THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY HOLY SEE

ARTICLE 9, PARAGRAPH 1 UNCAC

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

HOLY SEE (THIRTEENTH MEETING)

1. **Information on the promotion of the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) for the implementation of the Convention.**

   <u>In relation to integrity of public procurement and the management of public finances</u>

   In order to prevent and counter corruption, and with the view to maximize both the efficiency of the processes and the effectiveness of the controls, the Holy See has been adopting, where possible, new IT technical solutions. In June 2020, the public procurement process was reviewed, aligning it, with the appropriate adaptations, to the international standards. New *Rules on Transparency, Control and Competition of Public Contracts of the Holy See and the Vatican City State* (the *Procurement Code*) were enacted, along with related implementing regulations.

   Since public procurement is one of the most relevant areas for the prevention and contrast of corruption, special attention has been devoted to the development of a specific IT solution. The solution developed in house by the Holy See's authorities, is designed to manage the different stages of the public procurement process, in particular:

   - the accreditation and presentation of documents by the suppliers, which are listed in the official Register of Suppliers;

   - the management of the above mentioned Register;

   - the publication of the tender documentation;

   - the request of quotations and related publication, under penalty of exclusion.

   In the case of ordinary purchases, not carried out through a tender, the IT solution allows for the automatic and random extraction of suppliers, according to the type of product/service requested, in order to obtain from them a quotation for the purchase required.

   In line with the Procurement Code, the analysis of the documentation present in the IT solution enables Holy See's authorities to exclude any suppliers which have a conflict of interest or who may have been convicted of corruption, fraud, money laundry, terrorism financing or human trafficking.

To allow effective control at all stages of the public procurement process, access to the IT solution is granted to Holy See's supervisory and control Authorities.

In addition, most Public Authorities, including those that manage public finances and those tasked with supervisory and control roles, use IT platforms to exchange data and information within their respective institutional activities. These exchanges information are processed through an in house cloud solution, managed by the Governorate of the Vatican City State, and are accessible to all authorised Vatican City and Holy See staff.

IT solutions are also used by Supervisory and control authorities to process data and to manage the respective operational activities.