

Permanent Mission of Austria
to the United Nations in New York

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**68th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly**

Agenda Item 171

**Request for Observer Status for the International Anti-Corruption
Academy in the General Assembly**

**Statement by
Catherine Quidenus
Representative of Austria**

New York, 16 October 2013

Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to introduce draft resolution A/C.6/67/L.6 on Observer status for the International Anti-Corruption Academy in the General Assembly. Austria introduces the resolution in the name of a considerable number of delegations and we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all co-sponsors. In addition to the ones listed on the L document, the following member states have indicated their wish to join as co-sponsors: Finland, Jordan, Pakistan and Spain.

We would also like to draw your attention to the explanatory memorandum on this request submitted by Austria which is annexed to document A/68/144.

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to briefly outline the mandate of the International Anti-Corruption Academy: Its purpose is to promote the effective and efficient prevention and combating of corruption by providing anti-corruption education and professional training, undertaking and facilitating research into all aspects of corruption, providing other relevant forms of technical assistance in the fight against corruption and fostering international cooperation and networking. The activities of the Academy observe the principle of academic freedom, meet the highest academic and professional standards and address the phenomenon of corruption in a comprehensive and interdisciplinary way, taking due account of cultural diversity, gender equality and recent developments in the field of corruption at the global and regional levels.

Mr. Chair,

According to decision 49/426 of the General Assembly, the granting of observer status in the Assembly is “confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly”.

The International Anti-Corruption Academy is an international organization. In accordance with the Agreement for the Establishment of the Academy as an International Organization, membership is open to all Members of the United Nations and international organizations. So far, the Academy has 53 Signatories and 49 Parties, from all regions.

Furthermore, the activities of the International Anti-Corruption Academy cover matters which are of real interest to UN member states and the General Assembly, given that the objectives of the General Assembly and the Academy in the fight against corruption are complementary. By advancing the goals of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, promoting the rule of law and providing support and technical assistance in translating anti-corruption efforts into reality, the Academy contributes to the activities of the United Nations. Furthermore, the promotion of the Academy through the United Nations system can foster broader dissemination of the knowledge gained and the activities offered by the Academy.

Mr. Chair,

Granting observer status to the International Anti-Corruption Academy would therefore further foster the mutually beneficial institutional dialogue between the United Nations and the Academy.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.