

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Mauritius Conference Communiqué

### Anti-Corruption Reform in Small Island States

#### “Preventing Corruption in the Public Procurement Process”

Mauritius, 2-4 August 2016

From 2 to 4 August 2016, anti-corruption officials from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) convened for the second time in Mauritius and, at this new opportunity, discussed the topic of countering corruption in public procurement in Small Island States.

The participants convened at the invitation of the Ministry of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms and the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) of the Republic of Mauritius, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

At this Conference, the participants discussed current challenges and SIDS-specific practices to prevent corruption in public procurement. Participants actively engaged in peer-to-peer learning through sharing of experiences in their respective states, discussed high level policy matters, and worked together to identify good practices to prevent corruption in public procurement in Small Islands.

**Recognizing** that Small Island States are characterized by their smallness and technical capacity challenges and therefore require anti-corruption reforms that are affordable, sustainable, accountable and effective to prevent and combat corruption.

**Recognizing** the importance of the role of regional and international partnerships, the relevance of peer-to-peer learning among SIDS as well as comparable practices and opportunities for South-South cooperation.

**Mindful** that Small Island States have the same legal obligations as any other non-island state which is also a State Party to the Convention notwithstanding their contextual characteristics and uniqueness.

The Participants at this Conference, including anticorruption and public procurement officials, provide the following recommendations in the context of Small Islands States:

**Calls upon** States parties to encourage the public sector and the private sector to work together to identify risks of corruption in the procurement process and make recommendations to improve corruption resistance at the national level.

**Calls upon** States parties to strengthen the relevant mechanism for management of conflict of interest with appropriate guidance and, in case of non-compliance, as appropriate to criminalize conflict of interests which is a major threat to the integrity of the procurement process.

**Urges** States parties to develop and enforce rules of conduct for procurement officials and provide relevant capacity building activities to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the integrity of the procurement process.

**Encourages** States parties in SIDS to consider adopting an appropriate e-procurement system (as feasible) with inbuilt possibilities of review to ensure its effectiveness.

**Calls upon** States parties to develop and implement relevant and appropriate mechanisms for contract administration (monitoring and supervision).

**Urges** States parties to develop and implement appropriate legislations to reinforce protection of reporting persons and witnesses and to shield them from victimization, while developing relevant guidance and provide for capacity building of SIDS national officials.

**Urges** participants to share relevant experiences and best practices in Small Islands Developing States.

**Calls upon** States parties and donors to actively contribute to and support the further development of the anti-corruption research platform that has been set up in Mauritius.

The participants further

**Request** UNODC and UNDP to continue providing technical assistance tailored to SIDS contexts and needs.

**Express** appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Mauritius for hosting the second “Conference on Anti-Corruption Reforms in Small Island Developing States” in cooperation with UNODC and UNDP.

**End**