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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 25 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the Kuala Lumpur Declaration which was adopted at the Sixth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, held in Kuala Lumpur from 4 to 7 October 2012.

The International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, a non-governmental organization, was founded at the conclusion of a special meeting held at the United Nations Office in Vienna in 2006 and has since received fervent support among various anti-corruption authorities worldwide and international organizations, as well as special assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). To date, IAACA has successfully held five annual conferences and general meetings where participants had in-depth discussions and study on each chapter of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and actively promoted the effective implementation of the Convention.

This year, Malaysia, as the host, is proud and privileged to have extended a warm welcome to all the relevant national institutions and bodies entrusted with the task of fighting corruption. Participants from over 111 countries and 12 international organizations honoured us with their participation during the Conference and General Meeting. Malaysia was also fortunate to have in attendance Mr. Dimitri Vlassis, who addressed the Conference and General Meeting in his capacity as Chief, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, Division of Treaty Affairs of UNODC.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 103.

(Signed) Hussein Haniff
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 25 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Sixth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities

Kuala Lumpur, 4-7 October 2012

Kuala Lumpur Declaration

We, the representatives of anti-corruption authorities of 111 Member States of the United Nations and regions and of 12 international organizations, gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the Sixth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) devoted to “Technical assistance and information exchange” (chapter VI of the United Nations Convention against Corruption),

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/4, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption and established International Anti-Corruption Day as 9 December each year,

Recalling also all relevant United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions calling for the expeditious ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Recalling further our Beijing, Bali, Kiev, Macao and Marrakech Declarations, as well as the recommendations made by the side event of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Amman and co-organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and IAACA,

Aware of the importance of the resolutions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties, at its first, second, third and fourth sessions, held respectively at Amman, Nusa Dua, Doha and Marrakech,

Convinced that relevant Government agencies, civil society and relevant professional organizations can individually and collectively make significant contributions to the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

1. *Express* our gratitude to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, for hosting the Sixth Annual Conference and General Meeting of IAACA, as well as our deepest appreciation to the Government and People of Malaysia for their warm hospitality;
2. *Extend* our appreciation to the Government of Tanzania and in particular the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau for hosting the Executive Committee meeting of IAACA held in Arusha from 30 March to 1 April 2012;
3. *Recognize and affirm* the importance of affording technical assistance, including material support, training, relevant experience and specialized knowledge, to meet the individual needs of States parties for the effective implementation of the

United Nations Convention against Corruption, and to become an integral part of the overall effort in fighting corruption;

4. *Reiterate* the importance of compliance by States parties with the provisions contained in chapter VI of the United Nations Convention against Corruption on affording country-led and country-based, integrated and coordinated technical assistance, especially with regard to technical assistance to meet the needs identified by States parties through the implementation review mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

5. *Urge* States parties to accord high priority to meeting technical assistance requirements identified and prioritized in their responses to the comprehensive self-assessment checklists and the country reports;

6. *Encourage* States parties to initiate, develop or improve specific training programmes on preventing and combating corruption to improve law enforcement skills for competent officials;

7. *Urge* States parties to afford one another the widest measure of support, including training, exchange of relevant experience and specialized knowledge to facilitate international cooperation in line with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

8. *Pledge* our full support to help States parties identify and substantiate specific needs for technical assistance, and to promote and facilitate the provision of such assistance to fill the identified gaps;

9. *Strongly encourage* UNODC to continue to provide developing countries and countries with economies in transition, upon request and in response to their specific requirements, a wide range of capacity-building assistance, as well as direct expertise on policy formulation, through the Office's thematic and regional programmes, and *recommend* that multilateral and bilateral providers of technical assistance include the objectives of the United Nations Convention against Corruption as an integral part of their annual commitments and increase the amount of resources devoted to supporting developing countries to implement the Convention, in close cooperation with UNODC and IAACA;

10. *Call upon* the Executive Committee to consider the needs of IAACA members, including proposing, overseeing and evaluating current training-related activities, so as to help equip policymakers and practitioners with the requisite knowledge and skills in the fight against corruption, as set out in the workplan;

11. *Pledge* our full support to the ongoing efforts and recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, established to advise and assist the Conference of the States Parties in the implementation of its mandate on the return of proceeds of corruption, in developing cumulative knowledge, encouraging cooperation, facilitating the exchange of information and identifying capacity-building needs, and look forward to the implementation of its multi-year workplan relating to asset recovery, covering the period 2012-2015;

12. *Recognize* the continuing and valuable role of the joint UNODC and World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative as a driving force in the asset recovery agenda, and call upon States parties to continue to actively support the Initiative in its work;

13. *Welcome with satisfaction* the fact that 161 countries have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and urge the Governments of those countries that have not yet done so to move swiftly and with conviction to ratify or accede to the Convention, in order to achieve the goal of universal adherence to the Convention;

14. *Welcome with appreciation* the important decisions of the Conference of the States Parties in its four sessions held to date, and look forward to further progress in the implementation of its mandate through its fifth session, to be held in Panama in 2013;

15. *Commend* UNODC for its exceptional work and commitment in serving as the Secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties and its subsidiary bodies and in implementing the resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties, including its efforts towards the effective delivery of technical assistance;

16. *Underline* the importance of the role of the Conference of the States Parties in monitoring the implementation of the Convention and reiterate our call to the Executive Committee of IAACA, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties, to seek appropriate ways to establish closer collaboration between IAACA and the Conference of the States Parties in order to enhance the involvement and contribution of IAACA and its members in properly and effectively implementing the recommendations made by the Conference of the States Parties;

17. *Look forward* to the outcome of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and call upon the Executive Committee of IAACA to encourage sharing of the experience gained by its members in the review process;

18. *Reiterate* our call upon all Member States to institute relevant reforms that promote professionalism and effectiveness of anti-corruption authorities in preventing and combating corruption, the independence and integrity of the judiciary, the prevention of conflict of interest in public office, freedom of access to information, and transparency and accountability in public administration, as well as to ensure and preserve the full independence of all relevant anti-corruption authorities; and in this context, *welcome with appreciation and commend* the achievements of the network European Partners against Corruption in unanimously adopting universal principles and standards for anti-corruption authorities and *encourage* all Member States to take favourable note of them and translate them into reality;

19. *Urge* anti-corruption authorities to proactively promote with their respective Governments and legislative bodies the development and implementation of appropriate programmes of work in order to maintain, sustain and strengthen the momentum generated by the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and to devote continued attention to both their vital preventive role and crucial law enforcement functions, as applicable, which are fundamental for the practical and effective application of all the relevant provisions of the Convention and for enhanced international cooperation;

20. *Urge* Member States as well as relevant international organizations and financial institutions, on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility and collective global action, to consider providing additional resources to support such

efforts, including by contributing to the UNODC special account a percentage of the money or of the corresponding value of proceeds of crime or property confiscated in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in line with article 62 (c) of the Convention;

21. *Express our deepest appreciation* to all relevant international and professional associations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the media for raising public awareness of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the destructive effect of corruption in its many and varied forms, by extending their continuing support and cooperation to IAACA and to the Conference of the States Parties, and *underscore* the importance of protection of witnesses, experts, victims, prosecutors, judges and those other persons engaged in the fight against corruption;

22. *Also express our appreciation* to the Executive Committee for implementing the initiatives agreed upon in the workplan, which resulted in the identification of new avenues for enhanced international cooperation in the fight against corruption, generating also a number of new and innovative ideas in our anti-corruption awareness campaigns and networking platform, and request the Executive Committee to devote sufficient resources to ensure that the workplan is implemented in an effective, structured and sustained manner;

23. *Welcome with appreciation and commend* the launch by the International Anti-Corruption Academy of the first international and interdisciplinary Master Programme in Anti-Corruption Studies, designed for working professionals of all sectors of society who wish to remain fully employed while pursuing their degree and designed to further empower them in their important anti-corruption work, *invite* all Member States to send participants and consider taking over scholarships for participants from least developed countries; and *encourage* enhanced cooperation between IAACA, the International Anti-Corruption Academy, all member countries, the Malaysian Anticorruption Academy and other regional and national training institutions, by sharing knowledge, expertise and best practices as well as by developing curricula for joint training activities, and by doing so taking into account the results of the review mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

24. *Extend our appreciation and commend* the efforts of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China for hosting the international anti-corruption public service announcement video competition and workshop in Hong Kong in December 2011, which attracted 29 contesting entries from anti-graft bodies and law enforcement agencies of 21 countries and places, and acknowledge with great gratitude the support or pledges of other countries, like Brazil and India, in carrying out some other joint activities included in the workplan;

25. *Welcome with great satisfaction* the important contributions and joint initiatives of IAACA members already generated by the workplan, and strongly encourage other members to become fully involved in its further implementation, by contributing suggestions or undertaking initiatives, whether individually or jointly with other members, and in close collaboration with the IAACA Secretariat, with a view to supporting the Association in realizing its ultimate goal of promoting the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

26. *Extend our appreciation* to the People's Republic of China for hosting, and *commend* the efforts of the Supreme People's Procuratorate for the successful conduct of, the training seminar organized by IAACA in Dalian in June 2012, which was attended by 420 participants from 81 countries, as well as for its continuous support for organizing and hosting such training seminars, and encourage other IAACA members to hold similar training events, not only regionally or subregionally but also at the national level;

27. *Appreciate* the stewardship and direction shown by the founding and incumbent Presidents of the Association in continuously fostering cooperation and partnership among anti-corruption authorities and with relevant international, regional and national organizations and institutions in furtherance of the anti-corruption cause, and *commend* the Secretariat for providing energetic and highly professional support to the work of the Association;

28. *Decide* that the text of this Declaration should be widely circulated by the relevant anti-corruption authorities in their respective countries and that it should be submitted to the Conference of the States Parties, in addition to the United Nations General Assembly and other relevant bodies of the United Nations.
