

UNODC'S ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK OVER THE LAST DECADE

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Until the 1990s, corruption was seen as a narrow national issue with limited impact. Since then, however, it has been increasingly recognized as a transnational problem. Corrupt officials hide their illicit proceeds of crime offshore; corrupt networks and organized crime groups operate together to lower the effectiveness of law enforcement and to facilitate illicit trade and contraband. In addition, corruption is always associated with inefficiency: it grows where institutions are not effective and exacerbates ineffectiveness, thus hampering the implementation of government policies, undermining sustainable development and weakening security and law enforcement bodies.

In the last decade of the 20th century and beginning of the 21st century, an unprecedented interest was developed in relation to good governance, effective government and public trust in institutions. Corruption as both a cause and consequence of weak public institutions and the declining trust in government became the focus of this international discourse. The concerns of the international community brought to life the United Nations Convention against Corruption: the sole global anti-corruption legal instrument to prevent and fight corruption. Since that time, there has been increasing recognition that corruption hampers sustainable development and can have serious consequences on the security of a country. This is reflected in the adoption of Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals which requires States to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”, through reducing illicit financial flows, strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets, substantially reducing bribery and corruption, and developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

I. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

A. UNCAC: The Global Anti-Corruption Legal Instrument

The importance of harmonizing the international efforts to prevent and fight corruption was recognized more than a decade before the actual adoption of the Convention. The road to the Convention was paved by the efforts of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme alongside the Centre for International Crime Prevention from 1989. Important milestones in this process include the adoption of resolution 7 on action against corruption by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; the development of the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials, adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 51/59 of 12 December 1996; and the adoption of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions on 16 December 1996 by General Assembly resolution 51/191. A key milestone in this process was the development and adoption of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000. The process of negotiation on UNTOC saw extensive debate on

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whether and how corruption should be included in the provisions of the Convention. While certain elements of corruption (including the criminalization of active and passive bribery of public officials, international public officials and foreign public officials) were included in the Organized Crime Convention, the complexity and importance of the challenges associated with corruption were seen as requiring the development and adoption of a new, comprehensive legal instrument.

This international consensus was formalized in the General Assembly resolution 55/61, which established the Ad Hoc Committee for Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption and provided for a process to be followed ensuring widest possible participation and involvement of Governments.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provided input in and facilitated the work of the Ad Hoc Committee in negotiating the Convention. The UN Convention against Corruption was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003. It was opened for signature on 9 December 2003 in Merida, Mexico (which was subsequently declared as International Anti-Corruption Day) and entered into force on 14 December 2005, 90 days after the date of deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification.

At the present time, UNCAC has 182 States parties and is close to becoming a universal instrument.

B. UNCAC Structure and Contents

The United Nations Convention against Corruption has 71 articles, structured in eight chapters. The “substantive corpus” of the Convention consists of four chapters—Chapter II (Preventive measures), Chapter III (Criminalization and law enforcement), Chapter IV (International cooperation) and Chapter V (Asset recovery).

It is often said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Indeed, relying only on *ex post facto* prosecution of corruption would be insufficient in environments where corruption is prevalent and where engaging in corrupt practices may be seen as an undesirable but unavoidable manner of conducting one’s business affairs. Even in societies with relatively low levels of corruption, neglecting prevention would mean that corruption is only stopped after it has already occurred—when the money has been stolen, the bribe has been given and accepted or when the damage to the treasury, public trust and society has already occurred.

Recognizing this, UNCAC devotes the entirety of chapter II to the prevention of corruption. The Convention requires States parties to introduce effective and coordinated anti-corruption policies and practices (art. 5); to designate or establish anti-corruption bodies with preventive functions (art. 6); to strengthen the integrity of the public administration by promoting measures such as merit-based career development (art. 7); and to adopt and enforce codes of conduct and systems requiring public officials to disclose their assets and interests (art. 8).

The Convention pays special attention to the risks of corruption in public procurement and management of public finances (art. 9). It recognizes that judicial and prosecutorial integrity is indispensable for the fight against corruption (art. 11). It also recognizes the importance of addressing corruption in the private sector (art. 12), promoting participation of society (art.13) and preventing money-laundering (art. 14).

In addition to prevention, UNCAC also pays due attention to the criminalization of specific corruption offences and to effective law enforcement. The Convention recognizes that corruption as a phenomenon has multiple societal and cultural dimensions which made it difficult for State parties to agree on a single definition of corruption. Instead, Chapter III formulates a number of specific offences which are to be criminalized, either on a mandatory or optional basis, by States parties. The harmonization of the international anti-corruption regime and of national criminal law definitions enables the Convention to act as a true legal instrument, making international cooperation predictable and reliable.

Under the Convention, States parties are obliged to criminalize the active and passive bribery of national public officials (art. 15); active bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations (art. 16, para. 1); embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion by a public official (art. 17); laundering of proceeds of crime (art. 23); obstruction of justice (art. 25); and the participation in any capacity such as an accomplice, assistant or instigator of an offence established in accordance with the Convention (art. 27, para. 1).

Optional offences, i.e. offences which the States parties shall consider criminalizing, but are not obliged to actually to do so, include the passive bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations (art. 16, para. 2); active and passive trading in influence (art. 18); abuse of functions (art. 19); illicit enrichment (art. 20); active and passive bribery in the private sector (art. 21); embezzlement of property in the private sector (art. 22); concealment (art. 24); and attempts to commit, or preparation for, an offence established in accordance with the Convention (art. 27, paras. 2 and 3).

The Convention includes an array of criminal justice and law enforcement measures in its Chapter III, which enable or facilitate the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption, international cooperation in corruption cases, and recovery of stolen assets. These provisions relate to the statute of limitations (art. 29), provisions relating to sanctions, prosecutions and adjudications (art. 30), freezing, seizing and confiscating assets (art. 31), and the protection of witnesses (art. 32) and reporting persons (art. 33). Article 36 requires States to have specialized law enforcement bodies with the necessary independence, training and resources to carry out their functions. Provisions address the need for offenders (art. 37), national authorities (art. 38) and the private sector (art. 39) to cooperate with law enforcement. UNCAC contains, in its Chapter IV, extensive provisions on international cooperation, including formal cooperation such as mutual legal assistance (art. 46) and extradition (art. 44), as well as informal cooperation between law enforcement bodies (art. 48). In this, UNCAC is completely compatible with and follows the tradition of the Organized Crime Convention, with a couple of improvements. Under the detailed provisions of this Chapter, UNCAC may serve as the legal basis for mutual legal assistance and extradition even between countries which are not a part of a bilateral or multilateral international cooperation or extradition agreement.

A new and truly ground-breaking feature of UNCAC is found in Chapter V which is devoted to the recovery of stolen assets. UNCAC states that the return of assets is a “fundamental principle” of the Convention and that States Parties shall afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance in that regard (art. 51). The Convention includes specific provisions on the measures and mechanisms for facilitating the repatriation of stolen assets derived to their country of origin. Chapter V also provides for mechanisms for direct recovery of property (art. 53) and a comprehensive framework for international cooperation (arts. 54-55) in confiscation matters.

II. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is an office of the United Nations and a part of the UN Secretariat. The office was established in 1997 through the merger of the UN Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention and just celebrated its 20th anniversary. Throughout its operation, UNODC has been on the forefront of international efforts to address transnational crime, including drug trafficking, corruption, organized crime, and terrorism. Its headquarters is in Vienna but the UNODC also maintains a network of field offices around the world including regional and country offices and two liaison offices.

UNODC is the custodian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and acts as the Secretariat to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and to its Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. UNODC also provides significant technical assistance to States parties to support the effective implementation of the Convention. UNODC anti-corruption activities focus on three main areas: research, normative work and technical assistance.

A. Research Work

Research is a key element of the anti-corruption work. To be effective, policymaking should be based on facts and extensive research is needed in order to accurately obtain those facts. It is of utmost importance to understand and resolve a problem to study its causes in depth and suggest meaningful responses. In addition, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption policies is only possible in the presence of clear baseline data and information on the changes introduced by the government policies that have been implemented.

Recognizing the importance of research, UNODC has developed, over the years, state-of-the-art methodologies for measuring bribery and corruption both in the general population and in the business sector. This methodology has been applied in a number of countries by national research institutions with active support by UNODC. UNODC works with other international organizations to constantly update and improve its research methodology. UNODC is currently working with UNDP to develop a guide on anti-corruption surveys. This work becomes especially important in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and in particular to measure the progress towards implementation of Goal 16 and its targets.

B. Normative Work: UNODC as a Secretariat

1. Conference of the States Parties

The Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC was established, pursuant to article 63 of the Convention, to improve the capacity of, and cooperation between, States Parties to achieve the objectives of the Convention, and to promote and review its implementation. It meets every two years. Its first session was held in Amman, Jordan in December 2006; the second in Bali, Indonesia, in January 2008; the third in Doha, Qatar, in November 2009; and the fourth session in Marrakech, Morocco, in October 2011. The fifth and the sixth sessions of the Conference took place in Panama in 2013 and in the Russian Federation in 2015, respectively. The seventh session of the Conference is scheduled for November 2017 in the UN Headquarters in Vienna.

2. Working Group on Prevention

The Conference of the States Parties to the Convention decided, in its resolution 3/2, to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to advise and assist it in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption. The Conference also decided that the Working Group should: (a) assist the Conference in developing and accumulating knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption; (b) facilitate the exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices; (c) facilitate the collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices in preventing corruption; and (d) assist the Conference in encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption. In its resolution 4/3, entitled “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, the Conference of the States Parties decided that the Working Group should continue its work to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption; and should further continue to perform the functions of an international observatory gathering existing information on good practices in preventing corruption, as well as provide information on lessons learned, the adaptability of good practices and related technical assistance activities.

Since its establishment in 2009, the Working Group on Prevention has held eight meetings during which its participants exchanged information and experiences, presented national actions against corruption, discussed specific substantive topics as well as the implementation of resolutions dealing with the prevention of corruption, and formulated recommendations to be presented to the Conference.

Through its workplans, the Working Group has sought to examine different topics under chapter II of the Convention. In recent years, topics discussed include education in schools and universities on anti-corruption efforts, the integrity in criminal justice institutions (8th session), the use of information and communications technologies to implement UNCAC, integrity in sports (7th session), measures to prevent money-laundering, integrity in public procurement processes and transparency and accountability in the management of public finances (6th session), mandates of anti-corruption bodies and public sector legislative and administrative measures – including measures to engage transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and, where applicable, the funding of political parties (5th session).

All of the submissions received by States, the reports prepared by the secretariat and presentations made during the meeting are available online on the website of the meeting and in the thematic compilation¹ of the Working Group.

3. Working Group on Asset Recovery

In its resolution 1/4, the Conference of the States Parties established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery. The objective of the Working Group is to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the return of proceeds of corruption. In the same resolution, the Conference defined the functions of the Working Group, such as assisting the Conference in developing cumulative knowledge in the area of asset recovery, particularly on the implementation of articles 52-58 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, through mechanisms for locating, freezing, seizing, confiscating and returning the instruments and proceeds of corruption; identifying capacity-building needs and encouraging cooperation among relevant existing bilateral and multilateral

¹ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/thematic-compilation-prevention.html>

initiatives; facilitating the exchange of information, good practices and ideas among States; and building confidence and encouraging cooperation between requesting and requested States. The Working Group has held 11 meetings since it was established.

4. Expert Meeting on International Cooperation

In resolution 4/2, entitled “Convening of open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation”, the Conference established the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings on international cooperation to advise and assist it with extradition and mutual legal assistance. In the same resolution, the Conference decided that the expert meetings shall: (a) assist it in developing cumulative knowledge in the area of international cooperation; (b) assist it in encouraging cooperation among relevant existing bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives and contribute to the implementation of the related provisions of the Convention under the guidance of the Conference; (c) facilitate the exchange of experiences among States by identifying challenges and disseminating information on good practices to be followed in order to strengthen capacities at the national level; (d) build confidence and encourage cooperation between requesting and requested States by bringing together relevant competent authorities, anti-corruption bodies and practitioners involved in mutual legal assistance and extradition; and (e) assist the Conference in identifying the capacity-building needs of States. The sixth meeting will be held during the Conference of the States Parties in November 2017.

5. Implementation Review Group (IRG)

At its third session in Doha in November 2009, the Conference adopted resolution 3/1 on the review of the implementation of the Convention. In that resolution, the Conference also adopted the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and established the Implementation Review Group – a special body which monitors the review process, identifies challenges and good practices, and considers technical assistance requirements in order to ensure effective implementation of the Convention.

The Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) is a peer review process that assists States parties to effectively implement the Convention. In accordance with the terms of reference, each State party is reviewed by two randomly selected peers.

The Mechanism provides the Conference of the States Parties with information on measures taken by States parties in implementing the Convention and the difficulties encountered by them in doing so, thus promoting international cooperation, and helps States parties identify the needs for technical assistance and promote and facilitate the provision of such assistance.

Since its establishment, 162 States parties have completed their implementation review – 60 States Parties have completed their reviews under the first Implementation Review Cycle (on the implementation of Chapters III and IV of the Convention) and two States have completed their reviews under the second cycle of the Implementation Review. 162 executive summaries were published on the UNODC’s IRG country profile website² and 75 States parties have agreed to also publish their full country reports.

² <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/country-profile/index.html>

6. Technical Assistance

Assisting States parties to effectively implement the Convention is a priority for UNODC. The provision of technical assistance is based on the principles of national ownership and builds on the outcomes of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism. Technical assistance is provided to enable countries to accede to the Convention; to prepare them to effectively carry out their functions in the context of the implementation review; to support them in implementing the recommendations stemming from the review and; to help them build legislative and institutional capacity to address, prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption, as well as engage in international cooperation and in asset recovery.

In line with Conference resolutions 3/4 and 4/1, technical assistance delivered by UNODC for the implementation of the Convention takes into account the importance of country-based and country-led, integrated and coordinated technical assistance delivery, and follows a three-tiered approach (global, regional and national) to ensure synergy and efficiency. In its resolution 6/1, the Conference underscored the importance of addressing the technical assistance priorities identified in the country reviews, and invited other technical assistance providers to consider those priorities when designing and implementing new technical assistance programmes or to incorporate them into ongoing programmes.

In the last years, UNODC has continued to follow up with technical assistance needs arising from the first review cycle covering chapters III (Criminalization and law enforcement) and IV (International cooperation) of the Convention. Since the start of the second cycle of reviews, a number of technical assistance needs have also been identified in relation to chapters II (Preventive measures) and V (Asset recovery). UNODC has often been requested to provide technical assistance before and during the review process in relation to both completing the review and addressing the substantive gaps or needs that have become apparent during the review process. In addition, UNODC responds to direct requests for technical assistance from countries.

UNODC strives to ensure a global presence that is able to effectively respond to technical assistance requests. UNODC's network of field-based anti-corruption advisers provides technical assistance at the regional and country levels. The advisers provide rapidly deployable professional expertise to States parties as well as at regional levels and are supported in their work by the UNODC Headquarters staff. Anti-corruption advisers play an important role in strengthening regional coordination, encouraging South-South cooperation, and facilitating the exchange of good practices.

Currently, regional advisers are based in Fiji (for the Pacific), Thailand (one advisor for South-East Asia and a second one for South Asia), Senegal (for West and Central Africa) and Panama (for Central America and the Caribbean). A senior global adviser is based in Vienna and national advisers are based in El Salvador, Guyana and Qatar.

UNODC field offices, with support from headquarters, implement national anti-corruption projects in Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Panama, Paraguay and Timor-Leste.

UNODC supports countries which offer targeted awareness-raising and advocacy at both the political and legislative levels through detailed briefings, workshops, sample documentation and advice on the process of depositing the instruments of accession to the Convention as well as pre-ratification workshops to help with the process of UNCAC accession.

Of the nine countries that ratified or acceded to the Convention since September 2013, five were assisted by UNODC with the pre-ratification process and/or immediately after ratification³. Sample documentation and advice on the process of depositing their instruments of accession to the Convention were provided to Oman, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan. The demand for technical assistance from states parties is increasing. UNODC has adopted a prioritized and strategic approach to address the different requests, seeking to coordinate and cooperate with other assistance providers and international organizations.

Assistance is provided to develop or amend national anti-corruption policies or strategies, to develop new or amend legislation, to establish new anti-corruption bodies and to build the capacity for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Issues of particular interest for States parties include development of anti-corruption strategies, development of laws which protect witnesses and reporting persons, capacity development of law enforcement bodies and corruption risk assessment.

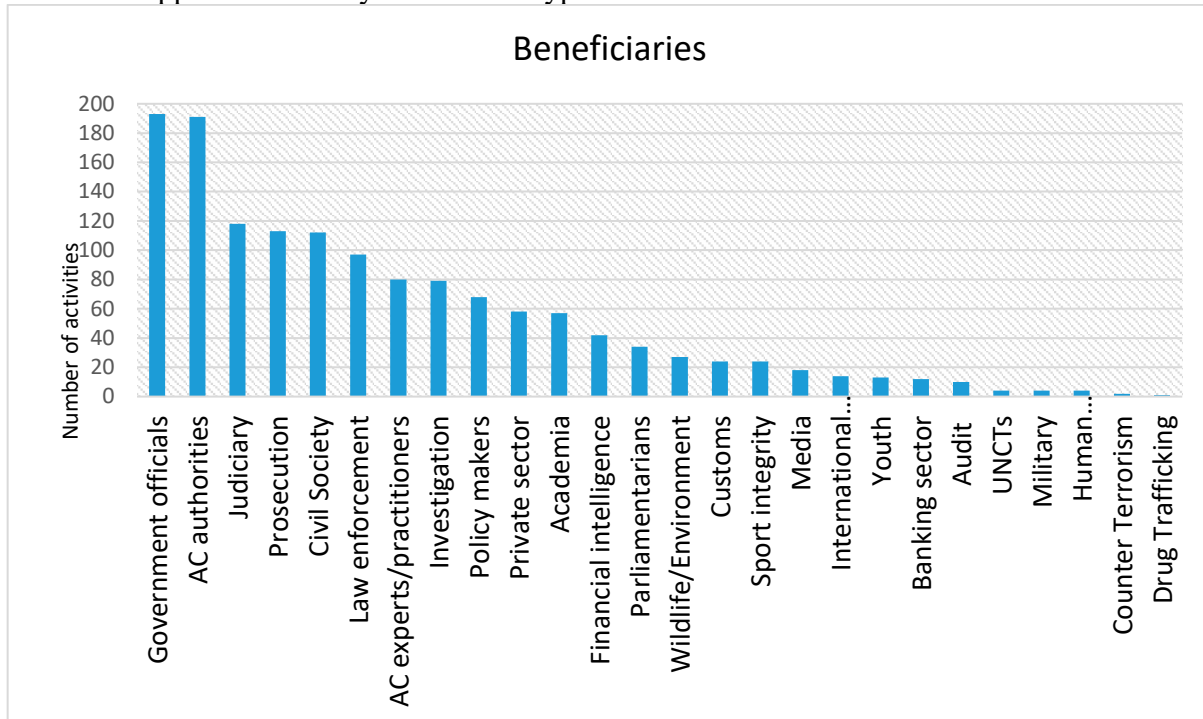
UNODC provided assistance to national institutions to strengthen their capacities to trace, seize, freeze, confiscate and return the proceeds of corruption, mainly through the joint UNODC-World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative. StAR supports asset recovery efforts through a number of different measures including; country engagements, policy advice, partnerships with States and other stakeholders, knowledge and innovation initiatives, and advocacy. In an African country for example, StAR worked to support a strategy session for judges and prosecutors on the effective application of non-conviction based forfeiture legislation. Furthermore, over the past two years, StAR has provided a number of countries with legal assistance in the development or amendment of asset forfeiture laws, including several countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Overall, from January 2016 to June 2017, UNODC provided assistance to 83 States parties and trained over 6,000 practitioners.

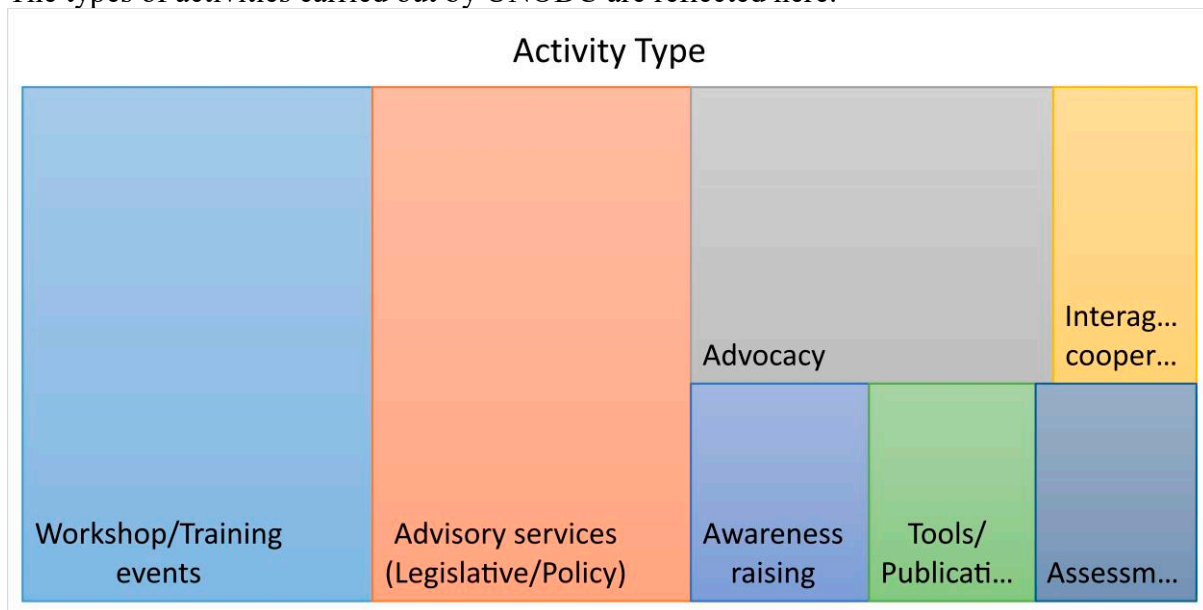


³ Grenada, Kiribati, Oman, South Sudan and the State of Palestine. In the case of Kiribati, detailed briefings were provided to a range of government stakeholders, and workshops were delivered for senior government officials and for members of parliament.

UNODC supported a variety of different types of beneficiaries:



The types of activities carried out by UNODC are reflected here:



III. EMERGING TOPICS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK

A. Education

UNODC continues to support anti-corruption education initiatives and the implementation of article 13 (1) (c) of the Convention through two major education initiatives: the Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) initiative and the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative. ACAD is a UNODC-led collaborative academic initiative, which brings together academics, international organizations and Governments to promote anti-corruption education in universities worldwide. To date, ACAD has actively involved over 400 universities in its activities and has produced a comprehensive anti-corruption educational tool, the ACAD Menu

of Resources, containing over 1,800 articles, publications and research papers related to corruption that can be used by universities in their existing programmes. A key resource associated with ACAD is the model university course on the Convention which UNODC has developed and made available online for free in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish.⁴ The Russian language version will soon become available.

The second major education project launched by UNODC is the Education for Justice (E4J) initiative which is part of the Global Programme to Promote the Implementation of the Doha Declaration. The E4J initiative is aimed at building a culture of lawfulness among children and youth through the provision of age-appropriate educational materials on topics related to criminal justice and crime prevention, including anti-corruption, and the integration of those materials into the curricula of primary, secondary and tertiary education levels.

At the primary level, E4J focuses on promoting and teaching values such as acceptance, integrity, respect and fairness. As part of activities at the secondary level, E4J is currently supporting the upgrading of a mobile phone applications and works with civil society organizations and research or academic institutes to develop non-electronic educational games, including in the area of anti-corruption.

E4J addresses tertiary education by developing modules and materials that would support academics in their teaching and research activities related to UNODC mandate areas, including corruption, integrity and ethics.

B. Corruption in the Private Sector

Since 2008 UNODC has been building the capacity of the private sector to engage in anti-corruption activities at both national and global level. UNODC is working to reduce opportunities for corruption by enhancing public-private sector dialogue, improving governmental anti-corruption frameworks and legislation, and creating a culture of integrity in the private sector. UNODC worked closely with a number of private sector organizations and entities, including the Business-20 (B20), the G20's dialogue with the private sector, and the World Economic Forum

The interactive e-learning tool for the private sector, entitled "The fight against corruption" is now available in 24 languages. The tool was developed jointly by UNODC and the United Nations Global Compact to enhance the understanding by the private sector of the Convention and the Global Compact's tenth principle against corruption. To date, more than 225,000 users have taken the course and more than 40,000 users have successfully passed the end-of-course assessment and obtained the course certificate

C. Wildlife

Wildlife and forest crime is a serious and growing problem, posing a significant threat to the environment and negatively impacting economic and social development, security and governance. Illicit trade in poached wildlife enriches the organized crime groups and increases the threat associated with them. Corruption is often used to facilitate poaching, smuggling and trafficking and there are clear links between wildlife crime and fraud and money laundering. This has stimulated governments and international organizations to seek ways to strengthen the integrity in the wildlife law enforcement agencies, border guards, customs and all relevant

⁴ <http://www.track.unodc.org/Education/Pages/ACAD.aspx>

stakeholders and to ensure that, where corruption has been used to facilitate wildlife crime, it is detected, investigated and prosecuted.

UNODC provides assistance to a number of countries in Latin America, Africa and South East Asia to identify and address corruption risks in wildlife agencies and in border security and to build capacity to investigate and prosecution corrupt acts linked to wildlife crime.

This issue has also been addressed in a number of internal fora. The Conference of the Parties to the Conference on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora adopted resolution 17/6 on “Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention”. The G20 under the German presidency adopted the *G20 High Level Principles on Combatting Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products* in June 2017. The General Assembly recently adopted a resolution in its 71st session entitled “Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife” which calls for specific action to be taken to prevent and counter corruption linked to wildlife trafficking.

D. Customs/Borders

Corruption in customs is a threat to both the economic development and for the security of the affected countries. Inefficient and corrupt customs services are unable to ensure the equal treatment of importers and exporters in paying excise and customs duties and are likely to fail in stopping illicit contraband and trafficking in drugs, firearms and wildlife.

UNODC actively supports specific anti-corruption initiatives in customs and promotes the use of targeted corruption risk assessments, by assisting States parties to identify actual corruption risks and scenarios, develop plans for addressing these risks and consequently implement these plans.

UNODC actively cooperates to promote integrity in customs also through programmes such as the Container Control Programme, a joint initiative of UNODC and the World Customs Organization. Some of these measures include the development, introduction and implementation of conflict of interest regulations, measures to increase transparency of customs services, strengthening whistle-blower protection, as well as developing and introducing strong control environment with proper oversight and accountability measures.

E. Sports

The world of sports has gone through dramatic evolution resulting in many challenges and opportunities. Factors such as increasing professionalization and expansion of scope of the sports industry, to include extensive development of online betting markets combined with a diverse and multifaceted approach to regulation and governance of sports organizations, has resulted in many benefits and opportunities.

However, a major downside is that some of the associated risks of this evolution for sports organizations and associated stakeholders have not been adequately assessed or mitigated. As has been pointed out in the past and borne out by recent scandals, at a broader institutional level, sports organizations are responding in a reactive manner to threats such as corruption and involvement of complex international criminal activity. Added to this have been concerns about the legacy of major sport events.

Competition manipulation in particular has become an increasing area of concern given the links with organized crime and illegal betting and the illicit profits that can be generated for those engaged in this activity. The scale of illegal betting is estimated at being \$500 billion and is a growing international problem associated with the rise of online betting sites. The attraction for organized crime is obvious, with one study in 2014 estimating that \$140 billion had been laundered via sports betting.

Corruption is a facilitator for those looking to organize and benefit from competition manipulation in sport. However, many countries and sports organizations are generally ill-equipped to understand and adequately respond to these threats.

By combatting corruption in sport and competition manipulation, in particular by supporting agencies tasked with overseeing and enforcing rules in sports, opportunities for those seeking to benefit from corruption and manipulate sport competitions are reduced and resources are better used for the purposes intended.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) signed a memorandum of understanding in 2011 and has since developed an excellent working relationship. This productive partnership has led to the development of two publications related to the manipulation of sports competitions, namely the UNODC-IOC booklet and study on Model Criminal Law Provisions for the Prosecution of Competition. UNODC and IOC further cooperated during the development of the Resource Guide on Good Practices for the Investigation of Match-Fixing, the UK's Anti-Corruption Summit in April 2016 and the INTERPOL-IOC workshop on combatting crimes in sport, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2016. Further to this, UNODC and IOC helped to establish and launch the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport in June 2017.

F. Cities and Local Government

The rise in urbanization throughout the world brings unprecedented challenges associated with corruption. The growth of the large cities, the provision of services, the booming construction and associated issuance of permits and licenses, the insecurity and organized crime often result in a rise of corruption.

Trust in local government is in decline, reflecting the overall trend of declining trust in government in large parts of the world.

To address corruption in local government and in urban settings, UNODC actively engages with partners such as UN Habitat to promote the anti-corruption work in sub-national level. UNODC country offices are also paying close attention to the issue; a recent publication on Municipal Transparency by the UNODC Office in Bolivia focuses on the corruption risks and transparency and integrity frameworks in local government.

G. Violent Extremism and Corruption

Just like corruption, radicalization is not any more a narrow national problem. Extremist groups use anti-corruption rhetoric in their recruiting material; and extremists are increasingly quoting their frustration with corruption as a driving force for radicalization. Terrorist groups also employ corruption in order to facilitate their activities and to avoid detection. UNODC has begun research and on the ground work to explore whether strengthened state responses to actual or perceived corruption at the community level can reduce the propensity of youth to radicalize and is also looking at corruption in the security sector.

H. Corruption Risk Assessments

Effective prevention of corruption is only possible where the organizations correctly identify the relevant corruption risks and design and implement proper mitigation plans to address the risks identified. However, most corruption risk management methodologies developed in the recent years require a level of sophistication which is often lacking in the public administration of a country with systemic corruption problems.

To assist the States parties in identifying, prioritizing and addressing corruption risks at the organizational level, UNODC has developed a methodology, which is simple, quick and inexpensive. This methodology has already been applied in a number of different governmental institutions and countries and has brought about measurable results, identifying existing corruption schemes and helping to reduce the annual procurement budget of organizations by up to 50 per cent.

The last 10 years saw a dramatic increase in the interest of UN Member States towards the prevention and fight against corruption. This unprecedented attention to the issue brought the number of the UNCAC States parties to 182. The impact of corruption on sustainable development has also been explicitly recognized in goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals and one can further argue that preventing and fighting corruption is key to the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda.

UNODC, in its normative, research and technical assistance work, actively supported this process. The Office continues to assist States parties to effectively implement the Convention – and the ever growing number of technical assistance requests underscore the value that States parties assign to this support.

The second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, focusing on the issues of prevention of corruption and recovery of stolen assets will present both a challenge and opportunity. Technical assistance providers, donors and anti-corruption practitioners should be prepared to meet the growing demand for practical, measurable responses to corruption at country and organizational level. In this, UNODC remains at the forefront of the anti-corruption work worldwide.