UNCAC COSP8 – Special event

Making transparency work: Technology-driven approaches to facilitate public access to information

Friday, 20 December 2019, 09:00-10:00
Room: Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (UAE), CR6

Organisers: UNCAC Coalition, Article 19, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

This session presents innovative, technology-driven reforms that enable easy access to information, including through procurement platforms and open data portals, highlighting how transparency can help to detect and deter corruption, linked to UNCAC Articles 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 on promoting transparency.

Annual global spending on public procurement is estimated to exceed USD 9.5 trillion, accounting for almost 20 percent of global GDP. Panellists will present on two approaches to promote transparency in public contracting. Speakers representing the Ministry of Justice and the Public Procurement Office of the Slovak Republic will present on Slovakia’s procurement system, its approach of requiring the online publication of government contracts, and the collection of beneficial ownership information on entities doing business with the public sectors, as well as the impact these reforms have had.

The non-governmental organisation PRDC has piloted the use of the Open Contracting Data Standard in Nigeria and has been monitoring of public procurement on the ground and across communities. Its online platform Budeshi has been replicated in several other countries. The group will share how it monitors public contracting and how having the right data available is essential to these efforts.

Public access to data on the registration, directors and owners of companies is crucial when investigating potential corruption cases, conducting due diligence or monitoring public procurement. OpenCorporates will share insights from its efforts to create an open global company registry, the impact public access to such data can have, as well as challenges in opening up company data.

Panellists will give short presentations, followed by questions from the moderator and questions and answers from the floor.
Speakers:

- **Anna Andrejšinová**, Director of Legislation Division of Civil and Commercial Law Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, on the obligatory publishing of state contracts and the register of partners of the public sector.

- **Jozef Daňko**, Head of the Supervision Division, Public Procurement office of the Slovak Republic, on transparency in public procurement in Slovakia.

- **Nkemdilim Ilo**, CEO of the Public & Private Development Centre (PRDC), Nigeria, on experiences in piloting the open contracting data standard and monitoring public procurement.

- **Chris Taggart**, CEO and Co-founder of OpenCorporates, on OpenCorporates’ efforts to make the world’s company data open for all.

Moderator:

- **David Banisar**, Chair of the UNCAC Coalition and Senior Legal Counsel for Article 19.

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1 Michal Kotlárik, Director General of the International Law Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, will also be present to respond to questions.