

THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY ISRAEL

ARTICLE 6 UNCAC

PREVENTIVE ANTI-CORRUPTION BODY OR BODIES

ISRAEL (THIRD MEETING)

Raising awareness to the existing and developing anti-corruption policies and practices is crucial to the fight against corruption as much as the policies and practices themselves. The State of Israel has taken, *inter alia*, the following measures for raising awareness with reference to the provisions of Article 5 UNCAC: ***Knesset (Parliament) Deliberations***: As a general matter and according to custom, Knesset deliberations, both in the plenum and in the separate committees, are open to public viewing, subject to certain limitations. The television "Knesset Channel" provides live ongoing coverage of deliberations, and in many cases representatives of a wide variety of public organizations, as well as private citizens, are invited to attend the deliberations in the various Knesset committees.

The Civil Service Regulations: This collection of regulations and orders applicable to the Civil Service (referred to herein as the "**Takshir**") includes, *inter alia*, prohibitions on gaining personal benefit from public positions and on operating in conflicts of interest. The Takshir is published on the Civil Service Commission's website. The **Civil Service Law (Discipline), 1963** grants the Civil Service Commissioner the authority to penalize public officials for any violation of the Takshir, and the **Encouragement of Public Morality in Public Service Law, 1992**, provides the framework for encouraging public officials to report acts of corruption in the public administration. **Both these statutes are publicly available.**

The State Comptroller Website: The State Comptroller's role is to ensure that the executive branch of the State acts in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and moral integrity. The State Comptroller's Website focuses on the State Comptroller's review of the activities of the executive branch. This reviewing function is defined in the **Basic Law: The State Comptroller** and is further described in Part B of this document. The website includes a Complaint Form section, containing an explanation of the complaint process and how a complaint can be filed. The State Comptroller's Reports are published annually through the media and online.

Anti-Corruption Website: A website dedicated to the combat against corruption is currently available in both Hebrew and English through the homepage of the Ministry of Justice. The anti-corruption website, which is updated on a regular basis, provides relevant information about corruption fighting methods and transparency measures, and includes reference to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Efforts are being

made to incorporate hyperlinks to this website in the websites of a wide variety of public and private organizations. The address of the anti-corruption website is www.corruption.justice.gov.il.

Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Brochure: The Ministry of Justice has widely distributed, within the public and private sectors, an informational brochure concerning Israel's domestic and international efforts to combat corruption. The brochure, which refers, *inter alia*, to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, is intended to be a useful tool for the dissemination of information about anti-corruption efforts. The brochure also includes avenues for reporting suspicions of corruption-related offences and obtaining more information regarding the prevention of corruption. The brochure is available in Hebrew and English.

Media Campaign: The Ministry of Justice, on several occasions over the last few years, has issued press releases to major Israeli newspapers and news websites regarding the overall aims of Israel's international efforts in relation to the struggle against corruption.

Tax Authority Circular: The Israel Tax Authority issued, in January 2011, a Circular entitled "The Prohibition of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials", reflecting the amendment of **Article 32 of the Income Tax Ordinance**, which established the nondeductibility of payments made "in violation of any law" (and which was enacted on 16 November 2009). The Circular was published on the Israel Tax Authority's website, and was distributed to all tax inspectors.