

International Academic Seminar

“Anti-corruption in times of COVID-19”

Tunis, Tunisia and hybrid

10 December 2020

Background

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Rule of Law & Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC) of Qatar are organizing an international academic seminar, entitled “Anti-corruption in times of COVID-19”. The seminar will take place in Tunis, Tunisia, on 10 December 2020, immediately after the ceremony of the fifth annual International Anti-Corruption Excellence (ACE) Award. Subject to the COVID-19-related travel and gathering restrictions, the seminar will take place in a hybrid set-up.

The seminar will be held under the auspices of the UNODC Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) initiative. The objectives of the seminar are: (1) to provide a forum for academics and experts to discuss key issues in the area of anti-corruption in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; (2) to facilitate the exchange of good practices and knowledge in the area of anti-corruption education and research; and (3) to promote the work of the ACE Award winners as well as the ACAD network in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Participants

Seminar participants will be anti-corruption practitioners and academics from the MENA region and beyond. Speakers at the seminar will be the 2020 ACE Award winners, members of the ACE Assessment Advisory Board and experts from the UNODC academic network. UNODC staff with vast experience in the fields of the ACE Award categories and the topics of the plenary sessions will moderate the seminar discussions and will provide feedback on the speakers’ presentations.

Methodology

The seminar will be delivered in an interactive manner and will include six substantive plenary sessions. The first three substantive sessions will be dedicated to the winners of the ACE Award for anti-corruption academic research and education, youth creativity and engagement and innovation. Speakers will provide an overview of their work in the respective area, which will be followed by questions and answers. The event will provide a platform to discuss topics such as the importance of the rule of law to the prevention of and fight against corruption, anti-corruption and compliance in the private sector, measures to prevent fraud in procurement and asset recovery. Discussions will also focus on the new challenges that the anti-corruption efforts are facing during the current pandemic.

The seminar will be conducted in Arabic, English and French.

Outcome

A compendium of all presentations and statements delivered at the seminar will be published by UNODC on its Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education (GRACE) platform, which is currently under development, and made available to all members of the ACAD network and other academics and experts from around the world interested in anti-corruption education and research.

Agenda

10 December 2020	
09.00 – 09.30	Registration
09.30 – 10.00	<p>Opening and welcoming remarks</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>H.E. Ali Bin Fetais Al Marri (United Nations Special Advocate for the Prevention of Corruption, Chairman of the High-Level Committee of the ACE Award, Attorney General of the State of Qatar)</i> 2. <i>H.E. Imed Boukhreis (Head of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, Republic of Tunisia)</i> 3. <i>Eduardo Vetere (Member of the ACE Assessment Advisory Board)</i> 4. <i>Cristina Albertin (Representative, UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa)</i> 5. <i>Brigitte Strobel-Shaw (Chief, UNODC Corruption and Economic Crime Branch)</i> 6. <i>Hatem Aly (Representative, UNODC Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council Region)</i> <p>Moderator: <i>Giovanni Gallo (Chief, Implementation Support Section, UNODC Corruption and Economic Crime Branch)</i></p>
10:00 – 11:00	<p>1. Anti-corruption academic research and education</p> <p>Session objective: <i>To discuss the latest trends in anti-corruption research and education and to provide an overview of the work of the ACE Award winners in their respective category.</i></p> <p><i>Short 2 minute video of the ACE Award winners will be played prior to their introduction.</i></p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Uglješa Zvekic (Ambassador, European Public Law Organisation)</i> 2. <i>Constantine Palicarsky (Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)</i> <p>Speakers: <i>The winners of the ACE Award for Anti-Corruption Academic Research and Education</i></p>
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 12.30	<p>2. Anti-corruption youth creativity and engagement</p> <p>Session objective: <i>To discuss the role of youth in combating corruption, good practices and challenges and to provide an overview of the work of the ACE Award winners in their respective category.</i></p>



	<p><i>Short 2 minute video of the ACE Award winners will be played prior to their introduction.</i></p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Edward G. Hoseah (Former Vice-President, International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities)</i> <i>Bianca Kopp (Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)</i> <p>Speakers: <i>The winners of the ACE Award for Anti-Corruption Youth Creativity and Engagement</i></p>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.30	<p>3. Anti-corruption innovation</p> <p>Session objective: <i>To discuss innovative tools for and approaches to combating corruption and to provide an overview of the work of the ACE Award winners in their respective category.</i></p> <p><i>Short 2 minute video of the ACE Award winners will be played prior to their introduction.</i></p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Suzanne Hayden (President, FTM Global Recovery LLC)</i> <i>Francesco Checchi (Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)</i> <p>Speakers: <i>The winners of the ACE Award for Anti-Corruption Innovation</i></p>
14:30 – 15:30	<p>4. Anti-corruption and compliance in the private sector</p> <p>Session objective: <i>To discuss the role of the private sector in countering corruption, good practices and challenges.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Asma Gachem (Vice-dean of the Faculty of legal, political and social sciences, Carthage University, Tunis)</i> <i>Thomas Peran (Executive Director, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center Geneva)</i> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Olajobi Makinwa (Chief, Intergovernmental Relations & Africa, UN Global Compact)</i> <i>Simon Gewoelb (Associate Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)</i> <i>Guillermo Jorge (Partner at Bruchou, Fernandez Madero & Lombardi)</i>
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	<p>5. Targeting corruption in public procurement</p> <p>Session objective: <i>To discuss key measures to prevent fraud in procurement, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.</i></p>



	<p>Moderators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sheriar Arjani (<i>Head of Programme Coordinaton, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center of Qatar</i>) 2. Mohamed Manoubi Ferchichi (<i>Associate professor, Faculty of law, Tunis El Manar University</i>) <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Constantine Palicarsky (<i>Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</i>) 2. Sope Williams-Elegbe (<i>Professor, Stellenbosch University</i>) 3. Alexandra Habershon (<i>Senior Governance Specialist, the World Bank</i>)
<p>17.00 – 18.00</p>	<p>6. Asset recovery</p> <p>Session objective: <i>To discuss the important role of asset recovery as a key element and outcome of the fight against corruption, as well as the efforts of the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative during the COVID-19 crisis.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Suzanne Hayden (President, FTM Global Recovery LLC)</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. François Ameli (<i>Vice-Dean, Sorbonne Law School</i>) 2. Mohamed Askri (<i>Ministry of Justice, Tunisia</i>) 3. Shervin Majlessi (<i>Chief, Conference Support Section, UNODC Corruption and Economic Crime Branch</i>)
<p>18.00 – 18.15</p>	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yasser Refaie (<i>Acting Director, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center of Qatar</i>) 2. Giovanni Gallo (<i>Chief, Implementation Support Section, UNODC Corruption and Economic Crime Branch</i>)