UNODC/Nr. 33/2007

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the International Organizations based in Vienna presents its compliments to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and has the honor to forward a profile of the Programme "Transparency Portal", from the Office of the Comptroller-General.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil would be grateful if the Office could examine the possibility of selecting the above mentioned Programme for the Section on "best practices" at the next 2\textsuperscript{nd} Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, to be held in Indonesia in 2008.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the International Organizations based in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, May 23, 2007

To the United Nations Office on drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Vienna, Austria
DEFINITION OF THE PROGRAMME:

The Transparency Portal is a website, launched in 2004, in which the Federal Government of Brazil informs the civil society how it is allocating the resources collected from taxes. In the Portal there is comprehensive listing of expenditures, with details of every transaction and transference of resources to States, Municipalities, Federal District and even resources which were addressed to individuals. The Portal also details the expenditures carried out by the federal Government through its Ministries and Agencies, regarding procurement of goods and services, ranging from the purchase of pencils to large infra-structure projects.

In December 2006, the Office of the Comptroller-General (CGU) refurbished the website, in order to make it more user-friendly and to provide easier access to the information for users in general. The Portal now offers several new tools and improved navigation, besides new engines and new information modalities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME:

The Transparency Portal, an initiative of the Office of the Comptroller-General, has the aim of providing greater accountability and transparency to the Public Administration by allowing any interested individual or civil society organization to access on time information regarding the allocation of resources from the Federal budget and the implementation of projects financed with Federal funds. The civil society has, thus, access to information on a timely and user-friendly way, which is the basis for the development, within the civil society, of the citizens’ control over the public resources, whether done by the media, non-governmental organizations, community leaders or even interested individuals.

WHAT ARE THE ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR?

- Since its establishment and until January 2007, the Portal was accessed 776.171 times, which represents 1.129 of daily consults;
- In 2006 there were 1.956 direct manifestations from users, from which 639 were requests from explanations on how to consult a specific allocation, 784 doubts on the content located, 195 denounces of misuse of public funds, 210 on criticism and 128 suggestions for improvement;
- Currently, the Portal lists 443.224.687 different registries, comprising a total of R$ 3.250.974.299.633,40 , which is equivalent to US$ 1,675 trillion of public funds.

HOW CAN IT IMPROVE CIVIL SOCIETY’S (MEDIA, NGO... ) CAPACITIES TOWARDS EFFECTIVELY MONITORING PUBLIC EXPENDITURES?

The transparency Portal is the most comprehensive data bank regarding the registry of the Federal Government expenditures. Furthermore, it is open to any interested user. This is a landmark initiative in Brazil and can potentially empower any citizen, or group of citizens, to become an inspector of the good use of public funds. Particularly, any citizen can have detailed information regarding the implementation of projects within its community, knowing exactly, for example, how much resources were allocated from the Federal Government to a specific municipality to build a hospital, and in which date the funds were transferred. With that information in hands, the community in reference can accompany the construction of the hospital and enquire municipal authorities about the use of the resources transferred. It can also denounce any misuse of the resources.

To consult the Portal, the user must define which sort of information he is seeking, whether it is a “Direct Use” or a “transfer of Resources”.

The option “Direct Use” refers to the expenditures which were performed directly by the Federal Government through its Ministries and Agencies. There are several different options of search:
- Modality of expenditure: it shows expenditures in investment, payment of public debts and others. It is possible to consult each registry in order to have detailed informations such as the amount of payment, name of receiver, date of payment and number of documents.
- Expenditure by Agencies: it shows a comprehensive list of expenditures performed by each Ministry or Agency of the Federal Government. It is possible to consult each registry in order to have detailed informations such as the amount of payment, name of receiver, date of payment and number of documents.
- Search by name of receiver: it is possible to consult all payments done to a specific receiver, whether an individual, company or organization. The search can be done either by name or by identification registry number (CPF/CNPJ/NIS).
- Per Diem: it shows information of all "per diem" paid to civil servants who have traveled for service purposes.
- Federal Government corporate cards: it shows comprehensive details of the expenditures done by each corporate card used in the federal administration, including details of the receivers of payments, value and date.

The option "Transfer of Resources" refers to the transfers done by the Federal Government to the States, the Federal District and municipalities. There are different search options:
- Transfers by States: Informs details of the transfers done to each State and within each State there is also an option to consult transfers to every municipality.
- Transfers by programmes: Informs details of the transfers to States and municipalities that were subsequently transferred and were linked to specific programmes, which are listed by thematic areas.
- Payment receivers: This option indicates the final beneficiary of transfers by the Federal Government, detailing amounts and date of payments. The search can be done either by name or by identity registry (CPF/CNPJ/NIS).

WHAT IS THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TRANSPARENCY PORTAL AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION?

The Portal is an initiative by the Brazilian Government, through its Office of the Comptroller-General (CGU) towards Corruption Prevention, in line with the Article 10 of UNCAC.