

**THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**ARTICLE 8, PARAGRAPH 5 UNCAC**

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE/DECLARATION OF ASSETS**

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (EIGHTH MEETING)**

- i. Detect and prevent possible conflicts of interest, such as systems requiring members of criminal justice institutions to make declarations to appropriate authorities regarding, inter alia, their outside activities, employment, investments, income, assets, and substantial gifts or benefits from which a conflict of interest may result, including as they take office and regularly during the performance of their public functions.*

The *Prison Service (Code of Conduct) Regulations* guide, in detail, the activities of Prison Officers, with a requirement to make declarations to the Commissioner of Prisons, in respect of investments, income other than that earned as a member of the TTPrS, and the acquisition of shares and assets. In respect of gifts, unless permitted by the Commissioner, an officer is not allowed to accept any gift or reward from any member of the public from any organisation for services rendered in the course of his official duties; any present which is likely to influence him in the performance of duties; or any gift from a subordinate officer. Exceptions to this rule include, if the gift is from a representative of a foreign government on the occasion of an official visit to that country; a community organisation, on a social occasion where the gift represents the work or achievement of that organisation; other officers in the Service on the occasion of marriage, retirement, transfer, or celebratory occasion to which the Commissioner signals approval.

A similar requirement for declarations as well for the receipt of gifts is contained in the *Police Service Regulations*.

When acts of corruption have been alleged against a police officer, the PCA Act authorises the PCA to request of a police officer, a written declaration enumerating all real or personal property, the date which same was acquired, the consideration paid and whether it was acquired by way of purchase, gift, inheritance or otherwise or specifying any monies or other property acquired in Trinidad and Tobago or elsewhere or sent out of Trinidad and Tobago by him or on his behalf during a specified period. The PCA also has the authority to require the manager of any financial institution to furnish any information or certified copies of accounts or the statement of accounts at the financial institution of the person being investigated.

- i. Challenges in administering asset declaration and conflict of interest systems.*

In the case of the TTPrS, notwithstanding the existing regulations as mentioned in *B iii.* above, members of the Prison Service have not consistently filed such declarations related to indebtedness or involvement in external business investments. The current system for the collection of data on assets and conflicts of interest has been viewed as an inadequate measure.

In the case of the TTPS, although officers were previously mandated to make a declaration of assets to the COP on an annual basis, this is not currently the practice. In an effort to promote continued transparency in the conduct of their duties, views have been expressed that this requirement be implemented for all officers. However, this has been a challenge for management, as associations and unions have prevented senior management from resuming this practice by indicating that it is an infringement on the rights of the officers. Additionally, with regard to the receipt of gifts and job rotation, although Police Service Regulations provide clear guidelines on these matters, these regulations are not uniformly adhered to or enforced.