



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Reference: CU 2020/284(F)/DTA/CEB/CSS/Other relevant NGOs

12 August 2020

Dear Mr. Banisar,

In its resolution 73/191 entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to convene in the first half of 2021 a special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation and invited the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to lead the preparatory process for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner.

Moreover, in its resolution 74/276 entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, the Assembly reiterated the importance of an inclusive preparatory process for the special session, including extensive substantive consultations, and invited the Conference of the States Parties to hold up to three intersessional meetings, as required, to advance such consultations.

I am pleased to inform you that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has received no objection to your Organization’s application to participate as an observer in the first **intersessional meeting of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption (UNGASS)** which will be held in a hybrid format (**in person and virtual**) from **2 September to 4 September 2020**. The session was rescheduled from the original dates following the recommendation of the extended Bureau of the Conference.

The Organization is hereby informed that **one** representative per delegation will be able to attend the sessions in person in the **M-Plenary, M Building, Vienna International Centre**, and **one** representative will also have the possibility to attend the sessions in a virtual format, using the Interpretfy platform. Please note that this platform can accommodate a limited number of speakers. The secretariat would therefore appreciate your Organization’s indication whether a statement will be made by your representative participating remotely. The secretariat will make every effort to accommodate such a request by assigning a speaker role on the virtual platform to the designated delegate.

Mr. David Banisar
Chair
UNCAC Coalition
Vienna, Austria

cc.: Mr. Mathias Huter, Vienna Hub Coordinator

Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

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Information on the composition of the Organization's delegation, should include the following:

- (a) name(s);
- (b) title(s);
- (c) contact details **including individual email addresses** which will be used to grant and verify virtual access to the session and, for those participating in person, for contact tracing purposes if needed (the VIC Meeting Guidelines: COVID-2019 are enclosed);
- (d) a clear indication of whether delegates will participate **in person or remotely**;
- (e) and for those participating remotely the **role to be assigned (speaker or observer role)**.

Registrations received for the originally planned dates of the first intersessional meeting of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption will be considered valid for the new dates. Delegations are kindly requested to confirm those registrations or inform the secretariat of any subsequent changes to the composition of the delegation, as well as the role (speaker or observer role) of the remote participants.

The information should be provided to the secretariat as soon as possible and not later **than 24 August 2020**. Organizations are kindly requested to observe the deadline in order to enable the secretariat to finalize all the necessary technical preparations for the meeting. Regrettably, the secretariat will not be able to accommodate requests for registration after this date. In determining the composition of the delegation, the Organization is encouraged to also take into account considerations of gender balance.

Please note that only scanned copies of official letters will be accepted by email. It would be appreciated if the Organisation's response to this invitation could be sent directly to the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, PO Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria, Fax: +43 1 26060 5841, or a scanned copy to email: unodc-ngounit@un.org.

In accordance with the workplan for subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which was adopted by the Conference at its eighth session held in December 2019, and the workplan and timeline subsequently approved by the extended Bureau of the Conference, the thematic focus of this intersessional meeting will be on prevention and law enforcement and criminalization.

Documentation, additional information on the exact meeting times, and the technical parameters for the session, as appropriate, will be made available at the following webpage: www.ungass2021.org.

Your attention is also drawn to the "Guidance note on the participation of representatives of nongovernmental organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its subsidiary bodies", which is available at the following website: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session8/Guidance_note_participation_of_NGOs_in_COSP_and_subsidary_bodies.pdf.

The secretariat will continue to monitor the situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic and will provide timely updates with respect to any necessary changes to the above arrangements, including possible restrictions affecting access to the Vienna International Centre.

Yours sincerely,



Brigitte Strobel-Shaw
Secretary of the Conference of the States Parties
to the United Nations Convention against Corruption