# STATE OF ISRAEL

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**Response of the State of Israel**

**Information requested from States parties and signatories in relation to the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in order to facilitate public sector transparency and combat corruption and the protection of integrity in sport by promoting good governance in sport and mitigating the risk of corruption that sport faces**
**(Reference: CU 2016/70(A)/DTA/CEB)**

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**July 2016**

***I - Information requested from States parties and signatories in relation to the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention in order to facilitate public sector transparency and combat corruption.***

*1. Please describe (cite and summarize) the measures/steps your country has taken, if any (or is planning to take, together with the related appropriate time frame) to use information and communication technologies (ICT) to ensure full compliance with the Convention.*

   *In relation to integrity in public procurement and management of public finances (article 9), States parties and signatories may wish to provide information on measures that:*

   • *Utilize online platforms for the distribution of information relating to public procurement and tenders as a way to prevent corruption, enhance transparency and ensure competition and objective criteria in procurement decision-making.*

   ***When providing information on the use of ICT to increase the transparency of procurement processes, States parties and signatories may wish to refer to their submissions for the sixth intersessional meeting of the Working Group, held in 2015.***

Israel utilizes a number of online platforms and ICT tools to ensure the integrity of public procurement and management of public finances. These technological tools are aimed at preventing corruption, enhancing transparency and ensuring competition, in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention.

As outlined in Israel's submission for the sixth inter-sessional meeting of the Working Group, held in 2015, Israel's national procurement system uses public tenders, pursuant to the **Mandatory Tenders Law, 1992** (the "Tenders Law") and the **Mandatory Tenders Regulations, 1993** (the "Tenders Regulations"). This legal framework enables a transparent and competitive working environment, inter alia by establishing broad obligations for using public tenders, imposing strict limitations on exemptions from such obligations and providing tools for improving competition in public tenders. Both the Tenders Law and the Tenders Regulations apply to most public entities, including government ministries, government agencies and authorities, health care establishments, government companies and others.

Documents of any tender in public entities, in the framework of the system, are accessible to the public and, if possible, are published online. Those interested can also subscribe online to receive automatic updates about upcoming tenders.

The **Israeli Government Advertising Agency (LAPAM)** website (http://www.lapam.gov.il/?lang=en), centralizes all government advertisements, announcements and notices. This includes providing access to the list of government tenders and to civil service employment opportunities. The objective

of LAPAM is to assist citizens find information which had previously only been published in the written press and was often difficult to obtain. LAPAM utilizes the web to disseminate information in a user-friendly way that makes such information easy to locate. The LAPAM site is in addition to the set of varied government services, led by the Accountant General in the Ministry of Finance, which are made readily accessible for public use.

*In relation to public reporting (article 10), States parties and signatories may wish to provide information on measures that:*

- *Make available online, including in open data formats, government information relating to the implementation of the Convention, in order to foster greater transparency, accountability and efficiency;*

  Israel utilizes a number measures to make information available online and to promote the use of online platforms in order to foster greater transparency in public administration and to ensure accountability and efficiency in the decision-making process of the public administration, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention.

  The **Anti-Corruption Website** (www.corruption.justice.gov.il) – a website dedicated to combating corruption is available in both Hebrew and English through the homepage of the Ministry of Justice. The anti-corruption website provides relevant information about corruption fighting methods and transparency measures, and includes references to the Convention.

  In addition, Israel agreed to publish its Country Review Report of the implementation by Israel of articles 15 – 42 of Chapter III "Criminalization and law enforcement" and articles 44 – 50 of Chapter IV "International cooperation" of the Convention on the UNODC website. At the time of the publication of the report, the Israel Ministry of Justice issued a press release, which included a link to the Report.

- *Promote the use of online platforms or portals to enhance transparency in public administration, including information on the organization, functioning and decision-making processes of the public administration and on decisions and legal acts.*

  As outlined in Israel's submission for the sixth inter-sessional meeting of the Working Group, held in 2015, the **Freedom of Information Law**, 1998 (the "Freedom of Information Law") establishes the right of every citizen or resident to obtain information (any information that is written, recorded, filmed, photographed or computerised) held by public authorities – including State institutions, government offices, local authorities, statutory corporations, sporting associations and high level educational institutions.

  The Freedom of Information Law provides that a public authority must grant a request for information, unless the disclosure of the information harms another interest such as state security, privacy interests in accordance with the Privacy Protection Law, 1981 or trade secrets.

The Freedom of Information Law imposes the following obligations on public authorities, which proactively make information available and allow members of the general public to obtain information on the organization, functioning and decision-making processes of the public administration through information and communications technologies:

1. To publish its administrative guidelines (that relate to the public) online;

2. To publish information concerning relevant measures taken to protect the environment online;

3. To publish an annual freedom of information report online, setting out, amongst other things, the structure and roles of the public authority, its budget, its contact information, its activities for the previous year, its planned activities for the upcoming year, the laws that it is responsible for overseeing and information about its databases;

4. To handle freedom of information requests, in accordance with the arrangement set forth in the Freedom of Information Law.

Another example of proactive publication of information online without a special request is the obligation for all government offices to publish reports on the Freedom of Information website on a quarterly basis regarding their use of external suppliers– including the name of the supplier, price paid for the service, the purpose of the service and other information. The purpose of these reports is to allow the public to be able to access information on how taxpayers' money is being spent.

*In relation to enhancing the transparency of and promoting the contribution of the public to decision-making processes (article 13(1)(a)):*

- *Description of how ICT is used to promote citizen and stakeholder involvement in decision-making processes, such as through large-scale consultations, online platforms, working groups, task forces, citizen referendums and community meetings, and measures to promote such involvement;*

Transparency in the Government – Open Government

Israel has elected to promote the policy of open government, and has joined the **International Open Government Partnership**, a multilateral initiative launched in 2011 that aims to secure commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. There are currently 70 participating countries, following the initial cycle which included Ireland, France, Tunisia, Serbia, Turkey, Mongolia, New Zealand and Trinidad and Tobago. Israel's decision to join was born out of the understanding that recent innovations in communication and information technologies allow a significant improvement of the traditional democratic system, and its relationship between the individual and the government. The goal of open government policy is to

empower the individual, the society and the State on the basis of three fundamental principles:

-Transparency and active reporting to the public

-Public participation

-Accountability

These three principles, combined with the recognition of technology's significant role in facilitating change, are the central components of the International Open Government Partnership for Promoting Open Government Policy.

Israel is committed to freedom of information and to promoting transparency and accessibility to data and information produced in the public sector. We view information as a public resource that each citizen has the right to access freely. The Government has an obligation to make public information accessible to the public, in a manner that allows it to be used in a variety of ways (including processing or improving it). The principle of transparency and active reporting to the public should not be seen as conflicting with individual rights and public interests such as the right to privacy, state security and intellectual property.

The **Open Government Forum**, consists of 35 representatives from government (10), civil society (10), academia and research (10) and business (5), tasked with developing and monitoring the implementation of Israel's national action plan on Open Government. In addition to the forum which meets annually, specific working groups focus on issues, including open data, freedom of information, increasing public participation in governance, and the Gov.il website. Members of these working groups include members of the forum and additional members of the public who requested to participate. The working groups provide regular forums for public feedback on government policies in the aforementioned areas.

• *Description of ICT measures adopted to provide opportunities for individuals and groups outside the public sector to be consulted during legislative drafting processes;*

Transparency in the Government - ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Authority

The **ICT Authority** (subordinate to the Prime Minister's Office) manages a working group on open data with civil society and business representatives, with jointly determined agendas and public input on government decision making in the field of open data. Visitors to the data.gov.il website can provide feedback on datasets and submit requests for additional data. In addition, meetings are regularly held with civil society organizations and businesses to identify demand for additional data.

**Govshare** (cross-governmental e-platform for public consultation on all issues) provides different formats for consultation, such as online roundtable discussions, surveys, public knowledge communities, open forums, blogs.

**Data.gov.il** provides a platform for every government ministry and authority to share open data with the public. Government decision 2985 (14/03/2011) requires ministries to map and share at least five databases with the public, and this goal has been included in the annual work plans for ICT managers in ministries. A soon to be released inter-ministerial report on open data will expand activity in this field. The ICT Authority together with various ministries holds "hackathons" to encourage public use of government data and enable requests for additional data sources. The Ministry of Finance publishes the Government's approved annual budgets and monthly updates on implementation on data.gov.il. A civil society organization created the site "Open Budget" based on this data to facilitate easy public access to the data.

The Israeli government adopted a resolution requiring government ministries and authorities to enable members of the public to contact them, submit and receive applications or documents digitally (email) as well as by fax. The resolution also requires authorities to submit these means of contact to the ICT authority in order to publish them centrally on the government website gov.il, and recommended assessing expansion of the resolution to include government owned companies and municipal authorities.

The ICT Authority recently released a **centralized platform for ministry websites** (**Gov.il**) that consolidates all government e-services on a single platform, so as to facilitate and enhance citizens' access to such services. Users may submit feedback on all aspects of the website and services provided therein. E-payments of fees and fines are also available on the website, enabling better tracking of payments, and centralized tracking of a significant portion of the government's income.

There is enhanced accountability through measurement and evaluation of government performance – the ICT Authority releases annual reports detailing the performance of various ministries and authorities in providing public services (in-person, telephone and e-services). Ministry work plans including measurable outcomes are publicized annually online to the public.

- *Description of the ways in which ICT is used to facilitate public consultations before regulations or other administrative policies are issued, and of any consequences of failure to adhere to the requirement to facilitate such public participation.*

  Transparency and public consultation in the decision-making process

  According to regular procedure, before any law is drafted or proposed (including any laws in relation to corruption), a draft bill (a "Memorandum") is distributed to a wide variety of non-governmental actors, including NGOs and academics in the legal field. The Memoranda are made public via the

"tazkirim" website (http://www.tazkirim.gov.il – those interested can access the website, register to receive updates and comment online in relation to the bill). Memoranda are also published on the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) website (http://knesset.gov.il/main/eng/home.asp) and on the "data.gov.il" platform. This information forms the basis of the civil society website "Open Knesset". The publication provides the public with the opportunity to directly contact members of Knesset with regards to proposed legislation (contact details for all members of Knesset are publicized on the Knesset website). This promotes governmental transparency, in accordance with Article 13(a) of the Convention, and provides members of the public, including any interested organizations, with the opportunity to comment on the bill and a forum to exchange ideas on central issues.

Comments on the Memorandum may be sent to the Ministry of Justice within 21 days of its distribution. These comments could lead to further discussions on the proposed legislation. Through consolidation of the comments and revision of the text, the Memorandum is revised into a "Draft Law", which is then submitted for the approval of the Ministerial Committee for Legislation, in order for it to be considered by the Knesset. The Draft Law is then submitted to the appropriate Knesset committee (which usually conducts discussions that are open to the public), and from there it is presented to the Knesset for a first, second and third reading. At each stage, the Draft Law may be subject to modifications. Upon completion of the process, the text is formally adopted and the newly enacted statute is published in the Official Gazette.

**Knesset debates are open to the public** according to section 27 of the Basic Law: Knesset, and most are aired on television according to the Television Broadcasts from the Knesset Law, 2003. In addition, **plenary sessions are filmed and made available for viewing by the general public by electronic means** in accordance with section 40 of the Knesset Rules of Procedure. Protocols from the plenary sessions are also available online.

**All meetings of Knesset committees are also filmed and open to the public, and their protocols are available online** unless there is a specific reason (for example, protection of privacy or security reasons) for the meetings to be private, in accordance with sections 118 and 120 of the Knesset Rules of Procedure. Journalists and representatives of civil society organisations are also able to attend all plenary sessions and committee meetings (other than those that are classified). Lobbyists that represent various interest groups (including corporate interests and public interests) are also able to attend committee meetings. A recent legislative amendment provides that in such a case, the details of the lobbyist, including the company they work for, the client they represent and any additional clients that may have an interest in the meeting, are included in the protocol of the meeting (in accordance with section 68 of the **Knesset Law, 1994**).

The Knesset has a **website, Facebook page and Twitter account that are updated regularly**. Each committee publishes its provisional agenda and

associated documents online in advance of meetings, and the committee spokesperson publishes a summary of the meeting afterwards.

Some Members of Knesset have begun publicizing their weekly calendars to the public. Attendance records of members of the Knesset are published online in real time through the Knesset website.

In December 2014, the Knesset launched its **National Legislative Database**. All bills, as well as all legislation that has been passed, including all legislation that aims to combat corruption, are published online. The database in relation to legislation includes full details of the history of the legislation – who proposed the bill (whether it was the government, a member of the Knesset or a Knesset committee), past versions of the bill, relevant protocols in relation to debates about the bill and all amendments to the legislation. This allows any member of the public to be able to trace the history of all legislation, and to understand the purposes of the legislation. The Knesset plans to expand the details available in the database to include the current status of any bills going through the Knesset, which committee is responsible for such a bill, and any additional documents that have been submitted in relation to the bill (for example, briefs and reports from academic experts, members of the public and representatives of civil society organizations).

**Government Resolutions** – Government resolutions, including in matters relating to anti-corruption measures, are generally published online. Prior to government meetings, the agenda for the meetings as well as the draft text for the resolutions are also published online, subject to certain restrictions.

The internet is additionally utilized by the Israel Government Portal to enable increased participation by the general public in a wide variety of issues of public concern. Citizens may use the portal to directly address any administrative authority and to have their queries answered accordingly. In addition to the public websites, a growing number of government and local authorities make use of online social media such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, to communicate with the public.

Given all of the information that is openly and easily available to the general public online, especially the availability of bills, protocols, filmed sessions and other documents, the public is able to follow parliamentary debates and understand the considerations and views that shaped the adoption of a given legislative text. In this way, the Knesset uses information and communication technology to promote citizen and stakeholder involvement in decision-making processes, encourage an institutional culture of transparency, open data, open-door policies and regular communication between the Government and civil society, and facilitate public consultations.

In 2005, Israel launched a website to publish all its official publications (http://www.justice.gov.il/En/Units/OfficialPublications/Pages/default.aspx), including all bills that have been submitted in the Knesset (including explanatory notes). This facilitates complete and immediate access to all official bills in advance of parliamentary debate.

*In relation to ensuring that the public has effective access to information (article 13(1)(b)):*

- *Legislation, regulations, policies and procedures regarding public access to information through ICT, such as online platforms, including details regarding:*

  - *Means by which requests may be submitted (in writing, via Internet, by telephone);*

  - *The types of bodies required to publish information;*

  - *The scope of the information published;*

  - *Any information that must be submitted by the requester as part of the request for information;*

  - *Costs charged to submit a request;*

  - *Applicable time limits within which the Government must respond to the request;*

  - *Grounds on which a request by a member of the public for information may be denied;*

The **Freedom of Information Law** facilitates public access to government documents (subject to certain limitations). Additionally, administrative and local annual working plans are regularly published online by local and state authorities, enabling greater transparency on both the local and national government authorities. The law enhances the public's ability to monitor and the management of public affairs.

In accordance with a government resolution 3573 of April 2005 and with an Accountant General directive, all government ministries must include the gov.il portal logo and URL (www.gov.il) in all official publications (documents, envelopes, payment vouchers, etc.). Additionally, Israel set up a website "shituf.gov.il" ("shituf" means "sharing" or "participation" in Hebrew), to facilitate public participation in decision making, and is part of the Israel E-Government project, aimed at strengthening connections between the citizens and the government by improving both the level of accessibility of public authorities and the transparency of their actions. The website features, for example, proposed legislation and reports published by government ministries. The gov.il website consolidates the online services and information provided by various Israeli government bodies.

**The Freedom of Information Unit** (subordinate to the Ministry of Justice) was established in 2011 in order to raise awareness, explain and promote the implementation of the Freedom of Information Law, as well as to increase the quantity and the quality of information that will be published for the public. The Freedom of Information Unit manages a comprehensive website

([http://www.justice.gov.il/En/Units/FreedomInformation/Pages/AboutTheFreedomOfInformationUnit.aspx](http://www.justice.gov.il/En/Units/FreedomInformation/Pages/AboutTheFreedomOfInformationUnit.aspx)) that includes information regarding the Freedom of Information Law, the powers of the Freedom of Information Unit, laws and regulations and other widely accessible information to ensure the public is informed.

The public is able to lodge online requests for information to approximately 500 different public authorities. Some answers to requests for information (taking into consideration privacy interests), are published online. A request for information can be lodged by any means, provided it is in writing. The person requesting information does not need to detail the purpose of the request. The request must include the applicant's contact details so that the public authority is able to respond. The request should also state whether the person filing it is an Israeli citizen or resident (only citizens or residents are able to request information, unless a non-citizen non-resident is requesting information about himself or herself). The application costs approximately 20 NIS (approximately 4.50 Euro) and there are several exemptions from payment. In circumstances where the request for information necessitates more extensive work by the government department in order to respond, the applicant may need to pay an additional cost to cover the relevant overhead expenses. The government must respond to the request within 30 days (an extension can be granted in special circumstances). There are 20 grounds upon which a request by a member of the public for information can be denied – the main grounds being a breach of privacy, a security threat, protection of commercial secrets, and an unreasonable expenditure of resources in order to fulfill the request. The Freedom of Information Law requires each public authority to appoint a focal point responsible for responding to requests for information. Failure to provide information as required by the Freedom of Information Law is grounds for an administrative petition.

The Freedom of Information Unit is empowered, among other things, to investigate complaints against government ministries and auxiliary units, on the following matters:

•       Failure to publish annual reports in a timely manner

•       Failure to publish information that the authority is required to publish under the Freedom of Information Law (administrative guidelines and environmental information) without duly giving reasons

•       Failure to respond to request for information by the time set therefor in the Freedom of Information Law

•       Denial of a request for information without providing an explanation

•       Manner of calculation of fees

In addition, pursuant to Government Resolution 2950 (06/03/2011), the Freedom of Information Unit has the power to issue guidelines to government ministries and auxiliary units for correcting any failures to implement the

provisions of the Freedom of Information Law. This can be done after the relevant authority has been afforded the opportunity to voice its position.

- *Description of steps taken to ensure that existing laws, regulations, policies and procedures regarding access to information are widely known and accessible to the public;*

Complementing the website, the Freedom of Information Unit manages an active Facebook page and runs radio and television campaigns. All of these mediums are used for the purpose of increasing awareness of the public to their right to information.

The Israeli Police have a Cyber Unit that is also active in the prevention of and fight against corruption. The Cyber Unit investigates particularly sophisticated cyber crimes against national infrastructure and financial institutions, the dissemination of computerized viruses and cyber extortion.

*In relation to undertaking public information activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption, as well as public education programmes, including school and university curricula (article 13(1)(c)):*

- *Description of public information (education and awareness-raising) activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption, particularly those using ICT, including specific initiatives targeting groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations;*

The **Israeli Broadcasting Authority** (public television and radio) promotes many different news and documentary programs on current events, including news related to corruption and the battle against it, aiming to inform and educate the public. For example, "Kol Israel", the national radio network which forms part of the Israeli Broadcasting Authority, regularly broadcasts numerous segments and special broadcasts that deal with issues of corruption and fraud, in Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, Amharic and English. There are also a few weekly broadcasts that dedicate a major part of their agenda to issues of corruption. These broadcasts are an opportunity to educate the public about corruption through current events, and provide a platform for different experts and scholars on the subject. In 2012, for example, there were 177 reports and segments relating to corruption in the different broadcasts of "Reshet Bet", one of the main stations of the national radio network. Television and print news are also very active in Israel, as journalists are free to investigate and publish news and opinions regarding acts of corruption .

**Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Brochure** – The Ministry of Justice has widely distributed, within the public and private sectors, and including on its website, an informational brochure concerning Israel's domestic and international efforts to combat corruption. The brochure, which refers, inter alia, to the Convention, is intended to be a useful tool for the dissemination of information about anti-corruption efforts. The brochure also provides

information on contact points 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 Campaigns** - Israeli authorities are pursuing a multifaceted approach to raising awareness regarding the need to eradicate corrupt practices. Among other efforts, the Ministry of Justice has issued press releases to major Israeli newspapers and news websites on several occasions over the last few years, regarding the overall aims of Israel's international efforts in relation to the struggle against corruption.

- *Description of the use of ICT in educational courses or modules that have been introduced in primary and secondary schools that include components on corruption or related issues such as ethics, civil rights or governance;*

**Schools** – In accordance with Article 13(1)(c) of the Convention, the Israeli education curriculum in elementary schools and junior high schools includes several programs and activities on the values and rules of a democratic society and on citizenship in a democratic society. Among these are values of integrity, justice and probity. In junior high and high schools, the curriculum includes "civic studies". Some of the topics taught in civic studies are the principles of a Jewish and democratic society as well as the structure of government, the separation of powers and the rule of law. All of these topics are part of the measures taken to educate children and young adults for good citizenship and public involvement .

The Israel Ministry of Education, through its Information Technologies Division, is tasked with educating on, and promoting the use of, information and communications technologies (ICT) within the national public education system. The ICT curriculum includes a national educational program called "**Life Online**" that aims to educate Israeli students toward digital literacy and digital citizenship, as well as raise awareness towards harmful and non-ethical behavior, with an emphasis on online ethics and safety. Digital literacy includes students' ability to use various online mechanisms and find relevant information online. This includes finding anti-corruption bodies for the reporting, including anonymously, of any incidents that may constitute an offence or corruption. The program also includes components and values, ethics, norms for online behavior and digital citizenship (for example, intellectual property rights). These modules are adjusted to various age groups and sectors and are also available in the "Educational Cloud" (details below).

The "Life Online" national program is widely implemented and deployed in the entire public education system and institutions. The program, through its online platforms and social media, promotes the knowledge and skills needed for information sharing amongst its participants. The program contributes to fostering a zero-tolerance approach to any kind of harmful or wrong-doing incidents, including corruption, by encouraging students to take personal and social responsibility and not to be a passive bystander when he/she encounters an offensive or harmful incident. By exposing the students to the online

reporting tools that are available within the platforms that they are using, this program encourages all students to reports such incidents. Ultimately, one of the expected outcomes of this program is the prevention of corruption – having students, and later adult citizens, who feel comfortable with reporting about various social harms and injustices, including corruption.

The "Life Online" program also created a dedicated website as part of the "**Educational Cloud**". This website includes educational resources for students, teachers and parents. It is an online platform that serves as a national centralized hub for distributing content and sharing activities. A key educational theme is the emphasis placed on taking personal responsibility for reporting, either online or offline, once a person encounters harmful activity. Such reports can be on a wide variety of incidents, including corruption.

The Israel Ministry of Education also operates further various means and technologies including a dedicated Online Ethics and Safety page on **Facebook**, a **YouTube** channel, and more. These interactive environments are used for the purposes of undertaking public information activities.

In addition, the "E-Government Agency" of Israel has created a child-friendly website (kids.gov.il) for the education and engagement of children. The website aims, among other things, to teach children about the branches of government, the main institutions of the State and their respective responsibilities, and the concept of separation of powers. The website is designed to reach out to children and allow them to take a first step towards understanding the norms and ethics in a democratic society, with the goal of increasing their future involvement in society. For example, children can use the website to learn about the different government ministries and law enforcement agencies, the judiciary system, the responsibilities of judges and the importance of the judiciary system for the rule of law. This website is a part of the ongoing process to make the government more transparent and accessible to different age groups.

Further, the Freedom of Information Unit held a competition to select a poster to be used to promote the awareness of the importance of freedom of information among the general public. As the goal of the competition was to reach a young audience, the contestant pool for this competition included only students in the fields of art and design. The competition was promoted using Facebook, and students were able to upload their designs to the Freedom of Information Unit's Facebook page, after which voting was conducted online to select the winner.

- *Description of the use of ICT in university courses or modules that include components on corruption or related issues such as public administration, public procurement, ethics, criminal law or corporate governance.*

  **Universities** – A large number of universities and colleges in Israel offer different courses on corruption and related issues (such as public administration, public procurement, ethics, criminal law or corporate

governance), in the fields of law, government, communication, philosophy and business administration. The following are several examples of such courses: "Political Corruption"; "Business Ethics"; "Governmental Corruption and Economic Crimes"; "White Collar Crimes"; "Money Laundering"; "Corporate Crimes"; "Business Ethics"; "Principles Of Public Administration"; "Ethics in Research"; "The Role Of The Media" and others. In addition, officials from the Ministry of Justice have lectured in several law school classes on international legal instruments aimed at fighting bribery and corruption .

Israel is one of the founding member states of the **International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)**, having signed the Establishment Agreement of IACA in December 2010 and ratified it in September 2012.

**The International Law Forum in the Hebrew University** holds weekly seminars to discuss developments in international law and their legal implications for Israel.

*In relation to respecting, promoting and protecting the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption (article 13(1)(d)):*

- *Outlines of the procedures or regulations that ensure the freedom of the public to seek and receive information concerning corruption, in particular using ICT. States parties and signatories may wish to include the following information, if applicable:*

Please see above.

- *Any restrictions applicable to exercise of the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate such information, in particular using ICT, including:*

The definition of "information" according to the Freedom of Information Law is very broad and includes information concerning corruption. As noted above, there are 20 grounds upon which a request by a member of the public for information can be denied – the main grounds being a breach of privacy, national security threat, protection of commercial secrets and an unreasonable expenditure of resources in order to fulfill the request.

- *Description of procedures that allow a member of the public to apply for review of, or appeal against, the application of such a restriction by the Government.*

A member of the public is able to apply to the Administrative Court for review of a refusal by a public authority to provide information as per a request. The decision by the Administrative Court can be appealed to the Supreme Court.

*In relation to taking appropriate measures to ensure that the relevant anti-corruption bodies are known to the public and providing access to such bodies for*

*the reporting, including anonymously, of any incidents that may be considered to constitute an offence established in accordance with the Convention (article 13(2)):*

- *Description of online public information campaigns that promote awareness of the existence of anti-corruption bodies;*

  Please see above.

- *Description of the means by which members of the public are provided with access to such bodies, particularly through ICT, for the reporting of acts of corruption;*

  Anyone is able to lodge an online complaint with the Police Unit of Public Complaints, including complaints that relate to suspicions of corruption or lack of integrity.

## II - Information requested from States parties and signatories in relation to promoting good governance in sport and mitigating the risk of corruption that sport faces globally.

1. *In the context of <u>prevention</u>, please describe (cite and summarize) the measures/steps your country has taken (or is planning to take, together with the related appropriate time frame) to promote good governance and mitigate the risk of corruption in sport.*

   *Information sought may, in particular, include the following:*

   - *Legislation and policy*

     In 2011, the Sports Law, 1988 (the **"Sports Law"**) was amended to improve equality and ethical conduct of and within sporting bodies such as unions and associations. Such bodies tend to be public in nature and have monopolies within their field, such that it is important to ensure transparency, integrity and compliance with correct governance. If a sporting body does not comply, the Ministry of Finance is able to reduce funding accordingly.

     According to the Sports Law, the Head of the Sport Authority (subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and Sport) has the discretion to decide that someone who has a criminal conviction is unable to be a referee, coach or hold other official positions. The Head of the Sport Authority also has the discretion to decide that someone who has been criminally charged is unable to serve as a referee in a sporting competition.

     The Sports Law provides that sporting bodies must have an ethical code of conduct for their officers, umpires, coaches and sportspersons. The Centre for Ethics (a public institution founded in 1997) has prepared a standard code of conduct that sporting bodies can chose to adopt fully or partially.

     The independence of judicial institutions of sporting bodies is ensured through the provision in the Sports Law that all persons who hold an adjudicative

position must be independent, impartial and not have any conflict of interest. Such persons must also have a certain level of administrative and organizational independence from the people who decide on and enforce the constitution and rules of the sporting body.

2. *In the context of enforcement, please describe (cite and summarize) the measures/steps your country has taken (or is planning to take, together with the related appropriate time frame) to ensure the detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal offences linked to sport integrity.*

*Information sought may, in particular, include the following:*

- *Examples of criminal cases involving offences linked to integrity in sport (corruption, money-laundering, organized crime, match-fixing, etc.);*

The Israeli Police respond and investigate all claims that are submitted and all information that is received. Section 292 of the **Penal Law, 1977** criminalizes the provision or receipt of bribery with the intention of influencing the existence of, the course of, or the results of a sporting competition or any other competition where there is a public interest in the existence of or the results of such a competition.

There have been at least four convictions pursuant to this provision, including when football players were bribed in order to cause the cancellation of certain games, to avoid scoring goals in certain games, and cases where football team managers admitted to bribing other football teams' managers with the purpose of arranging a loss in the games they played.

When adjudicating such cases, the Supreme Court of Israel has emphasized on numerous occasions the importance of upholding high ethical standards and behavioral norms in the sporting industry, particularly because of its importance to a large proportion of Israeli society.