



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION, FIFTH SESSION
Panama City, Panama, 25-29 November 2013**

SPECIAL EVENT

**THE IMPORTANCE OF ANTI-CORRUPTION ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE:
NEW TOOLS BY UNODC, OECD AND THE WORLD BANK**

**28 NOVEMBER 2013, 3 – 4.30 p.m.
ROOM TEATRO LA HUACA**

I. INTRODUCTION

Corrupt practices are detrimental to all businesses - large and small, multinational and local. Corporate scandals have rocked financial markets and undermined investor confidence. Such incidents also receive enormous attention from the public and the media, and hit the reputations of more than just the particular entity or persons involved. Calls for greater private sector accountability have led many businesses, particularly among the world's largest corporations, to implement programmes to guard against corruption, thus protecting their corporate image as well as the interests of their investors, workers and customers.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the world's strongest, most comprehensive and globally accepted legal instrument in the fight against corruption, recognizes that States alone cannot fight corruption. Companies clearly have a critical role to play as allies for change. This is why the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has developed a practical guide on the various steps companies may take to prevent corruption in their operations by establishing an effective anti-corruption ethics and compliance programme. While actions will vary from company to company, the Guide focuses on basic common elements businesses should address, with a particular emphasis on the challenges and opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The G20 also recognized that the myriad of existing anti-corruption principles for business can be confusing, especially for small- to medium-sized enterprises with limited resources, which are looking for concrete ways to prevent corruption in their business dealings in an increasingly complex and globalized operating environment. To address this challenge, an Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance Handbook has been developed by companies, for companies, with assistance from the OECD, home to the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, UNODC, and World Bank. The Handbook provides a useful resource not just for companies headquartered in G20 countries, but for all companies which recognize the need for developing and implementing robust anti-corruption ethics and compliance programmes and which seek compliance advice.

II. FORMAT AND AGENDA

During this event, two tools will be presented to assist the private sector in its efforts to strengthen compliance and ethics measures against corruption.

First, the UNODC will present its new publication 'An Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance Programme for Business: A Practical Guide'¹, which has been developed to serve as a useful, practical tool for companies seeking advice in developing, implementing and continuously improving an anti-corruption ethics and compliance programme.

Second, this special event will also feature the launch of the 'Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance Handbook', whose development has been coordinated jointly by the OECD, the World Bank and UNODC, and which compiles existing guidelines for business into one, easy-to-use reference with real-life company case studies.

This event will encourage business leaders to proactively and effectively implement internal controls, ethics and compliance measures to prevent corruption in their business operations.

15:00 – 15:05

Welcome and introduction of the topic

Daria Shimanovskaya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation

15:05 – 16:15

Panel Discussion: The Importance of Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance

Chair: Elaine Dezenski, Senior Director and Head of Partnering Against Corruption Initiative, World Economic Forum

Panellists:

- John Sandage, Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC
- Patrick Moulette, Head, Anti-Corruption Division, OECD
- Galina J. Mikhlin-Oliver, Director, Strategy and Core Services, Institutional Integrity (INTSC), World Bank Group
- Gonzalo Guzman, Head of Legal Projects, International Bar Association
- Dmitry V. Basnak, Director of the Department for Development of Public Service, Ministry of Labor and Social Care of the Russian Federation
- Ilya Klochkov, Deputy Director of the Department of State Regulation in Economics, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation

Discussion (15 minutes)

III. PUBLICATIONS

- An Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance Programme for Business: A Practical Guide
http://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/Publications/2013/13-84498_Ebook.pdf
- Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance Handbook for Business (OECD/UNODC/World Bank)
<http://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/Publications/2013/Anti-CorruptionEthicsComplianceHandbook.pdf>

¹ The Government of the Russian Federation provided funding for the development of this Guide.