

## Glossary

**Abuse of functions:** the performance of or failure to perform an act, in violation of laws, by a public official in the discharge of his or her functions, for the purpose of obtaining an undue advantage for himself or herself or for another person or entity.

**Accountability:** an environment of oversight that ensures compliance with laws, procedures and regulations, while promoting transparency, access to information and public integrity.

**Active bribery:** the paying or offering of, or promise to pay, a bribe.

**Asset recovery:** the return of illicitly obtained goods and assets for the purpose of redressing the impact of corruption. Asset recovery is a key focus of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

**Bribery:** the promise, offering or giving to a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties. Or the solicitation or acceptance by a public official, directly or indirectly, of an undue advantage, for the official himself or herself or another person or entity, in order that the official act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her official duties.

**Clientelism:** the exchange of personal favours for political support. Clientelism is an unequal system of exchanging resources and favours based on an exploitative relationship between a wealthier and/or more powerful 'patron' and a less wealthy and weaker 'client', while exacerbating the gender gap.

**Code of conduct:** standards of conduct with regard to how to behave or act in an ethical manner.

**Conflict of interest:** a conflict between the public duty and private interests of a public official, in which the public official has private-capacity interests that could improperly influence the performance of their official duties and responsibilities.

**Corruption:** there is no universally recognized definition of corruption. However, what is agreed upon is that corruption involves certain actions such as bribery, obstruction of justice, abuse of functions, use of position to obtain undue advantages and obstruction of justice.

**Ethics:** the attempt to understand the nature of human values, of how we ought to live and of what constitutes the right conduct.

**Extortion:** an act that relies on intimidation, fear and threat to force someone to do something or cooperate. Threatening to expose damaging or embarrassing information about someone to force cooperation is commonly called extortion. The degree of force, intimidation or coercion used can be used to distinguish between bribery and extortion.

**Fraud:** the act of cheating or intentionally deceiving someone in order to gain something.

**Integrity:** the strict adherence to moral values and principles.

**Lobbying:** lobbying can be a means of providing governments with valuable insights and data, and it can allow citizens and interest groups to present their views on public decisions. However, lobbying can also lead to unfair advantages for people with vested interests and is associated with secrecy and unfair advantage. Public interest is at risk when negotiations are carried out behind closed doors. Public pressure is rising worldwide to put lobbying regulations on the political agenda.

**Nepotism:** this is a form of favouritism based on friends, family and familiar acquaintances and relationships whereby someone in an official position exploits his or her power and authority to provide a job or a special favour to a family member or friend, even though he or she may not be qualified or deserving.

**Obstruction of justice:** the use of physical force, threats or intimidation, or the promise, offering or giving of an undue advantage to induce false testimony or to interfere in the giving of testimony or the production of evidence in a proceeding in relation to the commission of offences established in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The use of physical force, threats or intimidation to interfere with the exercise of official duties by a justice or law enforcement official in relation to the commission of offences established in accordance with the Convention against Corruption.

**Passive bribery:** the official receiving or accepting the bribe.

**Positive externality:** benefit(s) gained from corrupt actions.

**Transparency:** an environment of openness where the access and disclosure of information is a matter of principle and human rights. Leaders, officials and those in power operate in a visible and predictable manner that promotes trust and participation. Transparency is widely understood as a necessary precondition to prevent corruption and promote good governance and sustainability.

**Value:** something that an individual or community believes has worth that merits it being pursued, promoted or privileged. This can be a thing (money, food, art), a state of mind (peace, security, certainty) or a behaviour that results from those things or states of mind (protecting innocents, telling the truth, being creative).