in-kind contributions, financial support from members and supporters);
   3.2. Donations, gifts of all kind, proceeds of collections and auctions, for example of donated art, legacies, bequests and inheritance;
   3.3. Public sector grants (from within Austria and from abroad), contributions and subsidies, project funds and contributions from multinational organisations such as the EU, the United Nations and the OECD), from public authorities, foundations, companies and other legal persons under private law as well as other and in-kind contributions;
   3.4. Income from consultancies project fees and tenders;
   3.5. Income from events and activities of the Association (lectures, courses, trainings, workshops, talks, panel discussions and other events) as well as entry tickets, course and seminar fees, contributions towards expenses and reimbursements (i.e. for attending events, workshops and conferences), payments for articles, talks and publications, and other income, reimbursement of expenses prepaid by the Association (e.g. travel costs);
   3.6. Income from activities of the Association, to the extent they are permitted by law and in line with the charter (in particular with the sole and direct support of public benefit), revenues from the Association’s projects and activities and its scientific and research projects (in line with §3, para 1.18), reimbursements and contributions to cover costs;
   3.7. Revenues from the management of assets (i.e. bank interest, revenues from renting or letting or cession of clubhouses and offices);
   3.8. Income from the sale of the Association's assets and rights and of inherited objects;
   3.9. Revenues from the Association’s knowledge collections, archives, libraries and other collections (in line with §3, para 1.18), such as entry fees, usage fees, fees for the rental of objects;
   3.10. Income from publishing and distributing publications and content (in line with §3, para 1.5), their exploitation and sale;
   3.11. Revenues from charity and fundraising events, fundraising dinners, parties of the Association and other events (in line with §3, para. 1.17);
   3.12. Income from activities as vicarious agent (in line with §3, para. 1.25);
3.13. Income from sponsoring;
3.14. Income from the sale of merchandise;
3.15. Other income from projects and the activities provided in §3.

4. All financial means shall be used for the Association’s purpose described in §2.

§4: Types of membership
1. Members of the Association are divided into ordinary, extraordinary and honorary members.
2. Ordinary members are those who are involved in the activities of the Association and have the rights and responsibilities described in §§ 5, 7 and 9 below.
3. Extraordinary members are those who support the Association and its work, possibly including by the payment of a fee or a contribution to support the work of the Association. They are affiliated with the Association, support its work and mission. They are allowed to attend the General Assembly and to participate in the Association’s discussions. However, they do not have the rights and responsibilities of ordinary members as defined in §§ 5, 7 and 9.
4. Honorary members are individuals who are named by the General Assembly upon suggestion by the Board (also referred to as the “Coordination Committee”) for their extraordinary achievements supporting the Association and its goals. They have the rights and responsibilities described in §§ 5, 7 and 9 below.

§5: Membership: Ordinary Members
1. Membership is open to civil society organisations and their representatives as well as individuals working on anti-corruption issues and subscribing to the Association’s mission. The term "civil society organisation" is defined in the Association’s rules of procedure and is broadly construed to include, for example, trade unions, academia and research institutions. For-profit companies and their associations shall not be included.
2. The Association’s membership consists of all those duly registered with the Association. Members of the Association are divided into the following three categories:
   2.1. An international member organisation, defined as a civil society organisation working in three or more countries or with affiliates in three or more countries. Each international member organisation in good standing can nominate a candidate to stand in elections for the two international seats of the Board and can vote in elections and in the Association’s decision making processes. Individuals affiliated with an international member organisation may participate in the Association’s discussions.
2.2. A member organisation is defined as a civil society organisation that is not an international member organisation, where national affiliates of an international member organisation are considered separate from that member. Each member organisation in good standing can nominate a candidate to stand in elections for regional seats of the Board and can vote in elections and in the Association’s decision-making processes. Individuals affiliated with a member organisation may participate in the Association’s discussions.

2.3. An individual affiliate member is defined as a natural person with no affiliation to a member organisation. Individual affiliate members in good standing may run for elections for the individual member seat of the Board, can vote in elections for the candidate for the individual member seat and may participate in the Association’s discussions.

3. Organisations or individuals wishing to join the Association need to fill in an application form. Organisations are required to provide information about their organisation, status, membership and activities, while individuals are required to provide information about their work. Existing members may be required to provide additional information if their application forms are incomplete.

4. The Managing Director, or another person designated by the Board, shall screen applications to determine whether they meet the requirements for membership, including work in a field related to anti-corruption and commitment to the vision, mission and core values of the Association.

5. Applications which pass the initial screening shall be forwarded to the Board for a two-week period allowing for comments. If, within the two-week period, two or more Board members object to the applicant, the matter shall be discussed in the Board.

6. The Board decides on the acceptance or rejection of ordinary and extraordinary members.

7. After the establishment of the Association, the acceptance of ordinary and extraordinary members is made by the founders until a Board has been established. After the Board has been established, it decides upon accepting ordinary and extraordinary members.

§6: Suspension and termination of membership

1. Members may leave the Association at any point by informing the Managing Director and the Board in writing about their decision.

2. Membership is terminated in case of death (for individual members) or in case a member organisation is dismantled or ceases to operate.

3. A member may be suspended or expelled by a two-thirds majority of the Board for failing to respect the Association’s mission statement. This may take
place after due process in which the member is informed about the proposal of suspension or exclusion and given the opportunity to make representations to the Board as to why removal is not warranted. The Board may decide for temporary suspension pending the hearing and decision on a member’s case; until a decision is reached, a member that is suspended in such a way is not considered a member in good standing.

4. Ordinary members can, upon decision of the Board, be suspended if they do not carry out their responsibilities defined in §7.2, and as a consequence will not be considered members in good standing. Suspended members will have twelve months to provide any missing annual reports, after which the membership can be terminated by a decision of the Board [the Coalition Coordination Committee – CCC] if the annual reports are not filed, unless a good reason is provided.

§7: Members’ roles and responsibilities

1. Members are required to uphold the principles of the Association’s mission statement in undertaking any activities related to the Association and respect decisions made by the bodies of the Association.
2. Members are also required to report annually on their anti-corruption activities, following a basic template.
3. Ordinary members enjoy voting rights as defined in Section 5. They are also entitled to be consulted on major policy decisions of the Association and to be provided with information about the work of the Board, the Managing Director and the Vienna Hub. Decisions of the Membership shall normally be made by consensus, except at the request of five or more members for a vote on an issue.
4. Members are encouraged to contribute to the development and implementation of the Association’s strategies, activities and campaigns.
5. Every member is entitled to request a copy of the Charter from the Board.
6. At least a tenth of the members can request the Board to call for a General Assembly.
7. Members are to be informed at the General Assembly by the Board about the activities of the Association and its finances. If at least a tenth of the members requests the release of such information and provides reasons for this request, the Board has to issue this information within four weeks.
8. Members are to be informed by the Board about the audited annual accounts. If this occurs at the General Assembly, the auditors shall be involved.
§8: General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall be convened at least once every two years whereat the Board and the Managing Director shall report to the Assembly in appropriate detail and members may raise issues of common concern. The General Assembly shall take place, as far as possible, alongside the "Conferences of States Parties" ("COSP").

2. A special General Assembly takes place within three months
   2.1. upon request of the Board or the regular General Assembly
   2.2. upon written request by at least a tenth of the ordinary members
   2.3. upon request of a comptroller
   2.4. upon decision of a court-appointed trustee.

3. General Assemblies shall be convened in person or virtually. At in-person meetings, members are responsible for bearing the costs of their participation, unless the Association has the means to raise funds for member participation. Virtual meetings may include an online forum over a period of days in which information and proposals are posted and decisions are made by e-voting.

4. The Board shall determine the date, time, place and agenda of General Assemblies in consultation with the Membership and shall inform the Membership of these details no later than 30 days before the meeting date if the Assembly is virtual or 60 days if the Assembly is in person.

5. A member wishing to add an item to the agenda of a General Assembly must notify the Board via the Chair or the Managing Director no later than 14 days before the Assembly. The Board shall decide whether to include the proposed agenda item, taking account of time constraints, importance, and promoting the participation of all members in the General Assembly.

6. The Chair of the Board shall preside as chairperson at each General Assembly, unless he/she is unable to do so, in which case the Board shall elect an acting chairperson from within its members.

§9: Responsibilities of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly, in which all ordinary and extraordinary members can participate, has the following responsibilities:
   1.1. Adoption of a provisional budget;
   1.2. Acceptance and approval of the most recent financial report and the audited annual accounts;
   1.3. Election of Members of the Board;
   1.4. Election of Comptroller(s);
   1.5. Approval of a contract between auditors and the Association;
   1.6. Decision on membership fees, if any, for ordinary and extraordinary members;
1.7. Release of the Board;
1.8. Adoption of changes to the Charter, except for Section 14 Para. 10;
1.9. Voluntary dissolution of the Association; and
1.10. Discussion and adoption of miscellaneous items on the agenda.

§10: Bodies of the Association
1. Bodies of the Association are the General Assembly, the Board (also referred to as "Coordination Committee" – see §12 et seq), the Comptrollers and the Dispute Resolution Body.
2. A Managing Director is to be appointed (in line with Section 15) for the administrative support of the Board and to lead day-to-day operations.

§11: Official Approval
1. In order to be valid, all official documents of the Association must be signed by two of the following persons: the Chair of the Board, a Vice-Chair of the Board, the member of the Board who is appointed its Secretary, and the Managing Director, if appointed. Details may be defined in internal rules of procedure in line with Section 14, Para. 11.
2. Official documents include any document which legally binds the Association to undertake a particular activity and/or relates to any financial agreement with funders.

§12: Composition of the Board
1. The Board shall consist of twelve members. Six of the seats on the Board shall be allocated to representatives of member organisations on a regional basis with one seat each for
   1.1. Sub-Saharan Africa;
   1.2. Middle East and North Africa;
   1.3. East Asia, Central Asia and Pacific;
   1.4. South Asia;
   1.5. Europe;
   1.6. The Americas.
2. Two additional seats shall be allocated to representatives of member organisations on a regional basis, to the two regions with the largest number of members in the Association, as determined a sufficient time ahead of the election.
3. If there are no candidates from a given region for a seat, representatives of member organisations from other regions may contest the seat in question.
4. Two seats on the Board shall be allocated to representatives of international member organisations.
5. One seat on the Board shall be allocated to an individual member.
6. One seat on the Board shall be allocated to an honorary member of the Association. The member who previously represented the Secretariat with a permanent seat on the Board shall hold this seat until the end of the term registered with the registry of associations. Only afterwards, this seat shall be allocated to an honorary member.

7. No more than three representatives with a full, formal affiliation with any one organisation (i.e. from among the main organisation and its local affiliates) may serve on the Board at the same time.

8. The Board is also referred to as "Coordination Committee".

§13: Election of the Board

1. Board members are elected for a two-year term. Members may only be elected to the Board for two consecutive terms after which they must wait at least one year before running again.

2. Elections are to be held annually by a process of remote balloting. At each election, approximately one-half of the Board members shall be up for election.

3. Election procedures are to be developed by the Board, although this task might be delegated to the Managing Director, and need to be approved by the Membership. The Managing Director can also be tasked with organising the election.

4. The Chair of the Board shall be elected by the Board members from among themselves and the number of consecutive two-year terms served by a given Chair may not exceed two. The Committee may also elect up to two Vice-Chairs and any other executive officers as may be needed.

5. Following the registration of the Association, the members of the Board and its officers will serve the terms they were elected for previous to the registration.

§14: The Board

1. The Board is the policy-making and steering body of the Association. Its responsibilities include the following:

   1.1. Providing policy direction, coordination and oversight of the work of the Managing Director and the Vienna Hub headed by him/her.

   1.2. Supervision of the development and implementation of the Association’s strategy.

   1.3. Promoting the activities and projects of the Association and helping to identify funding opportunities.

   1.4. Communicating the Association’s positions to a wider public audience.

   1.5. Agreeing on the location and content of General Assemblies.

   1.6. Ensuring the prompt and effective issuance of statements.
1.7. Assisting the Association to support its members, including assistance to members under attack due to their anti-corruption work.

1.8. Decisions of the Board shall, whenever possible, be made by consensus, provided that a member of the Board may call for a vote on any issue which shall be decided by majority vote, unless otherwise specified in this Charter or in rules of procedure adopted by the membership.

2. The Board shall
2.1. ensure that accounting procedures appropriate for the needs of the Association are put in place;
2.2. ensure that a draft annual budget, annual accounts and an audit report are produced;
2.3. administer the assets of the Association;
2.4. provide information to members on the activities, the finances and the audited annual accounts of the Association;
2.5. decide on the acceptance and expulsion of ordinary and extraordinary members;
2.6. decide on the appointment or hiring of a Managing Director.

3. In case of imminent danger to the Association, the Chair of the Board is authorised to act in matters that normally would fall under the responsibility of the Board or the General Assembly. These decisions require subsequent confirmation from the relevant body of the Association.

4. The General Assembly can at any time prematurely dismiss one or more members of the Board from their functions subject to specific conditions and procedures to be laid down by the General Assembly upon recommendations of the Board. The General Assembly can thereafter elect (a) new member(s) to the Board.

5. Members of the Board can announce their resignation at any time in writing to the Board, or in case of the resignation of the whole Board, to the General Assembly.

6. The Board has a quorum if all members were invited and one-quarter of the existing members is present. Decisions are made with a simple majority. Decisions have to be documented in writing and may also be made through written communications.

7. In case a member of the Board is unable to fulfil his/her role for a longer period of time, the Chair and the other members of the Board may decide a replacement subject to a majority vote. In the case that a replacement would have to serve for a period of six months or more, a special election for the seat in question will be called.

8. In case the Board is unable to act for a long period, remaining members of the Board or otherwise the Comptrollers are required to immediately call for a General Assembly to elect a new Board.
9. In case the Comptrollers are also unable to act and the initiation of a General Assembly by a tenth of the membership is not possible, every ordinary member who recognises the emergency situation must immediately request the appointment of a trustee by the responsible court, which must immediately call for a special General Assembly.

10. The Board can make changes to the Charter that are requested by the authorities and do not change its Content.

11. The Board can adopt rules of internal procedure that, in line with the Charter, regulate further details concerning the Board, the Managing Director and the tasks of the Vienna Hub (in particular the distribution of responsibilities, consultation and information requirements, the distribution of tasks between members of the Board, and between the Board and the Managing Director).

§15: Managing Director

1. The Board can appoint a natural person as Managing Director and thus as a body of the Association and may dismiss him/her at any point, subject to conditions and procedure to be specifically laid down by the Board. The Managing Director can represent the Coalition using the title "Vienna Hub Coordinator".

2. The Managing Director is able to represent the Association externally, in parallel to the Chair and Vice-Chair(s) of the Board and the Secretary of the Board.

3. Internally, the Managing Director is subordinate and reportable to the Board, acts upon its directives and is required to provide it with information.

4. The Managing Director shall attend Board meetings as a secretary to the Board, not eligible to vote, and is responsible for issuing minutes including the agenda to be determined in consultation with the Chair or the Vice Chair(s), drafting minutes of the meeting and circulating the same as well as keeping all records of the Board.

5. Internally, the Managing Director has to follow the rules of administrative procedure in line with § 14, Para. 11 and, within its framework, is allowed to lead the operational business of the Association and to represent it in legal transactions. The Board can define additional responsibilities and rights of the Managing Director in line with the Charter, in particular rules on the authorisation of specific legal transactions.

6. The Managing Director manages the Viennese office of the Association ("Vienna Hub") and any other consultants or staff, as described by the internal rules of procedure. The tasks of the Vienna Hub include:

6.1. Coordinating the day-to-day activities of the Association and ensuring compliance with legal and accountability requirements;
6.2. Liaising with partners and stakeholders, including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), on behalf of the Association;

6.3. Developing and disseminating both internal and external communication materials for the Association (such as the website, newsletter, brochures and statements);

6.4. Providing support to the Board and the Membership, including through the development of draft positions, statements and other documents;

6.5. Identifying and pursuing funding opportunities for the Association, in coordination with the Board;

6.6. Organising the elections to the Board;

6.7. Drafting rules of procedure for the Board, the General Assembly and elections, for adoption by the Membership;

6.8. Preparing an annual report on the activities of the Association and the Vienna Hub. This report should generally be prepared by the end of May for the preceding year;

6.9. The implementation or support for the implementation of projects and activities described in § 2 that serve the Association’s purpose;

6.10. Such other task to realise the Association’s mission as may be agreed by the Board and/or the Membership, subject to available funding.

§16: Working Language
  1. The working language of the Association is English. Where possible, and subject to funding, documents will be translated into German, French, Spanish, Arabic and other languages.

§17: Liability
  1. The Association is liable with its assets for any liabilities. Members of the Board and the Managing Director are not liable with their personal assets for liabilities of the Association.

§18: Comptrollers
  2. Two Comptrollers are elected by the General Assembly for a duration of two years. A re-election is possible. The Comptrollers must not be part of any other body of the Association – with the exception of the General Assembly – the activities of which are subject to their scrutiny.

  3. The Comptrollers are responsible for verifying the Association's financial conduct and annual accounts with regard to the correctness of the accounting and the proper use of funds in line with the Charter. The Board and the Managing Director shall provide the comptrollers with the necessary documents and information. The comptrollers must report their findings to the Board and the General Assembly.
4. Any contracts between the Comptrollers and the Association have to be authorised by the General Assembly.

5. The term of a Comptroller ends in case of their death, resignation, the end of their contract or dismissal by the General Assembly.

§19: Dispute Resolution Body

1. The dispute resolution body is set up to resolve all disputes stemming from relations to the Association. It is a “dispute resolution body” in line with the Associations Act 2002.

2. The dispute resolution body is composed of three ordinary members of the Association. It is established upon the notification to the Board by one party to a dispute about said dispute and their nomination of an ordinary member as a member of the dispute resolution body. Within seven days, the Board calls on the other party to the dispute to nominate another member of the dispute resolution body within 14 days. Within a further seven days period after the designation of the second member of the body, both designated members of the body are notified by the Board and within 14 days, the two choose a third member to chair the dispute resolution body. If there is no agreement on the third member then each of the designated members nominates a third member and a decision is made by drawing lots. Members of the dispute resolution body must not be part of any other body of the Association that is party to the dispute, with the exception of the General Assembly.

3. The dispute resolution body decides by majority vote, after hearing both sides with all members being present. It decides in good faith. Its decisions are final within the Association.

§20: Voluntary Dissolution of the Association

1. The voluntary dissolution of the Association can only be decided upon in a General Assembly and only by a two-thirds majority of all valid votes cast with a quorum of two-thirds of eligible voting members.

2. If the Association still holds assets, a decision on liquidation must be taken during the General Assembly in question. In particular, the General Assembly must appoint a liquidator and decide on the party to whom the Association’s remaining assets are to be transferred once its liabilities have been covered.

§21: Use of assets in case of dissolution

1. In case of dissolution of the Association, official cancellation or loss of the charitable purpose, the remaining assets shall be used for charitable purposes pursuant to Section 34 et seq of the Austrian Fiscal Code (BAO).
the extent that is possible and legal, the assets shall be transferred to an organisation that pursues the same or similar purposes as this Association.

_Last adopted amendments: 30 January 2019_

_Minor changes were made upon request of the Department for Associations of the Vienna Regional Police Department, adopted on 23. and 30 April 2019_