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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Thematic discussion on promoting international
cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and
address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in
all its forms and manifestations and other forms of
crime, including in the areas of extradition, mutual
legal assistance and asset recovery**

Statement submitted by the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following paper, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* [E/CN.15/2024/1](#).

** Issued without formal editing.



This written statement is submitted by the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC) in support of the 33rd Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), and in particular is submitted in support of document E/CN.15/2024/1 (Annotated Provisional Agenda for the 33rd Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice), and specifically in relation to Agenda Item 5, being the *“Thematic discussion on promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and other forms of crime, including in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery.”*

Without the concerted efforts of the international community, corrupt actors will continue to escape punishment for their actions and will be emboldened to commit corrupt acts on a larger and larger scale. In turn, this will further rob communities of the resources that should be spent on public services, social safety nets, and much needed infrastructure projects or improvements, further enriching corrupt individuals at the public’s expense.

In this regard, since the closing of the 32nd Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ROLACC has implemented or expanded a number of key projects designed to promote international cooperation and technical assistance, particularly in the field of corruption prevention and cybercrime prevention. Specifically,

- 1) The design, funding, and delivery of a **Cybercrime and Cybersecurity Training Workshop series** in the Republic of the Gambia. The first iteration of this series was delivered in Banjul in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Gambia, and was opened by His Excellency Dr Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Gambia.

The training was delivered to over 50 public officials holding relevant positions from The Gambia, and included experts from ROLACC and the United Nations, and also the Director of Cybersecurity of the Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy of the Republic of the Gambia, as well as representatives from the private sector.

The four-day workshop covered a variety of general and specialist topics, including Cybersecurity and Cyber Crime in the context of The Gambia, The UN PoA on Cybersecurity, Present Issues and Challenges in the Digital Transformation Economy Era, Risk Management, Legal Aspects of Cybercrime, Social Engineering and Network Protection, Monitoring and Threat Intelligence, and Compliance and Regulatory Alignment, among others.

The purpose of this workshop was to provide technical assistance on cybercrime related issues in order to reduce the risk to public entities in the Gambia. The next iteration of this workshop series is scheduled for the third quarter of 2024.

- 2) The design, funding, and delivery of a **Training Workshop series on Right to Information and Freedom of Information laws**. This series, delivered in partnership with the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority of the State of Qatar (ACTA), comprises of five 3-day workshops delivered by experts from ROLACC, UNODC, and ACTA to public employees from various ministries in the State of Qatar.

The workshops cover a variety of issues related to the right to information and freedom of information, including International Approaches to Right to Information, Procedures for Obtaining Information, The Importance of Right to Information in relation to International Indicators, and the United Nations Guiding Principles on the Disclosure of Information, among others.

Two iterations of this workshop series have already been delivered, and a further three are scheduled to take place before the end of 2024.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide public officials with the most current skills and information required to ensure that the right to information is upheld for all members of the public, thereby enhancing civil society oversight of public services and entities and reducing the risk of corruption.

- 3) The funding and delivery of the **International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award**. This yearly award showcases the work of the world's most influential and inspirational anti-corruption fighters and has since 2016 introduced and celebrated the work of over 50 winners in 5 categories to a global audience.

In addition, the Award provides funding for winners to improve and expand their anti-corruption projects or implement new projects and initiatives.

- 4) In order to increase cooperation between winners on an international level, and to encourage joint initiatives and projects in the field of anti-corruption, ROLACC have also inaugurated the **International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award Winners Network**, which had its first meeting in December 2023 on the margins of the Award ceremony. This network brings together all winners for the first time in the Award's history to collaborate, share knowledge and experience, and further strengthen and promote the anti-corruption ideals of the Award.

The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center stands ready to assist any public or private entity seeking to strengthen their anti-corruption capacity and will continue to work at the regional and international level to promote cooperation between public bodies and law enforcement agencies, and to deliver anti-corruption related education, innovation, and technical assistance wherever it is needed.
