

**SPECIAL EVENT  
PREVENTING CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS:  
WHY DOES CLEANING UP MATTER?**

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

**Wednesday, 27 November 2013  
Panama City, Panama  
15:00 – 17:00; New Sestas Room**

### I. Background

Corruption in public procurement occurs in most countries around the world. Even countries typically viewed as having relatively low levels of corruption are often affected by major scandals involving government contracts. So, what can governments do to tackle this problem? Why does cleaning up public procurement matter?

As countries around the world spend an average of 15% of their GDP on public procurement, it is an area highly vulnerable to corruption. UNCAC article 9 calls for States parties to enhance transparency, competition and objectivity in decision making to prevent corruption in public contracts; however, putting these principles in place and effectively implementing them is not an easy task for any government. The OECD, UNODC, IACA, UNDP, and UNCITRAL have been developing and reviewing international standards and current practices and will share findings and examples to assist States in enhancing transparency and integrity in their public procurement systems.

Some of the major discussion topics will focus around the following:

- why cleaning up government contracts matters, both domestically and in development assistance
- overview of international standards, as they relate to the prevention of corruption in procurement
- evidence of progress made (or lack of) in implementing these standards
- practical tools to overcome barriers for implementation (e.g. examples of reviews, capacity-building, sanctions, evidence)

### II. Draft programme

This special event aims at promoting awareness of the impact of corruption on public procurement systems around the world. Major international organisations working on the topic, will be present to provide Member States with valuable information on good practices in preventing corruption and enhancing efficiency in public procurement systems from recently published reports, guides, and training materials.

### III. Agenda

**Welcome and introduction of the topic (15:00 – 15:15):**

Candice Welsch, Chief, Implementation Support Section, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC

**Panel Discussion No. 1 (15:15 – 15:45): Why does cleaning up government contracts matter?**

**OECD Chair:** Yves Leterme, Deputy Secretary General, OECD

Suggested speakers:

- **OECD:** Overview of OECD standards on preventing corruption in public procurement, including active implementation of OECD public procurement and anti-corruption standards
  - Janos Bertok, Head of Public Sector Integrity Division, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD
- **UNODC:** UNCAC good practices in transparency, objectivity and decision-making in public procurement, with consideration of other international instruments, such as UNCITRAL Model Law: Launch of UNODC Guidebook on good practices in implementing article 9
  - Christopher Yukins, Professor, George Washington University (consultant IACA/joint UNODC project)

Discussion (15 minutes)

**Panel Discussion No. 2 (16:00 – 16:45): How can we better prevent corruption in public procurement?**

**OECD Chair:** Yves Leterme, Deputy Secretary General, OECD

Suggested speakers:

- **UNDP:** Making public procurement work for development: Examples of sectoral approaches
  - Elodie Beth, Regional Advisor for Anti-corruption in Asia Pacific, UNDP
- **IACA:** Capacity building tools: Overview of IACA PACT training
  - Martin Kreutner, Dean of the International Anti-Corruption Academy, IACA and Christopher Yukins, Professor, George Washington University (consultant IACA/joint UNODC project)
- **Mexico's Technological Institute of Advanced Studies from Monterrey:** Good practices: Case examples from Mexico
  - Max Kaiser, Director EGAP Government and Public Policy - Santa Fe, Technological Institute of Advanced Studies from Monterrey

Discussion (15 minutes)

IV. Publications:

Papers and presentations submitted by panellists and discussions held at the event will be documented and disseminated electronically.

Useful resources for participants include:

- OECD Recommendation on Enhancing Integrity in Public Procurement<sup>1</sup>
- OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the 2009 Recommendation for Further Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions<sup>2</sup>
- UNODC/IACA Guidebook on anti-corruption in public procurement and the management of public finances<sup>3</sup>
- IACA/UNODC PACT Procurement Anti-Corruption Training Course Outline<sup>4</sup>
- UNDP Fighting Corruption in the Health, Water and Education Sectors: Methods, Tools and Good Practices<sup>5</sup>
- UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement<sup>6</sup>
- UNICTRAL Guide to Enactment of the Model Law on Public Procurement<sup>7</sup>
- World Trade Organization, Government Procurement Agreement<sup>8</sup>
- EU Public Procurement Directives<sup>9</sup>
- World Bank/International Financial Institution Guidelines
- Transparency International, Handbook: Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.oecd.org/gov/oecdprinciplesforenhancingintegrityinpublicprocurement.htm](http://www.oecd.org/gov/oecdprinciplesforenhancingintegrityinpublicprocurement.htm)

<sup>2</sup> [www.oecd.org/daf/anti-bribery/oecdantibriberyconvention.htm](http://www.oecd.org/daf/anti-bribery/oecdantibriberyconvention.htm)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/Publications/2013/Guidebook\\_on\\_anti-corruption\\_in\\_public\\_procurement\\_and\\_the\\_management\\_of\\_public\\_finances.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/Publications/2013/Guidebook_on_anti-corruption_in_public_procurement_and_the_management_of_public_finances.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.iaca.int/standardized-trainings/pact>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/anti-corruption/fighting\\_corruptioninthehealthsector.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/anti-corruption/fighting_corruptioninthehealthsector.html)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/uncitral\\_texts/procurement\\_infrastructure/2011Model.html](http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/uncitral_texts/procurement_infrastructure/2011Model.html)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/uncitral\\_texts/procurement\\_infrastructure/2011Model.html](http://www.uncitral.org/uncitral/uncitral_texts/procurement_infrastructure/2011Model.html)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/gproc\\_e/gp\\_gpa\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gproc_e/gp_gpa_e.htm)

<sup>9</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/publicprocurement/rules/current/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/rules/current/index_en.htm)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/pub/handbook\\_for\\_curbing\\_corruption\\_in\\_public\\_procurement](http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/pub/handbook_for_curbing_corruption_in_public_procurement)