

THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY SINGAPORE

ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 4 UNCAC

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

SINGAPORE (NINTH MEETING)

UNCAC Article	Information
<p><b>7(4)</b> Each State Party shall, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its domestic law, endeavour to adopt, maintain and strengthen systems that promote transparency and prevent conflicts of interest.</p>	<p><b>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 ensure full compliance with this provision of the Convention, and in particular, to adopt, maintain and strengthen systems that promote transparency and prevent conflicts of interest.</b></p> <p>Singapore makes use of administrative measures, as set out under the Singapore Government Instruction Manual, to counter the risks posed by conflicts of interest in the public sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- All public officers are required to declare any conflicts of interest, whether real or perceived, between their official duties and private interests.</li><li>- All public officers are required to make annual declarations of interests in investments and properties, including those of their spouse and financially-dependent children, via the common online Human Resources Management System (HRMS) platform. All public officers may not receive any gifts offered to them on account of their official position or work; where declining a gift is deemed inappropriate, the officer may accept the gift but has to declare its receipt immediately. This can be done via an ad-hoc declaration process which is administered by individual government agencies.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In addition, public officers in certain designated posts will not be allowed, for a specified period of time, to take up employment with any person with whom, or any organisation with which he had direct and significant dealings with.</li> <li>- Public officers who are found to be negligent in this process may be subject to civil service disciplinary proceedings<sup>1</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, Singapore pays particular attention to the area of conflicts of interest in government procurement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All public officers are currently required to declare conflicts of interest in any stage of the procurement process to ensure the integrity of the government procurement system, with another officer appointed to replace him if it is assessed to be necessary. There are also clear segregation of duties in the procurement process to avoid conflicts of interests.</li> <li>- In the event where only a single bid is received for a contract, officers are required to provide additional justifications to the approving authority of the agency.</li> <li>- Officers who are found to be negligent in this process will be subjected to civil service disciplinary proceedings, and where corruption or fraud is suspected, the officer will face criminal proceedings.</li> </ul> <p>The administrative measures above are complemented by relevant training modules on values and conduct through milestone programmes offered by the Civil Service College, such as the mandatory induction programme for new officers. These sessions take the form of talks, seminars, and workshops involving the Code of Conduct and Public Service values of Integrity, Service and Excellence.</p>
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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Article 116 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore, Civil Service disciplinary procedures are set out in the following pieces of legislation with respect to the violation of codes of conduct:

- The Public Service (Disciplinary Proceedings) Regulations;
- The Public Service Commission (Delegation of Disciplinary Functions) Directions; and
- The Public Service Commission (Prisons Officers) (Disciplinary Proceedings – Delegation of Functions) Directions.

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- One of the key principles stressed in the Public Service Code of Conduct is that all public officers must ensure that there is no COI between official duties and personal interests. The Public Service Code of Conduct is also available to public officers on the via the Singapore Government Intranet.</li></ul> |
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The Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) conducts public education group (PEG) talks for government agencies and private companies, whereby participants can expect to learn about the definition of corruption, Singapore's success in keeping corruption under control, preventive measures and case studies.