

The United Nations Convention against Corruption  
**Safeguarding against Corruption**  
in Major Public Events

**LESSON 8: Public reporting and transparency**

## In this lesson, we will:

- ✓ Discuss how an Authority can help prevent corruption, by ensuring a high level of transparency in all its transactions;
- ✓ Examine the need for an Authority to establish processes and structures for regular public reporting on its activities and facilitating public and media access to information concerning its operations;
- ✓ Review the questions to consider when assessing the measures in place by the Authority to favour transparency.

## UNCAC – Article 10

To promote transparency and accountability, UNCAC recommends, *inter alia*, the following measures:

- (a) Adopting procedures or regulations allowing members of the general public to obtain, where appropriate, information on the organization, functioning and decision-making processes of its public administration and, with due regard for the protection of privacy and personal data, on decisions and legal acts that concern members of the public;
- (b) Simplifying administrative procedures, where appropriate, in order to facilitate public access to the competent decision-making authorities; and
- (c) Publishing information, which may include periodic reports on the risks of corruption in its public administration.

- **Article 13 of UNCAC** calls for measures to promote the participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector in the prevention of corruption. The freedom to seek, receive,, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption must be protected.
- **Organizational transparency** refers to the principle that public officials, civil servants, managers and directors of companies and organizations have a duty to act visibly, predictably and understandably to promote participation and accountability.

## Public reporting

- Public reporting on the activities of the Authority is a very important means of preventing corruption.
- Proactive reporting measures to ensure that the public has access to all relevant information in a timely manner.
- The reports should include details on the organization of the agency, the decisions it makes, the funds that it manages, the contracts, licences and other advantages that it grants, and the progress that it achieves in the preparation and staging of the major event.



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Access to information (see article 13 of UNCAC)

- Many countries have legislation to guarantee the right of citizens to access information on public administration and to set out the rules and procedures regulating such access.
- Proactive measures can also be taken to promote transparency, such as the establishment of a transparency portal
- Such legislation, or its equivalent, must also apply to the Authority.
- Does your country have legislation, policies and systems in place to facilitate access to information concerning public administration and to create a duty to report publicly?

- Some Authorities use an official website accessible to the general public to allow interested individuals and the media to follow procurement, contracting, and execution of activities as they occur.
- In some cases, the public is able to track expenditures in real time as the preparations and events unfold.
- The Comptroller General of Brazil created a transparency portal which contains a considerable amount of information relating to the use of funds of the Federal Government – it includes a portal on the organization of the 2016 Olympic Games.

## Small Group Discussion



Should there be any limits to transparency in the organization of a major events?

If so, why and what are these limits?

🕒 You have 20 minutes before reporting back to the group as a whole.



## Examples of reporting on a major event

- See the example of the final report on the London 2012 Olympic Games in the Participant Manual

- Look at the Brazil's transparency portals for the

2014 World Cup

<http://www.portaldatransparencia.gov.br/copa2014/home.seam>

2016 Olympic Games

<http://www.portaldatransparencia.gov.br/rio2016/>

## Questions for an assessment

Have a look at sections 1.8 and 1.9 of the Corruption Prevention Checklist.

Any questions, comments, suggestions?

## Key points to remember

- ✓ Organizational transparency refers to the principle that public officials, civil servants, managers and directors of companies and organizations have a duty to act visibly, predictably and understandably to promote participation and accountability.
- ✓ Measures taken in a country to enhance transparency in public administration should generally apply to the Authority.
- ✓ The Authority should establish clear policies and procedures for public reporting of all significant transactions and for facilitating public access to information in a timely manner.