

## Outcome report

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Forum for Associations of Prosecutors – Accountability and Ethical Standards in Prosecution

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The main goal of the 3rd Global Forum for Associations of Prosecutors was to identify how Associations of Prosecutors can contribute most effectively to the strengthening of prosecutors' accountability and the implementation of ethical standards of prosecution service. The conference gathered some 100 representatives of prosecutors' associations from Austria, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland and Serbia.

The Forum allowed exchange of practice and experiences from different countries regarding the role of prosecutors' associations in prosecutors' accountability, inter alia, in field of accountability in media, in resource management (human and financial resources), and social responsibility. Also, accountability was assessed as a barrier against undue influence and as a request for increasing prosecutors' capacities.

Having in mind that prosecutors have a monopoly over criminal accusation, and often over investigation, they are commonly seen as one who exercise power of the State in most directly way. Accountability gives to prosecutors' legitimacy of their activities. Regarding this, prosecutors are obliged to improve their accountability and to make it visible in a manner of democratic legitimacy. The Global Forum underlined the following important issues:

1. First, promotion of accountability should deal with **incitement of ethical values** in professional community, especially regarding impartiality and objectivity, as well as promotion and development of human rights standards. Ethical principles should include list of professional conduct. Accountability should also deal with take into consideration increasing anticorruption awareness. A prosecutor should deal with his own accountability and with accountability of the institution, to be capable to separate „rotten apples“.
2. Promotion of accountability should exclude policy of „shared accountability“ (with politics or other state bodies) and to **strengthen capacity of prosecutors and their Associations to make an barrier against undue influence**, including political influence. Regarding this, prosecutors should be capable of recognizing undue influence and to adopt moral values for condemning such influences. Institution building to prevent such an impact is of particular importance.
3. Also, it should include promotion of **capacity of being transparent**. Lack of transparency contributes to low accountability and negative perception. Prosecutors have to familiarize themselves with modern forms of media.
4. **Social responsibility of prosecutor's work** is directly linked with public confidence. Judiciary is extremely powerful in creating social changes. In democratic society prosecutors should be aware of this power and use it in accountable manner with high respect of human rights standards.
5. Lastly - **responsibility to strengthen capacity** in field of managing human and financial resources to allow individual prosecutors to live up to professional standards.

**The overall outcome** of Forum is a professional consensus on the need to develop international principles of prosecutors' accountability, drafted by the core team of IAP members and promoted within relevant regional organizations and bodies (i.e. Consultative Council of European Prosecutors).

Related to the future work of Global Forums for Prosecutors Associations it was agreed:

- to promote activities of associations through more organized work of special interest group meetings on IAP annual conferences;
- to ensure continuous work on prosecutors' associations' issues between global forums and annual conferences;
- to ensure proper representation of associations in IAP decision making bodies (Executive committee).