

**THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED
BY GUYANA**

ARTICLE 13 UNCAC

PARTICIPATION OF SOCIETY

GUYANA (THIRTEENTH MEETING)

74. The media is free and is not restrained or restricted from covering, exposing or investigating matters. The media¹ is populated by a large number of privately owned television and radio stations and newspapers, one government owned newspaper and television and radio station, and several privately run internet media outlets.

91. As stated earlier in this report, as an additional step to ensure accountability and transparency in the process of governance, the Government broadcasts and stream all debates of the national budgets. These debates can therefore be viewed by all and sundry on YouTube, Facebook and on government owned television.

94. As stated earlier, the national budgets are also available online and can be downloaded and viewed at the pleasure of the viewer. It is also important to reiterate that hearings of the Public Accounts Committee are open to members of the media.

106. As reported in para # **68**, the Government makes every effort to ensure that the public remains informed and can access information easily using ICT. These platforms allows for accessibility and greater communications with the public to offer real-time responses, as far as practically possible.

108. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the courts have been using the internet and live streaming to hear cases and to ensure that justice is not denied nor delayed. Containerised courtrooms were set up in the prisons to allow for remand prisoners to have their day in court.

109. As stated in para # **67, 70-73**, the Government operationalized the long-awaited liberalization of the telecommunications sector, and implemented the ICT Access and eServices project. To achieve this, the GoG has created new opportunities for fibre optic cables, reduce cost of bandwidth, reduce cost of data so that our ICT environment will also

¹ See Appendix 1 for the list of media houses

become competitive and affordable. The ICT services provided to the hinterland and riverine communities provides the opportunity for reports of acts of corruption being channelled to relevant authorities in a timely manner and responded to with greater alacrity.

110. This was especially evident during the 2020 elections in Guyana, when repeated efforts by the senior officials in the Guyana Elections Commission and the then government to steal the will of the electorate to choose the government of their choice were communicated and exposed via WhatsApp, mobile text messages and Facebook.

111. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has a website and information on the types of cases prosecuted and convictions are posted there. Also, the DPP Office has an electronic complaint form for the public to use.