



**Government of the Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Public Administration and
Local Self Government**



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Resilient nations.*

(How) Can Open Data Prevent and Fight Corruption?

**Special Event to CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST
CORRUPTION**

Agenda

This event is organized jointly by UNDP and the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of Serbia.

The event will take place on November, 4 2015, from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Conference Room A, Pavilion 7 of the Lenexpo Exhibition Complex, St Petersburg, Russia.

Background

Open data describes information that is not simply public, but that has been published in a manner that makes it easy to access and easy to compare and connect with other information.

Open data is playing an important role in supporting inclusive governance, strengthening transparency and accountability. Global organizations are recognizing the potential of data in general, and open data specifically. To illustrate, the Independent Expert Advisory Group, per request from the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, launched a report with concrete recommendations on bringing about the data revolution in sustainable development. Moreover, open data is strongly featured in the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Action Plan 2015-2016.

Broadly, the linkage between open data and international anti-corruption legal instruments derives from Resolution 5/4, the follow-up to the Marrakech Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption, adopted at the CoSP 2013 in Panama. Specifically, point 23 which pertains to the introduction of effective measures facilitating public access to information. Experience with open data globally and from the ECIS region, in particular, is showing that open data has a special role to play on asset declaration, public procurement and creating bridges of communication between governments and non-state actors. These aspects are key to the prevention and fight against corruption, and as such are reflected in the Convention in articles 9, 10 and 13, respectively, and reinforced in the Resolution in paragraphs 22, 23 and 25.



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In practice, through implementation of open data programmes, States Parties (SP) can improve their standing, especially on asset declarations and corruption prevention, both topics being covered in the next UNCAC review cycle. Moreover, successful open data initiatives from around the world have demonstrated that a positive externality of open data is that it opens an uncharted space for collaboration between governments, civil society and the private sector. In the context of the UNCAC review, the presence of open data initiatives can also enhance the role of civil society.

Considering the above, the **objective of the event** is to assess the usability of open data in the fight against corruption based on accumulated evidence arising from SP, and to layout a framework which would assist SP in harnessing the potential of open data to meet their obligations residing in the Convention.

Panel:

“Open Data, a tool for inclusive governance and development?” Kori Udovicki, Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of the Republic of Serbia

“Open Data for Anti-Corruption” John Brandolino, Director, Division of Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

“Open Data for Anticorruption: Lessons and Opportunities” Martin Turček, Transparency International

“Governments’ commitments, CSOs’ expectations: a Kyrgyz update” Rita Karasartova, Societal Analysis Public Association

“How can Open Data enhance the fight against corruption? Insights from the African continent” Samuel De Jaegere, UNODC Representative

Moderator: Patrick Keuleers, UNDP Governance and Peacebuilding Head of Practice.

Proposed structure of the event:

First 5 minutes: Audio-visual presentations

Panel discussion 1 hour