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# IBA Anti-Corruption Resolution

Adopted by the International Bar Association  
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## **International Bar Association**

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# IBA Anti-Corruption Resolution

WHEREAS corruption of public officials is one of the greatest threats to the rule of law and to the values and benefits that the rule of law represents;

WHEREAS the intellectual and economic case demonstrating the potentially debilitating effects of official corruption has been repeatedly made and documented;

WHEREAS corruption in government decision-making can fundamentally distort government action, override the public interest, and make the legislative process a tool of special interests and self-dealing;

WHEREAS corruption in the judiciary can prevent fair and objective adjudication of private disputes and protection from abuses or infringement of rights by the state;

WHEREAS the economic costs of official corruption worldwide are staggering and estimated by the World Bank to exceed \$1 trillion a year;

WHEREAS official corruption deprives taxpayers of fair value for public goods and services and nullifies the competitive benefits of free markets;

WHEREAS there is a well-developed legal framework of international conventions, including the widely subscribed U.N. Convention against official corruption, that prohibits the payment of bribes for foreign government officials;

WHEREAS the absence of uniform implementation and enforcement of such international conventions, and an absence of political will to implement and enforce, remain significant impediments to the elimination of official corruption;

WHEREAS official corruption is sometimes reinforced by historical, cultural patterns, by public cynicism, and by an alliance of interests among the beneficiaries of official corruption;

WHEREAS there are now underway, within the IBA and its constituent countries, and through numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations systematic efforts to combat official corruption;

WHEREAS this resolution grows out of a 2006 Rule of Law Symposium co-sponsored by the International Bar Association that identified official corruption as a fundamental threat to the rule of law;

WHEREAS the Anti-Corruption Committee of the IBA has recommended a range of possible specific measures that the IBA should consider in actively opposing acceptance or tolerance of official corruption within the legal profession,

AND WHEREAS the International Bar Association recognizes that the legal profession and this organisation are well placed to support initiatives to combat official corruption around the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, the International Bar Association hereby resolves that,

- (1) the International Bar Association is institutionally committed actively to support the global fight against official corruption;
- (2) it believes that members of the legal profession have or should have a professional obligation to ensure integrity in transactions and client matters on which they provide counsel and advice;
- (3) it urges its member bar associations to ensure that all forms of corruption are effectively addressed within their professional rules and disciplinary mechanisms;
- (4) integrity within the bar and in the processes by which lawyers become qualified or licensed to practice law is itself of paramount importance;
- (5) education, training, and public outreach are essential elements of the fight against official corruption; and
- (6) the IBA should support its commitment to the policies expressed in this resolution with an appropriate commitment of IBA resources.