

## **4th Anti-Corruption Academic Symposium**

Atlanta, United States of America

9-10 December 2023

### **Background**

UNODC has been traditionally organizing international academic symposiums in advance of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is held every two years. Over the years, these symposiums have become flagship events showcasing UNODC's academic and educational programmes, UNODC's engagement with academia and other non-state stakeholders. These events offer a forum for UNODC's academic network members, academics and experts to exchange knowledge and good practices in the area of anti-corruption education and research and present their views at the Conference.

The first three symposiums (2015, 2019 and 2021) brought together hundreds of stakeholders who engaged in discussions on various corruption-related topics, including international and national anti-corruption norms and regulations, corruption in the private sector, corruption and gender, corruption and technology, corruption in sports and the role of academia in the fight against corruption. The recommendations from the various symposiums were presented to States parties to UNCAC during special events, guided the development of UNODC's anti-corruption educational portfolio and often presented the starting point for the development of new tools and activities aimed to advance anti-corruption education and research.

In keeping with this tradition, the 4<sup>th</sup> Anti-Corruption Academic Symposium will be held prior to the tenth session of the Conference (CoSP10), taking place in Atlanta from 11 to 15 December 2023. This year, the symposium will build on the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment ([GRACE](#)) initiative's regional dialogue series for Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America held in 2023 for academia, youth and civil society organizations and share the recommendations made during these dialogues to increase non-state actor involvement in implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

### **Objectives**

The two-day symposium will be held under the auspices of the UNODC [GRACE](#) initiative. The objectives of the event are to:

- provide a forum for UNODC academic network members, other academics and experts, as well as policymakers to discuss recent trends and good practices in research and education on anti-corruption;
- encourage further research on anti-corruption related topics such as prevention of corrupt practices in education settings, anti-corruption measures that have been tested in empirical settings i.e., randomized controlled trials, measuring the effectiveness and impact of anti-corruption measures in different sectors (health, education, digital);
- assess the challenges and gaps that academics face when researching corruption, including ways to bridge the gap between academic research and policy practice, including by hearing real-life case studies.

## **Participants**

The symposium will bring together academics and experts from the UNODC academic network and beyond who are teaching and conducting research on anti – corruption topics at universities and academic institutions around the world. It will be open to all interested academics and researchers, university students, youth, civil society organizations, international organizations, and Member States.

## **Methodology and format**

The symposium will be delivered in an interactive manner over two days. It will focus on specific thematic areas and include plenary sessions for participants to present and discuss recent studies on various topics, including on how to measure corruption and impact, the risks and opportunities of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, the nexus between organized crime and corruption, etc. Gender, youth and educational perspectives will be included as cross-cutting priorities in all thematic sessions. It will also allow participants to learn more about UNODC’s efforts to strengthen the involvement of academia, educators and other non-state actors when it comes to the implementation of UNCAC.

The event is expected to be held in-person. However, speakers will have the opportunity to deliver their presentations online if travel to the United States of America is not possible.

The symposium will be conducted in English.

## **Outcome**

The symposium will result in a summary document, featuring reflections on how States parties to UNCAC and UNODC can support academic teaching and research on anti-corruption.

## **Agenda**

<b>Day 1, Conference Room: New York (A411/A412)</b>	
<b>08:00 – 09:30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:30 – 09:40</b>	<b>Opening and welcoming remarks</b> Brigitte Strobel-Shaw, Chief, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC
<b>09:40 – 11:00</b>	<b>Session 1 – The role of non-state actors in advancing UNCAC: Debrief on the regional dialogues for academia, civil society organizations and youth</b> <b>Objective:</b> The 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCAC presents a unique opportunity to reflect on ways in which the role of non-state actors can advance anti-corruption goals. The session will provide participants with a chance to reflect on the outcome of the GRACE regional dialogues with non-state actors and on the recommendations that non-state actors wish to see reflected in the road map, which will be presented at CoSP10. <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ligia Maura Costa, Academic Rapporteur, School of Business Administration of São Paulo (Brazil)</li> <li>• Inaki Albisu, UNCAC Coalition, Regional Coordinator for Latin America (Argentina)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parnneh Mallobe, Youth Rapporteur, UNODC YouthLed Integrity Advisory Board Member (Liberia)</li> <li>• Oana Borcan, Associate Professor, University of East Anglia (United Kingdom)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Bianca Kopp, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC</p>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Corruption and organized crime</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> This session will provide an overview of recent academic analysis on the nexus between organized crime and corruption. Moreover, it will provide insights based on a real-life case into how academic thinking can have a practical impact on transnational organized crime and operations.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexandre Kukhianidze, Tbilisi State University (Georgia)</li> <li>• Thulisile Brenda Njoko, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)</li> <li>• Soh Kee Hean, University of Social Sciences (Singapore)</li> <li>• Prof. Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua, University of Ghana (Ghana)</li> <li>• Luz Nagle, Stetson University College of Law (United States of America)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Stefanie Holling, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC</p>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Corruption and data: How does data tell a corruption story?</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> This session will discuss recent trends, good practices and innovative approaches to collecting data and statistics about corruption based on comprehensive, scientific and evidence-based methods and findings when it comes to measuring corruption. The session will also reflect on the challenges associated with collecting and using such data, and the potential and limitations of such data for academic and policymaking purposes.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Todor Galev, Center for the Study of Democracy (Bulgaria)</li> <li>• Yuliya Zabyelina, University of Alabama (United States of America)</li> <li>• Jean Patrick-Villeneuve, Università della Svizzera Italiana (Switzerland)</li> <li>• Maya Dalton, Wake Forest University (United States of America)</li> <li>• Juliet S. Sorensen, Northwestern University (United States of America)</li> <li>• Anjali Nayar, Founder and CEO, TIMBY (Canada, United States of America)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Angela Me, Chief, Research and Trend Analysis Branch, UNODC</p>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:00 – 17:30</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Corruption in the health care system</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> This session will provide a selection of empirical and academic studies focused on health care, and how such findings can contribute to the future prevention of corruption in health-care settings.</p>

	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ligia Maura Costa, School of Business Administration of São Paulo (Brazil)</li> <li>• Solomon I. Ifejika, Landmark University (Nigeria)</li> <li>• Zdravko Veljanov, Central European University (Austria)</li> <li>• Daniela Cepeda Cuadrado, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (Norway)</li> <li>• Hady Fink, Partnership for Transparency (Germany)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Tim Steele, Chief, Field Support Section, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC</p>
<b>17:30 – 17:45</b>	<b>Wrap-up of day 1</b>
<b>Day 2, Conference Room: Seattle (A302)</b>	
<b>08:30 – 09:00</b>	Registration
<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	<p><b>Session 5: Using technological innovation and AI in anti-corruption: Latest developments, opportunities and risks</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> This session will be an opportunity to learn about key AI and technological initiatives which prevent and reduce corruption, in a range of regional contexts and sectors (gender focus, corruption at the border, whistleblowing), while also showcasing research on risks associated with AI from a corruption angle.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ina Kubbe, Tel Aviv University, (Israel)</li> <li>• Leonardo Borlini, Bocconi University (Italy)</li> <li>• Daniel Malan, Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)</li> <li>• Anga Timilsina, UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence (Singapore)</li> <li>• Kesang Wangmo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (Bhutan)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Jennifer Sarvary-Bradford, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC</p>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	Coffee break
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<p><b>Session 6: Corruption and education: How do academics meaningfully evaluate and measure the impact of anti-corruption education in education settings</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> This session will present recent findings from anti-corruption studies or empirical methods (randomized control trials) that have been conducted in education settings. The session will also kick-start a dialogue on the methodologies used when evaluating the impact of anti-corruption measures, including challenges, gaps and limitations that academics encounter in doing so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marianne Irene Camerer, Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town (South Africa)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Penas, University of Buenos Aires (Argentina)</li> <li>• Oana Borcan, University of East Anglia (United Kingdom)</li> <li>• Enyonam Kudonoo, Ashesi University (Ghana)</li> <li>• Oleksii Makarenkov, Zaporizhzhia National University Law School (Ukraine)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Bianca Kopp, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC</p>
<b>12:30 – 12:40</b>	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p>Jason Reichelt, Officer-in-Charge, Thematic Support Section, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC</p>