



## **BRICS Cooperation in Anti-Corruption Education, Knowledge-Sharing and Capacity-Building:**

### **Achievements and Way Forward**

#### ***Context***

Anti-corruption education plays a crucial role in preventing and combating corruption effectively. It raises awareness of the existence, causes and gravity of corruption and the legal framework to counter it, promotes ethical values and the principles of integrity, encourages the active participation of society in the fight against corruption and contributes to the overall effort to create the environment of non-tolerance of corruption.

Multiple provisions of the [United Nations Convention against Corruption](#) (UNCAC) are focused on anti-corruption awareness-raising, education and professional training targeted at public officials and specialized staff of anti-corruption bodies. The [political declaration](#) of the United Nations General Assembly special session against corruption also pays particular attention to this subject. In the document, the UN Member States, in particular, committed to strengthening their efforts to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption education, facilitate anti-corruption research and implement teaching and learning programmes with elements of integrity at all levels of education, in accordance with their domestic education systems.

A number of resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC (CoSP) encourage further progress and provide additional instruments for strengthening international cooperation in this regard. In particular, [resolution 9/8](#) on promoting anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training co-sponsored by BRICS countries and adopted by the CoSP in its 9th session in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 17 December 2021, encourages the States parties to promote ethics and integrity to be at the forefront of training in all professions, develop interactive remote educational technologies, support specialised initiatives aimed at facilitating research and connecting scholars and academic and research institutions, consider participating in cooperation and exchange at the national, regional and international levels and share best practices for enhancing anti-corruption education and law enforcement capacities.

At the same time, countries across continents continue to experience such difficulties as relatively little attention to anti-corruption education programmes, lack of a culture of integrity in some parts of the public sector and frequent failure of business ethics. The hurdles hampering countries' capacities in this area may include insufficient resources and capacities, as well as outdated approaches to the constantly evolving challenges posed by corruption.

## ***BRICS action and achievements***

Provision of mutual support and exchange of experience and good practices among countries can be instrumental in overcoming these obstacles. This is why anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training has been high on the BRICS agenda for several years, which is highlighted in leaders' Declarations<sup>1</sup>, [BRICS Anti-Corruption Ministerial Communiqué](#), BRICS Initiative on Denial of Safe Haven to Corruption and the document "Enhanced Anti-Corruption Cooperation and Recovery and Return of Assets and Proceeds of Corruption: BRICS Common Vision and Joint Action". Consequently, BRICS have committed to implementing joint education and training programmes, and enhancing the skills and expertise of anti-corruption practitioners and educators.

Over the years, BRICS have implemented a number of successful projects. These include the BRICS edition of the [international youth competition](#) of social advertising *Together against Corruption!* with the participation of over 20,000 people whose entries (posters and video spots) were exhibited on the sidelines of the 8th CoSP session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 16 to 20 December 2019. That same year, experts and university lectures from the BRICS countries took part in the Second Anti-Corruption Academic Symposium in Moscow, held by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

In 2020, based on the recommendations of the BRICS virtual round table on anti-corruption education and training, the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) formulated a set of recommendations on how the BRICS countries could step up their effort in the field both individually and collectively in the [Outline Paper on Prospects of the BRICS Cooperation in Anti-Corruption Education](#). Following this document and in accordance with the priorities of the BRICS rotating Presidencies, the ACWG enhanced its activities in the field: a virtual education series on the use of information and communication technologies and technological transformation to counter corruption and a training for university educators were held in 2021 followed a year later by a virtual workshop on anti-corruption and economic development; in 2023, a virtual round table and a workshop on gender and corruption, as well as an in-person training in Vienna on corruption prevention in the public sector were organised in cooperation with UNODC.

In 2024, the ACWG held a special event on anti-corruption education, training and youth empowerment to further share their expertise and get better acquainted with the UNODC tools to enhance countries' capabilities. That was also an opportunity to provide the ACWG with guidance in drafting the present document based on the aforementioned Outline Paper on Prospects of the BRICS Cooperation in Anti-Corruption Education by enriching it with new ideas and cutting-edge experiences. Additionally, a BRICS special event on asset recovery and international cooperation under the UN Convention against Corruption and a BRICS Conference on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption targeted at practitioners and relevant stakeholders were held to share knowledge and build professional capacities.

### ***Way forward***

Drawing on this legacy and striving to make progress in enhancing cooperation among the BRICS countries in support of their domestic effort, the ACWG with its membership enlarged in 2024 formulates a set of following recommendations to be implemented voluntarily and without prejudice to the priorities of rotating BRICS Presidencies:

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<sup>1</sup> 2021 New Delhi Declaration, 2022 Beijing Declaration and 2023 Johannesburg Declaration.

- Continue organising, on a regular basis, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives for target groups (policymakers, anti-corruption practitioners, educators etc.) from the member countries on different aspects of the prevention of and fight against corruption, as well as anti-corruption education at all levels (primary, secondary and tertiary) and professional training;
- Promote the exchange of best practices and materials on anti-corruption awareness-raising of both the general public and specific target groups among BRICS countries' anti-corruption bodies and other stakeholders with a view to setting up targeted and up-to-date anti-corruption and accountability policies and campaigns;
- Support other BRICS countries' anti-corruption awareness-raising projects<sup>2</sup>;
- Consider promoting joint anti-corruption initiatives for the young people, exchange programmes for university students and educators specializing in anti-corruption;
- Continue cooperating with UNODC on joint knowledge-sharing and capacity-building projects, in particular, under the auspices of its [Global Resource on Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment](#);
- Support the development of e-learning tools provided free of charge to anti-corruption educators, practitioners, other target groups and the general public on different aspects of the prevention of and fight against corruption;
- Consider organising joint special events to promote and raise awareness about the BRICS countries' good practices and achievements in the prevention of and fight against corruption, as well as their joint action in the field;
- Promote anti-corruption research focused on the BRICS countries and exchanges among national scholars, as well as the establishment of joint research teams, as appropriate;
- Consider creating a BRICS resource platform containing deliverables of the ACWG, materials of knowledge-sharing and expert events, and other relevant information, as may be appropriate, to raise awareness about the BRICS approaches to major issues on the international anti-corruption agenda and action in the field.

*Without prejudice to the priorities of rotating BRICS Presidencies the ACWG will periodically update the present document, including the set of recommendations, to track the progress made by the BRICS countries and define new lines of joint action in anti-corruption education, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.*

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<sup>2</sup>Such as the international youth competition *Together against Corruption!*