

THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY MAURITIUS

ARTICLE 13 UNCAC

PARTICIPATION OF SOCIETY

MAURITIUS (SECOND MEETING)

Article 13: Participation of society

1. Each State Party shall take appropriate measures, within its means and in accordance with fundamental principles of its domestic law, to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption. This participation should be strengthened by such measures as:

(a) Enhancing the transparency of and promoting the contribution of the public to decision-making processes;

(b) Ensuring that the public has effective access to information;

(c) Undertaking public information activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption, as well as public education programmes, including school and university curricula;

(d) Respecting, promoting and protecting the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption. That freedom may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided for by law and are necessary:

(i) For respect of the rights or reputations of others;

(ii) For the protection of national security or *ordre public* or of public health or morals.

The ICAC has been using a sector wise strategy and sectoral programmes to enlist the support of the public. Strong networks have been developed with the main components of the civil society, namely youth, women, religious groups, trade unions, NGO's, etc.

1.1 Building of Anti-Corruption Structures

With a view to strengthen and sustain anti-corruption initiatives in the country, networking and the development of effective partnerships with the main stakeholders of the civil society have been given utmost importance by the ICAC. The objective has been

to create ownership of anti-corruption initiatives. Structures that have been put in place are:

- **Integrity Clubs** in secondary schools – To-date a total of 26 integrity clubs have been set-up.
- **Setting up of Core Teams** – A Trade Union Core Team, A Women Core Team at national level and the regrouping of women in eleven Women Action Teams (WATs), A Socio-Cultural and Religious Core Team,
- **National Anti-Corruption Youth Working Group:** It comprises of youth leaders from different sectors of the society and nine Youth Action Teams,
- **Community Based Integrity Circles (CBICs)**- 4 CBICs have been set up to strengthen community solidarity and disseminate anti-corruption messages through the organization of anti-corruption activities by the local community groups.

1.2 Anti-Corruption Programmes

The focus of the prevention strategy of the ICAC has been on building integrity in the nation. The objectives were to form a vigilant civil society, change the mindset of people and instill a culture of integrity in the nation. The strategy was implemented through the following programmes and activities:

A wide range of anti-corruption programmes as listed below have been developed by the ICAC to raise awareness on the evils of corruption as well as empower members of the civil society in the fight against corruption. These programmes have been implemented in collaboration with our main stakeholders.

- Empowerment Programme for Educators
- Empowerment Programmes for Trade Unionists
- Empowerment Programme for Youth Leaders
- Empowerment programme for Community Leaders
- Empowerment Programme for NGOs and CBOs
- Training of Trainers Programme for Vocational Trainers
- Training Programme for Educational Administrators
- Empowerment Programme for Secondary School Rectors
- Youth Leadership Programme

- Values weeks in Primary and Secondary Schools

Over and above these programmes, the following activities are held

- **Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** ICAC has been working in close collaboration with the Ministry concerned and other bodies concerned. Two empowerment programmes have been conducted and the product of this partnership is '*A Best Practice Guide on Integrity Building for NGOs*'.

- **The Community Integrity Award** targeting community based organizations and NGOs. The Award aimed at giving due recognition to NGOS/CBOS for having demonstrated their strong willingness to nurture a culture of integrity. 27 NGOs and CBOs submitted a total of 30 micro projects in 2010.

- **Artists:** The ICAC in collaboration with the Ministry of Arts & Culture has been promoting dramas on anti-corruption themes since 2005.

- The success in the fight against corruption relies greatly on community participation and support.

ICAC in collaboration with, the "*Centre de Lecture Publique et Animation Culturelle*" (*CELPAC*) which is a unit of the Ministry of Arts and Culture implemented successfully a project on strengthening community vigilance in the community using drama.

1.3 Raising Awareness among the Population

All possible channels of communication were considered to raise awareness among the population. By using mass communications, the ICAC has been trying to create a greater awareness on the dangers and impact of corruption. This was done in the following ways:

- Mass Communications campaigns organized for a definite period of time (Billboards, Adverts on Buses)
- The Media (press, private and public radios, television)
- Mass communication campaigns are conducted once twice a year or for the general public using bill boards, posters and pullouts in Newspapers, radios, etc. Evaluation surveys are conducted to assess the impact and relevance of the campaigns.
- Wide anti-corruption campaigns are conducted annually in all primary and secondary schools. ICAC officers address school children on corruption related issues. Anti-corruption materials comprising posters, bookmarks, rulers, wall calendars, notebooks are distributed to schools and students. This activity allows the ICAC to reach over 70,000 children annually.

- The International Anti-Corruption Day is commemorated every year through a number of activities organized in collaboration with stakeholders. The activities are scheduled over a week.

1.4 Promoting Public Participation

To further promote the participation of the population in the fight against corruption, the following activities are held every year:

Exhibitions: Exhibitions/values weeks focusing on the dangers of corruption and the need for promoting integrity are organised throughout the island for school children and parents. 14 such exhibitions were held during the 18 months.

Competitions: With a view mobilize the community in the fight against corruption as well as to trigger reflection and research on corruption and related issues, various competitions are organized. These competitions have proved to be highly successful both in terms of participation and motivation. The main ones are:

- Inter-College Debate Competitions for secondary students.
- Poster Competitions for lower secondary students.
- Public Speaking Competition for Secondary and Vocational Students
- Community Integrity Award 27 CBOs/NGOs
- Sketch Competitions for Youth
- Short Story Writing Competitions for Upper Primary Pupils
- Drawing Competitions for Primary School Students
- Creative Art Expression Competition for Secondary School Educators

1.5 The Education Sector

The younger generation is one of the targets of the ICAC in the fight against corruption. Through valuebased education, the ICAC hopes to foster a culture of integrity in schools, change the mindset and attitudes of the younger generations and empower them to be intolerant against corruption.

- **Curriculum Enhancement via Development and servicing of Tailor-made Modules:** In line with its educational mandate, the Independent Commission

Against Corruption has in recent years developed and implemented several tailor-made corruption-related modules with a view to enhance the school curriculum.

Thus, the following modules have been developed namely:

- A module entitled “*Moral Values and Good Governance*” for students of the University of Mauritius
- A “*Corruption and Ethics*” module for students of a tertiary institution (the Swami Dayanand institute of Management).
- A corruption module for trainees of the ‘Institut Superieur de Technologie’
- A corruption module for students of the University of Technology
- A “*Work Ethics*” module for vocational students
- An Ethics module for youth

2. Each State Party shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the relevant anti-corruption bodies referred to in this Convention are known to the public and shall provide access to such bodies, where appropriate, for the reporting, including anonymously, of any incidents that may be considered to constitute an offence established in accordance with this Convention.

2.1 The Independent Commission Against Corruption is the national anti-corruption agency.

Throughout the year anti-corruption programmes and activities are conducted in collaboration with stakeholders to create intolerance towards corruption. Over and above these activities mass communication campaigns are conducted with targeting different segments of the population - students, educators, young professionals, new recruits, specific cadres of the public service, women, NGOs and the civil society at large to sensitise them on the dangers of corruption and on how to report acts of corruption.