



Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Distr.: General
31 March 2022

Original: English

Implementation Review Group

Thirteenth session

Vienna, 13–17 June 2022

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**State of implementation of the United Nations
Convention against Corruption**

Implementation at the regional level of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Report prepared by the Secretariat

Summary

The present report complements the thematic report on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/3](#)). It provides an overview of the implementation, by regional groups of States parties under review in the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, of the provisions on preventive anti-corruption bodies and education and training programmes in the public sector (art. 6, para. 2, and art. 7, para. 1, of the Convention), public procurement and training requirements for personnel responsible for it (art. 9, para. 1, of the Convention), awareness-raising activities and public education programmes (art. 13, para. 1, of the Convention), the use of information and communications technologies in relation to asset declarations and financial disclosure systems (art. 8, para. 5, and art. 52, paras. 5 and 6, of the Convention) and public procurement (art. 9, para. 1, of the Convention).

* [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/1](#).



I. Introduction, scope and structure of the report

1. In accordance with paragraphs 35 and 44 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the present report contains supplementary information, organized by geographical region, to the thematic report on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the Convention (CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/3). It provides an overview of successes, good practices, challenges and observations in relation to the implementation of article 6, paragraph 2; article 7, paragraph 1; article 8, paragraph 5; article 9, paragraph 1; article 13, paragraph 1; and article 52, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention.¹ The report is based on information contained in the finalized executive summaries of and country review reports on the 58 reviews that had been completed as at 28 February 2022, including 19 reviews completed for the Group of African States, 17 for the Group of Asia-Pacific States, 10 for the Group of Western European and other States, 6 for the Group of Eastern European States and 6 for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.² The present report does not purport to be comprehensive, but instead endeavours to provide a summary of the information available in the country reviews completed under the second review cycle.

2. Two topics were selected from the thematic report for further analysis on a regional basis: the promotion of education, training and awareness-raising (art. 6, para. 2; art. 7, para. 1; art. 9, para. 1; and art. 13, para. 1, of the Convention) and the use of information and communications technologies in relation to asset declarations, financial disclosure systems and public procurement (art. 8, para. 5; art. 9, para. 1; and art. 52, paras. 5 and 6, of the Convention).

3. Those topics were also highlighted in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in June 2021, and in several resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention.³ In particular, in its resolution 6/10, entitled “Education and training in the context of anti-corruption”, the Conference requested States parties to promote and implement, in accordance with their national legislation, education and professional training on the prevention of corruption, and in its resolution 9/8, entitled “Promoting anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training”, the Conference highlighted the fundamental role of education in the fight against corruption and the preventive function of awareness-raising, education and training in the implementation of the Convention.

4. The importance of the use of information and communications technologies has also been highlighted in a number of resolutions of the Conference.⁴ Most recently, in its resolution 9/3, entitled “Follow-up to the Abu Dhabi declaration on enhancing collaboration between the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to more effectively prevent and fight corruption, and the use of information and communications technologies”, the Conference encouraged States parties to utilize those technologies to strengthen public awareness and promote transparency and public reporting in areas such as public procurement, the management of public finances and asset and interest disclosure.

¹ In line with the outcome of the discussions of the Implementation Review Group, thematic reports and reports on implementation at the regional level are no longer anonymized. Countries used as illustrative examples of good practices have therefore been identified throughout the report.

² The data in the present report are based on executive summaries completed as at 16 March 2022.

³ See Conference resolutions 3/2, 4/3, 5/4, 5/5, 6/5, 6/6, 7/2, 7/6, 7/8, 8/5, 8/8, 8/13, 9/4 and 9/6.

⁴ See Conference resolutions 6/7 and 6/8.

II. Implementation of select provisions of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the Convention

A. Promotion of anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training (art. 6, para. 2; art. 7, para. 1; art. 9, para. 1; and art. 13, para. 1, of the Convention)

5. Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention requires States parties to provide the staff of preventive anti-corruption bodies with the necessary training that they may require to carry out their functions. In addition, under article 7, paragraph 1, States parties are to endeavour to adopt, maintain and strengthen systems that, inter alia, promote education and training programmes for the correct, honourable and proper performance of public functions by civil servants and provide them with specialized training to enhance their awareness of the risks of corruption inherent in the performance of their functions. In addition, States parties are required to establish transparent and objective procurement systems that address, inter alia, the training requirements of procurement personnel, as prescribed in article 9, paragraph 1. Furthermore, States parties are to take appropriate measures to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including through awareness-raising activities and public education programmes, in accordance with article 13, paragraph 1.

6. The analysis in the present report is focused on recommendations relating directly to the promotion of anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training. Accordingly, the good practices identified include only those related to the implementation of specialized anti-corruption training programmes for public officials, awareness-raising activities and public education.

7. With regard to the aggregated data on the provisions analysed in the present section, the largest number of recommendations (42 in total) were issued in relation to article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention. The majority of States parties (35 out of 58) received recommendations regarding that provision. As for article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention, a total of 14 recommendations were issued. In addition, 12 States parties received recommendations relating to article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention. The analysis showed that 10 out of the 12 States parties that received recommendations on article 9, paragraph 1, also received recommendations on article 6, paragraph 2, or article 7, paragraph 1, indicating a link between the provisions of the Convention on training for various categories of public officials.

8. A total of 13 recommendations on awareness-raising and education were issued in relation to article 13, paragraph 1. The broad nature of measures that States parties can implement in order to comply with that provision might explain the small number of recommendations relating to it. In comparison with the other articles analysed, a large number of good practices were identified.

9. The following tables and figures provide an overview of the aforementioned data.

Table 1
Relevant recommendations issued with regard to the implementation of article 6, paragraph 2, by regional group

	<i>Number of States with completed reviews</i>	<i>Number of States that received relevant recommendations</i>	<i>Total number of relevant recommendations received</i>	<i>Percentage of States that received relevant recommendations</i>
Group of African States	19	7	7	37
Group of Asia-Pacific States	17	3	3	18
Group of Eastern European States	6	2	2	33
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States	6	1	1	17
Group of Western European and other States	10	1	1	10

Figure I
Percentage of States per regional group that received relevant recommendations with regard to the implementation of article 6, paragraph 2

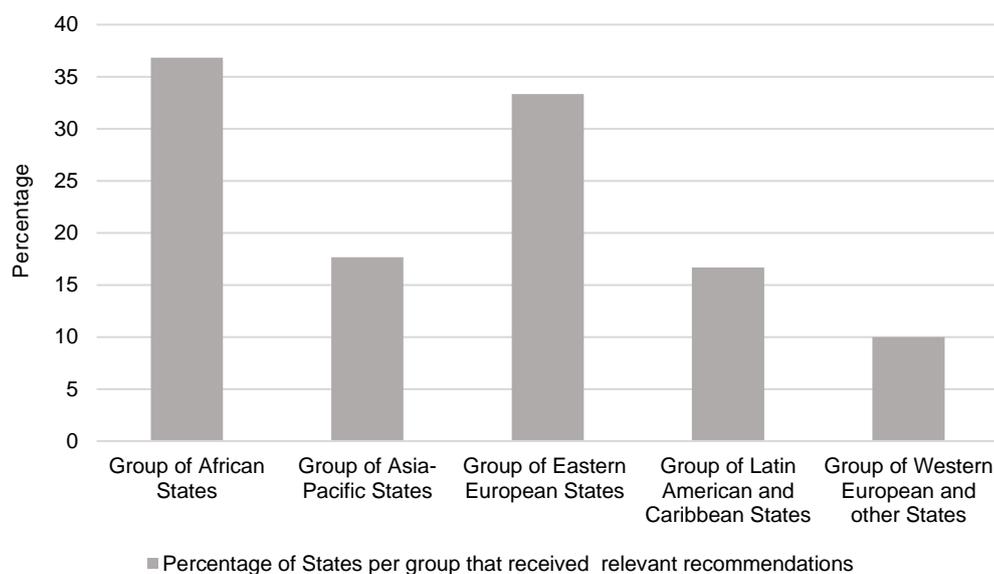


Table 2
Relevant recommendations issued with regard to the implementation of article 7, paragraph 1, by regional group

	<i>Number of States with completed reviews</i>	<i>Number of States that received relevant recommendations</i>	<i>Total number of relevant recommendations received</i>	<i>Percentage of States that received relevant recommendations</i>
Group of African States	19	11	13	58
Group of Asia-Pacific States	17	15	17	88
Group of Eastern European States	6	2	3	33
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States	6	5	5	83
Group of Western European and other States	10	2	4	20

Figure II
Percentage of States per regional group that received relevant recommendations with regard to the implementation of article 7, paragraph 1

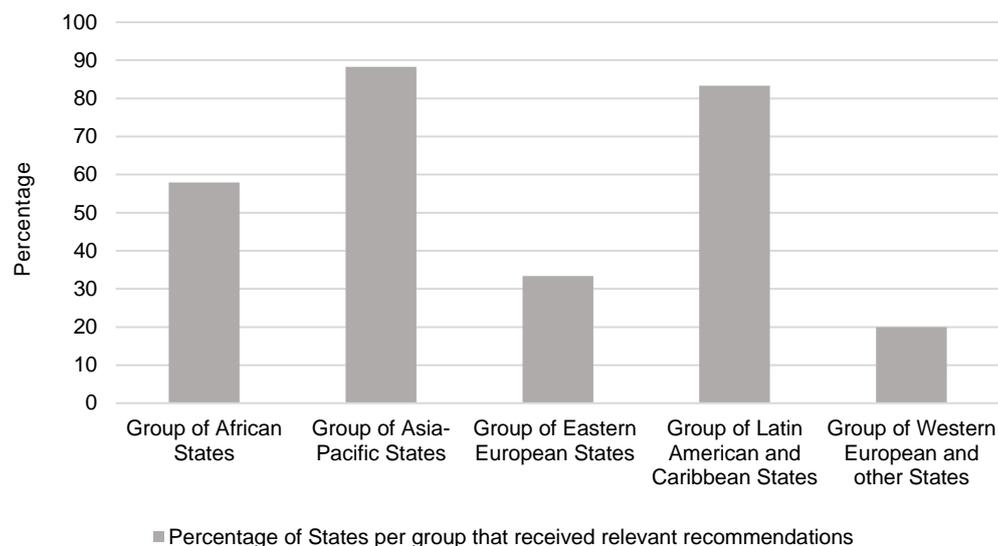


Table 3
Relevant recommendations issued with regard to the implementation of article 9, paragraph 1, by regional group

	<i>Number of States with completed reviews</i>	<i>Number of States that received relevant recommendations</i>	<i>Total number of relevant recommendations received</i>	<i>Percentage of States that received relevant recommendations</i>
Group of African States	19	6	6	32
Group of Asia-Pacific States	17	5	5	29
Group of Eastern European States	6	1	1	17
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States	6	0	0	0
Group of Western European and other States	10	0	0	0

Figure III
Percentage of States per regional group that received relevant recommendations with regard to the implementation of article 9, paragraph 1

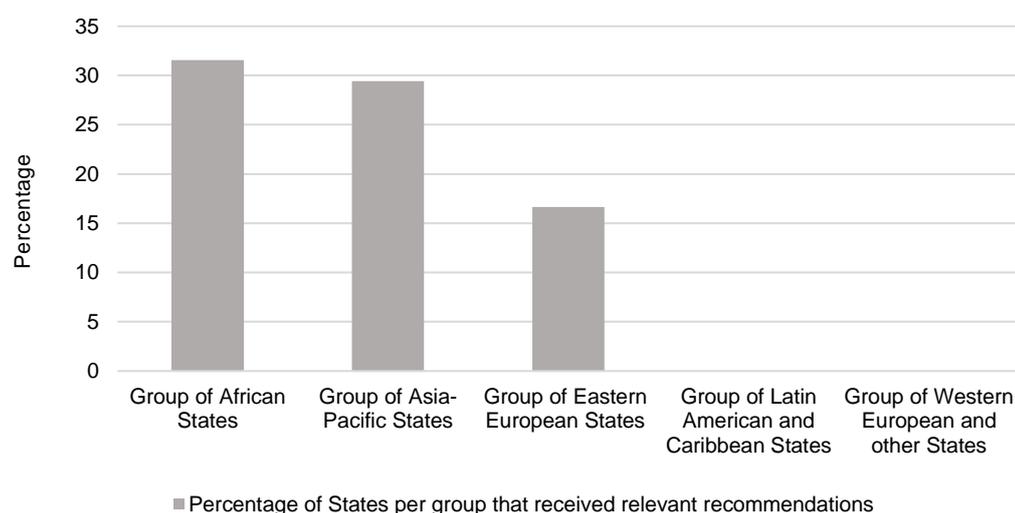
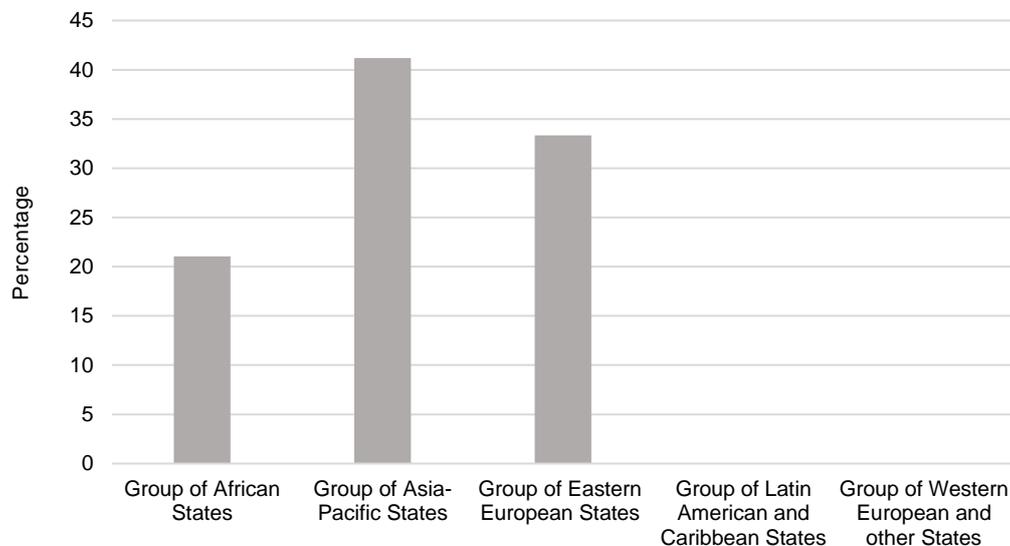


Table 4
Relevant recommendations issued with regard to the implementation of article 13, paragraph 1, by regional group

	<i>Number of States with completed reviews</i>	<i>Number of States that received relevant recommendations</i>	<i>Total number of relevant recommendations received</i>	<i>Percentage of States that received relevant recommendations</i>
Group of African States	19	4	4	21
Group of Asia-Pacific States	17	7	7	41
Group of Eastern European States	6	2	2	33
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States	6	0	0	0
Group of Western European and other States	10	0	0	0

Figure IV
Percentage of States per group that received relevant recommendations with regard to the implementation of article 13, paragraph 1



10. Three good practices were identified in relation to article 6, paragraph 2 (two in the Group of African States and one in the Group of Asia-Pacific States); four were identified with regard to article 7, paragraph 1 (three in the Group of African States and one in the Group of Asia-Pacific States); seven for article 13, paragraph 1 (three in the Group of African States, two in the Group of Asia-Pacific States and one each in the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States). Reviewers did not identify any good practices with regard to specialized training for personnel responsible for public procurement under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Group of African States

11. Seven of the 19 African States covered in the present report received recommendations on article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention in relation to the need for training and capacity-building activities in order for the personnel of preventive anti-corruption bodies to effectively carry out their functions. Among those States, two received recommendations to continue to invest in training and capacity-building, including through international cooperation, exchange programmes and benchmarking good practices with other countries.

12. The reviewing experts considered that the training and support provided to practitioners and ethics officers in South Africa was a good practice. Another good practice identified with regard to article 6, paragraph 2, was the establishment of the Department of Community Education under the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau of the United Republic of Tanzania.

13. Regarding article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention, a majority of African States (11 out of 19) covered in the present report received recommendations. Twelve of the recommendations issued for those States related to the need to adopt or strengthen procedures for specialized anti-corruption training for public officials. Four recommendations specifically addressed the need for adequate training for individuals in positions considered vulnerable to corruption. In addition, three States received recommendations to provide continuing training for public officials on the risks of corruption inherent in the performance of their duties. One State lacked training on conflicts of interest, and the reviewing experts recommended expanding the scope of specialized anti-corruption training to cover that topic.

14. In terms of good practices, reviewers commended the specialized training programmes regularly delivered by Algeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe on transparency and the prevention of corruption for civil servants.

15. Regarding article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, reviewing experts recommended that six States introduce or improve programmes to meet the training requirements of procurement personnel. In some cases, recommendations on training for staff responsible for public procurement were not issued because the reviewers focused on other aspects of that provision. In other cases, more generic recommendations were issued. For instance, reviewers found that in two States, among other challenges, there were no established procedures for the training of procurement personnel. Broad recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of procurement systems were issued.

16. As for measures to promote awareness-raising activities and public education programmes pursuant to article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention, four African States received recommendations on that provision. The majority of States in this regional group indicated that they offered a range of public education programmes and awareness-raising campaigns. However, reviewers noted limitations in the scope of those measures. In this regard, “soft” recommendations, such as strengthening the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector and expanding anti-corruption awareness campaigns, were issued. In addition, a recommendation to prompt the establishment of anti-corruption education programmes at schools and universities was issued for one State that had expressed an interest in such programmes.

17. Three good practices relating to article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention were identified in the Group of African States. The reviewing experts commended the efforts of Mozambique to establish anti-corruption centres, launch student competitions and provide anti-corruption training for teachers in local schools. The development of a methodology for measuring corruption in Egypt and the launch of the “Pay no bribe” campaign in Sierra Leone were also commended.

Group of Asia-Pacific States

18. Of the 17 Asia-Pacific States analysed in the present report, 6 States provided information on specialized training for staff of preventive anti-corruption bodies (art. 6, para. 2). Three States received recommendations aimed at strengthening the independence and effectiveness of their preventive anti-corruption bodies, including through the provision of sufficient material resources and specialized training for staff.

19. The reviewing experts found that the various forms of continuing professional and specialized training provided by Saudi Arabia to counter corruption and

strengthen integrity constituted good practices in the implementation of article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

20. Regarding measures to promote education, training programmes and awareness of the risks of corruption among public officials, 15 of the Asia-Pacific States covered in the present report received recommendations on article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention. The majority of the recommendations were focused on the need to adopt procedures for the selection and training of individuals for public positions considered especially vulnerable to corruption. The reviewing experts noted that in 12 States such procedures were not in place. One State had reported that various public institutions offered training programmes for civil servants. However, those institutions did not provide specialized anti-corruption training, and a recommendation was issued in that regard. Two States received recommendations to strengthen their measures to prevent and detect conflicts of interest, including through the development of specialized training for public officials.

21. Regarding the good practices identified in relation to article 7, paragraph 1, the measures taken by Malaysia to mitigate risks of corruption, including through specific training for staff, were commended.

22. Six out of the 17 States in this regional group indicated explicitly during their reviews that they had in place specialized training for staff involved in public procurement as prescribed in article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention. In most cases, such training was provided by local procurement commissions or training institutes for public administration. For two of those States, a recommendation to strengthen measures regulating the training requirements for procurement personnel was issued. The reviewing experts did not issue recommendations for the other States in this group. One State reported having developed a draft procurement law to strengthen the integrity and transparency of the procurement process, including through specialized training for procurement officers. A recommendation to adopt the draft law was issued.

23. Regarding article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention, seven Asia-Pacific States received recommendations to promote awareness-raising activities and public education programmes. More specifically, the reviewing experts observed that details on awareness-raising activities and education programmes had not been provided and that the involvement of individuals and groups outside the public sector in anti-corruption efforts needed to be enhanced. In this regard, recommendations to continue to promote the participation of civil society in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including through public education programmes, were issued. One State indicated that it had established an anti-corruption curriculum for primary and secondary schools. In that case, a recommendation to consider the development of anti-corruption curricula for universities was issued.

24. Two good practices relating to awareness-raising and educational activities under article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention were identified in the Group of Asia-Pacific States. The reviewing experts commended the continuing educational activities, including integrity clubs and student competitions, in Sri Lanka and the specialized training for investigative journalists in the State of Palestine.

Group of Eastern European States

25. Of the six Eastern European States covered in the present report, two received recommendations regarding the training of staff of preventive anti-corruption bodies under article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention. Those recommendations related to the need to provide preventive anti-corruption bodies with specialized staff and adequate training.

26. Regarding article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention, two Eastern European States covered in the present report received recommendations. In one of those States, procedures for the selection, training and rotation of persons in positions considered especially vulnerable to corruption had not been established, and a recommendation

was issued in that regard. In another case, while the State had provided information on anti-corruption training programmes for public officials, the reviewing experts noted that those programmes did not cover the topic of conflicts of interest. A recommendation on the need for specialized training on that topic was issued.

27. With regard to article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, one Eastern European State received a recommendation to raise public procurement officials' awareness of and provide them with training on the management of corruption risks.

28. Two Eastern European States received recommendations related to awareness-raising activities and public education programmes under article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention. One State reported having established education programmes at different levels. The reviewing experts, however, observed that those were rather isolated cases, and a recommendation to consider taking a systematic and nationwide approach to anti-corruption education was issued.

29. Regarding the good practices identified in relation to article 13, paragraph 1, the reviewing experts commended the awareness-raising activities of the Russian Federation aimed at promoting non-tolerance of corruption and its efforts to increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption education.

Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

30. One of the six Latin American and Caribbean States covered in the present report received a recommendation on article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention in relation to training for the staff of preventive anti-corruption bodies. More specifically, that recommendation was focused on the need to increase knowledge of the prevention of corruption among the staff of such bodies.

31. Concerning measures to promote education, training programmes and awareness of the risks of corruption among public officials in line with article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention, reviewers issued recommendations for five out of six States from this regional group. All five recommendations referred to the need to identify public positions that were considered especially vulnerable to corruption and to adopt adequate procedures for the selection of and training for individuals holding such positions.

32. Although all Latin American and Caribbean States covered in the present report received recommendations on article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, none of the recommendations related to the training of procurement personnel.

33. Five out of six Latin American and Caribbean States provided information on awareness-raising activities and public education programmes under article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention. Two States reported having established school curricula that promoted ethical principles and values among students at different levels of education. The other three States reported on cooperation with civil society organizations, academic institutions and citizens through a range of activities, such as information campaigns, workshops and training activities, with a view to promoting ethical behaviour and non-tolerance of corruption. Reviewing experts did not issue recommendations with regard to this provision of the Convention.

34. The "Youth network for transparency" in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, which promotes a culture of integrity among local youth, was identified as a good practice with regard to article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Group of Western European and other States

35. Of the 10 Western European and other States covered in the present report, 4 provided information on training for staff of preventive anti-corruption bodies under article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention. However, the majority of States (9 out of 10) in this group reported that their preventive anti-corruption bodies possessed adequate staff and resources. In this regard, one generic recommendation to ensure that the preventive anti-corruption authority was adequately staffed was issued.

36. Regarding article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention, two Western European and other States received recommendations. In line with the trend in other regional groups, those recommendations related to measures to identify positions that are vulnerable to corruption and to provide adequate training for officials holding those positions. For one of the two States, the reviewing experts identified a need for anti-corruption training also for other categories of public officials. An additional recommendation was issued in that regard.

37. Regarding article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, all 10 States considered in this regional group reported having well-established public procurement systems that, with one exception, were subject to the relevant European Union regulations. In this regard, reviewing experts did not issue recommendations related to specialized training for procurement personnel.

38. Four out of the 10 Western European and other States analysed in the present report provided information on education and awareness-raising activities under article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention. One State indicated that it had produced videos for the purpose of raising awareness among young people and children, while three other States reported on anti-corruption education programmes introduced at different levels of the education system. No recommendations were issued with regard to this provision of the Convention.

39. A total of 13 good practices relating to articles 6, 7, 9 and 13 of the Convention were identified by reviewers in the Group of Western European and other States. However, none of those good practices were related to promoting anti-corruption education, awareness-raising or training.

B. Use of information and communications technologies in relation to asset declarations, financial disclosure systems and public procurement (art. 8, para. 5; art. 9, para. 1; and art. 52, paras. 5 and 6, of the Convention)

40. Article 8, paragraph 5, of the Convention requires States parties to endeavour to establish measures and systems requiring public officials to make declarations regarding, inter alia, their outside activities, employment, investments, assets and substantial gifts or benefits from which a conflict of interest may result. In a closely related provision, article 52, paragraph 5, requires States parties to consider establishing financial disclosure systems for appropriate public officials and taking measures to permit their competent authorities to share that information with the competent authorities in other States parties when necessary to investigate, claim and recover proceeds of offences established in accordance with the Convention. Moreover, States parties must also consider requiring appropriate public officials having an interest in or signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country to report that relationship and to maintain appropriate records related to such accounts, in accordance with article 52, paragraph 6, of the Convention.⁵

41. With regard to public procurement, article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention requires States parties to establish appropriate systems of procurement that are effective, inter alia, in preventing corruption. Such systems are to address, inter alia, the public distribution of information relating to procurement procedures and contracts; the establishment, in advance, of conditions for participation and their publication; the use of objective and predetermined criteria for public procurement decisions; an effective system of domestic review; and measures to regulate matters regarding personnel responsible for procurement.

42. Even though the Convention does not explicitly require the use of information and communications technologies in the areas of asset declarations, financial

⁵ For further information on the implementation at the regional level of article 8, paragraph 5, and article 52, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention, see [CAC/COSP/2021/7](#).

disclosure and public procurement, the use of such technologies can ensure the effectiveness and transparency of systems in those areas. With regard to asset declarations and financial disclosure systems, the use of technology for the submission and storage of declarations could ensure their integrity and availability and, where applicable, facilitate their publication. Moreover, it could allow for swifter and more efficient sharing of information among relevant authorities and constitute an essential instrument for the establishment of robust review mechanisms, as it allows for targeted verifications and the cross-checking of information among different databases.

43. With regard to public procurement, the use of information and communications technologies could enhance the public distribution of information, therefore ensuring the transparency of processes, fair competition among tenderers and the correct application of rules and procedures. Furthermore, such technologies can facilitate the submission of documents and their subsequent management and evaluation by procurement and other authorities.

44. The present section contains an analysis of recommendations directly related to the enhancement or development of the above-mentioned areas, even when reviewers did not specifically mention the use of information and communications technologies for that purpose. Other recommendations not relating to areas that could be directly enhanced by the use of such technologies are not included. As for good practices, the report includes only those specifically related to the implementation of information and communications technologies.

45. With regard to the aggregated data on the provisions analysed in the present section, gathered from the executive summaries and public review reports, article 8, paragraph 5, and article 52, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention were the subject of similar numbers of relevant recommendations (28 and 27, respectively). In this regard, half of the Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States covered in this report received recommendations regarding an aspect that could directly benefit from the use of information and communications technologies in asset declarations (art. 8, para. 5). This share is over 50 per cent in the Group of African States. In the area of financial disclosure systems (art. 52, paras. 5 and 6), half of the Eastern European States and more than 60 per cent of the African States covered in the present report could benefit from the use of such technologies.

46. Moreover, a very small number of relevant good practices related to the use of information and communications technologies were identified for these two provisions (none for article 8, paragraph 5, and two for article 52, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention).

47. The data suggest a wider use of information and communications technologies for public procurement (art. 9, para. 1). This is confirmed by the regional analysis set out below and further supported by the larger number of relevant good practices identified in relation to this provision. In comparison with the provisions analysed above, a lower percentage of States in all regional groups received recommendations related to issues that could benefit from the implementation and use of information and communications technologies. At the same time, eight relevant good practices were identified by reviewers with regard to article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

48. The following tables and figures provide an overview of the aforementioned data regarding recommendations.

Table 5
Relevant recommendations issued with regard to the implementation of article 8, paragraph 5, by regional group

	<i>Number of States with completed reviews</i>	<i>Number of States that received relevant recommendations</i>	<i>Total number of relevant recommendations received</i>	<i>Percentage of States that received relevant recommendations</i>
Group of African States	19	10	14	53
Group of Asia-Pacific States	17	3	4	18
Group of Eastern European States	6	2	2	33
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States	6	3	3	50
Group of Western European and other States	10	5	5	50

Figure V
Percentage of States per regional group that received relevant recommendations with regard to the implementation of article 8, paragraph 5

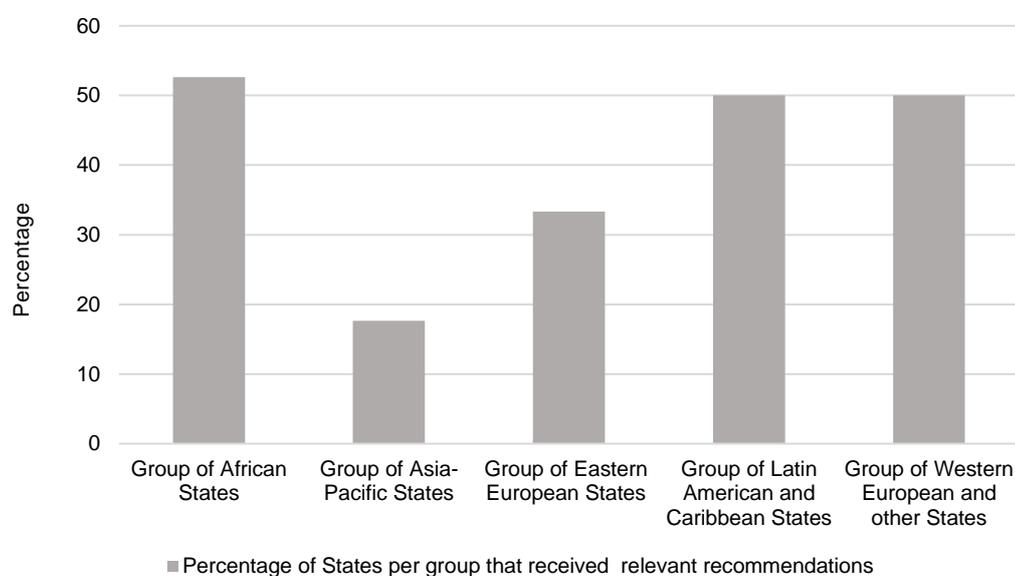


Table 6
Relevant recommendations issued with regard to the implementation of article 52, paragraphs 5 and 6, by regional group

	<i>Number of States with completed reviews</i>	<i>Number of States that received relevant recommendations</i>	<i>Total number of relevant recommendations received</i>	<i>Percentage of States that received relevant recommendations</i>
Group of African States	19	12	15	63
Group of Asia-Pacific States	17	5	5	29
Group of Eastern European States	6	3	3	50
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States	6	1	1	17
Group of Western European and other States	10	3	3	30

Figure VI
Percentage of States per regional group that received relevant recommendations with regard to the implementation of article 52, paragraphs 5 and 6

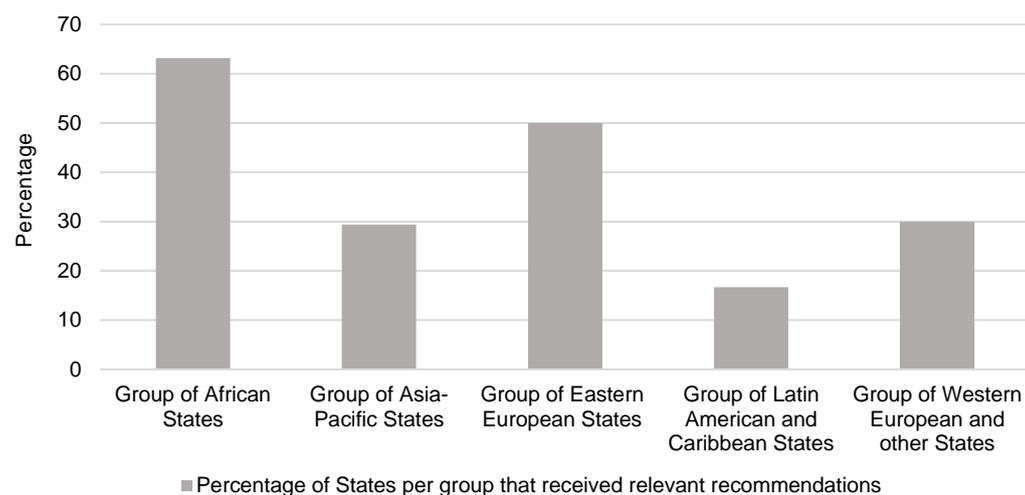
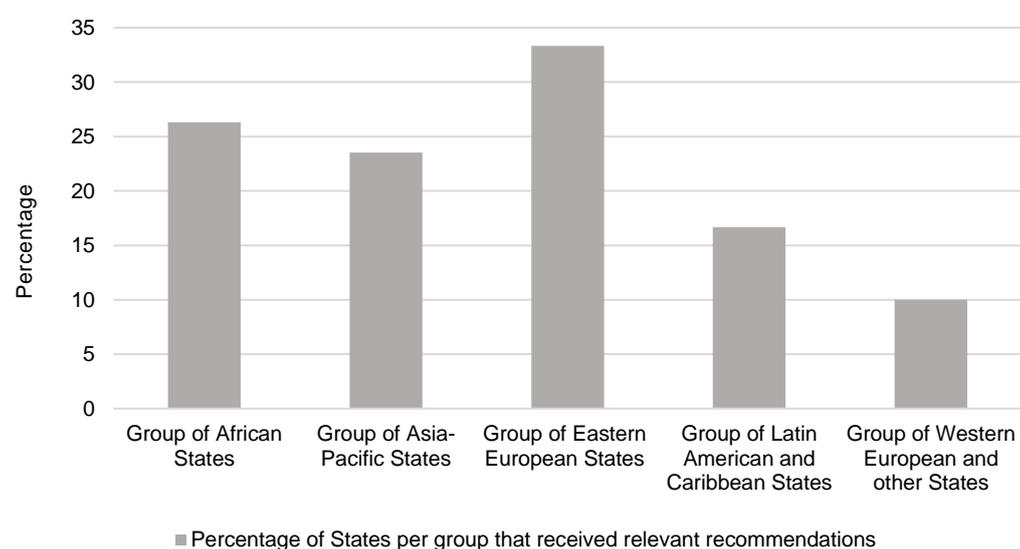


Table 7
Relevant recommendations issued with regard to the implementation of article 9, paragraph 1, by regional group

	<i>Number of States with completed reviews</i>	<i>Number of States that received relevant recommendations</i>	<i>Total number of relevant recommendations received</i>	<i>Percentage of States that received relevant recommendations</i>
Group of African States	19	5	5	26
Group of Asia-Pacific States	17	4	6	24
Group of Eastern European States	6	2	4	33
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States	6	1	1	17
Group of Western European and other States	10	1	1	10

Figure VII
Percentage of States per regional group that received relevant recommendations with regard to the implementation of article 9, paragraph 1



Group of African States

49. Only 2 of the 19 African States covered in the present report informed reviewers of the use of information and communications technologies with regard to asset declarations and financial disclosure systems (art. 8, para. 5, and art. 52, paras. 5 and 6). Moreover, such technologies did not seem to be used effectively. In this regard, one of the States received a recommendation to enhance its electronic asset declaration submission process and, in the case of the other State, the reviewers noted that, even though it used electronic means for the verification of disclosures, no systematic verifications were being carried out. A recommendation to endeavour to establish a system for the verification of disclosures by members of parliament and the executive branch was issued in the latter case.

50. Five States reported on the manual submission of asset declarations, thereby ruling out the use of technology for that purpose. However, the reviewers noted that one of those States was in the process of developing an online disclosure platform they and issued a recommendation to finalize its implementation. For two States, the reviewers noted that not using information and communications technologies hindered the effectiveness of their declaration systems, and in both cases recommendations to implement electronic disclosure systems were issued. Four additional States received recommendations that specifically referred to the establishment or enhancement of technologies for the purpose of asset declarations.

51. Although the reviewing experts commended the efforts of Sierra Leone in strengthening its asset declaration system, no good practices were identified with specific reference to the use of information and communications technologies in relation to asset declarations and financial disclosure systems.

52. In line with the trend in other regional groups, the vast majority of African States covered in the present report informed the reviewing experts about the use of, or the intention to use, information and communications technologies with regard to public procurement (art. 9, para. 1). Six States indicated that they were developing electronic portals to be used in public procurement, and three of them received recommendations to continue their efforts to implement those portals. In addition, the reviewing experts recommended that another State develop and introduce public electronic platforms to strengthen transparency in public procurement.

53. The remaining States that provided information on the use of technology for public procurement mainly reported on the use of websites or dedicated portals to publish invitations to tender and other relevant documents.

54. Three good practices relating to the use of information and communications technologies for public procurement were identified in this regional group. Reviewers commended the efforts of Botswana to establish an integrated electronic procurement system and a website providing detailed guidance and information. In addition, the public procurement web portal in Morocco and the portal for the publication of all tenders and the procurement management platform accessible to all stakeholders in the selection and award process in Senegal were considered good practices.

Group of Asia-Pacific States

55. As in the Group of African States, only 2 of the 17 Asia-Pacific States covered in the present report referred to information and communications technologies with regard to asset declarations and financial disclosure systems. In one State, the submission of asset declarations was done electronically, and the other State informed the reviewers that it was considering implementing an electronic filing system for making and reviewing declarations. In the latter case, a recommendation to implement such a system was issued. Two States specifically indicated that declarations were submitted on paper, thereby excluding the possibility of using technological means for that purpose in practice.

56. Although the vast majority of the Asia-Pacific States covered in the present report received recommendations relating to article 8, paragraph 5, or article 52,

paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention, only seven States received recommendations that related to the use of information and communications technologies or touched upon areas that could benefit from the use of those technologies. In three cases, reviewers noted the need to implement a system to share declarations, and recommendations relating to monitoring and verification systems were issued in relation to four States.

57. Two good practices were identified in relation to article 8, paragraph 5, and article 52, paragraph 5, of the Convention. However, neither was related to the use of information and communications technologies.

58. Unlike in the case of asset declarations, the majority of States in this regional group provided information on the use of, or the intention to use, information and communications technologies for public procurement. Six States reported having used those technologies for the publication of invitations to tender and documents. However, for one State, the reviewers noted that, although the relevant legislation referred to the public announcement of invitations to tender by electronic means, no information was available on such practices. Moreover, while five States reported having put in place public procurement portals, the reviewers specifically noted the lack of such technologies in one State. Two States informed the reviewers that electronic systems for public procurement were being implemented or were planned to be implemented.

59. Six of the recommendations issued for the Asia-Pacific States covered in the present report related to, or could directly benefit from, the use of information and communications technologies. Reviewers issued those recommendations in relation to four States, including recommendations for two States to continue their efforts to establish electronic procurement systems. The remaining recommendations concerned the public distribution of information relating to procurement procedures or, in one case, the strengthening of methods of collecting, analysing and making available data on public procurement.

60. In terms of good practices, reviewers commended the electronic procurement systems of Indonesia, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

Group of Eastern European States

61. The majority of States analysed (four out of six) in the Group of Eastern European States reported on the use of information and communications technologies in relation to asset declarations and financial disclosure systems regulated in article 8, paragraph 5, and article 52, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention. While one State mentioned an obligation to submit asset declarations electronically, another State reported using a website to publish declarations without specifying the means of submitting them. Moreover, although the remaining two States were not using information and communications technologies for that purpose at the time of the review, they informed the reviewers of their intention to implement such systems. More specifically, one State was planning to deploy a software for the electronic filing of asset declarations, and the other intended to introduce an automated system to verify such declarations. In both cases, the reviewers issued recommendations to implement those technologies.

62. Reviewers also issued recommendations to three other States to allow for the sharing of asset declarations with the competent authorities of other States. In terms of good practices, the reviewers commended the fact that Armenia had made declarations of property and income available on a dedicated website.

63. As in other regional groups, the use of information and communications technologies in the area of public procurement is more prevalent. All but one of the Eastern European States analysed in the present report make use of those technologies. In this regard, one State reported that the procurement of goods, works and services must be carried out exclusively through electronic platforms, and another State specifically provided for e-auctions in its procurement legislation. The

remaining States reported having systems or electronic portals for public procurement.

64. Reviewers issued relevant recommendations relating to article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention to two of the six Eastern European States analysed. In both cases, those recommendations were related to the implementation or enhancement of electronic procurement systems. In particular, one recommendation was issued for the adoption of comprehensive legislation on public procurement in order to improve transparency by introducing, inter alia, electronic procurement systems. In the case of the other State, the three recommendations issued by reviewers on this provision were related to publishing public procurement plans on the public procurement portal, incorporating into upcoming legislation the possibility of publishing a database of decisions that would include all previous procurement decisions, and ensuring that records on implemented contracts were published on the public procurement portal.

65. Only one good practice was identified for article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention in this regional group. Reviewers commended the electronic procurement system implemented by the Russian Federation, which facilitated the online submission of tenders, the selection of contractors and the exchange of documents between participants in procurement proceedings.

Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

66. Three out of the six Latin American and Caribbean States covered in the present report provided information on the use of information and communications technologies in relation to asset declarations and financial disclosure systems. In this regard, while one of the States reported on the possibility of using those technologies to submit asset declarations, the other two used websites to publish declarations that had already been submitted. Reviewers considered the use of a dedicated website to publish declarations in the Plurinational State of Bolivia a good practice.

67. The remaining States did not provide information on the use of information and communications technologies or, in the case of one State, specifically excluded the possibility with regard to the submission of declarations, which could only be done in writing.

68. For almost all States in this regional group, reviewers issued recommendations with regard to article 8, paragraph 5, and article 52, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention. Although none of those recommendations specifically referred to the use of information and communications technologies, most of the recommendations could benefit from the use of such technologies: conducting spot checks of declarations; increasing the frequency of submission; establishing a robust system of substantive verifications; adopting measures to allow the information to be shared with the competent authorities of other States; and enabling the cross-checking of information.

69. The use of information and communications technology in procurement processes is more common. All but one State in this regional group reported using such technologies, including four States that had established dedicated platforms for public procurement. The reviewers noted that one of those States had provided for a procurement modality that could only be conducted through electronic means. One State reported the use of a website for the publication of invitations to tender and, in certain cases, other relevant documents.

70. Reviewers did not identify any good practices with regard to article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention. However, the implementation of information and communications technologies could have an impact on the recommendation issued to one State on the need to strengthen the existing measures in public procurement in order to ensure that the public procurement system is based on transparency.

Group of Western European and other States

71. More than half (six out of ten) of the Western European and other States analysed did not report on the use of information and communications technologies

with regard to asset declarations and financial disclosure systems (art. 8, para. 5, and art. 52, paras. 5 and 6). Moreover, one additional State specifically indicated that the submission of declarations was paper-based, and therefore it seemed to rule out the possibility of using electronic means in this context.

72. The three remaining States reported on the use of information and communications technologies for different purposes. While one State informed the reviewers about the use of a website to publish submitted declarations, another highlighted that such declarations were submitted electronically. Another State from this regional group explained in greater detail that declarations were submitted, published and verified using electronic means. In particular, that State had developed a specialized alert software that operated by scanning the list of declarants daily and collected any new, relevant, publicly available information.

73. Six of the 10 Western European and other States covered in the present report received recommendations on areas that could be improved by the implementation of information and communications technologies for asset declarations and financial disclosure systems. The reviewing experts recommended that those States establish review and verification mechanisms for asset declarations or enhance the mechanisms in place. Moreover, three States also received recommendations regarding the need to share such information or make it public.

74. With regard to public procurement (art. 9, para. 1), unlike in other regional groups, only half of the Western European and other States analysed in the present report informed reviewers about the use of information and communications technologies in this area. Three of those States reported having specialized platforms for public procurement, including one State that indicated that both notifications and the submission of bids could be done electronically. The reviewers also noted that that practice could break down barriers and encourage competition.

75. Even though some States did not provide information on the use of technology for public procurement, two of them reported that they were in the process of implementing technology to that end or that they had developed the legal basis for that purpose. Moreover, although three States received recommendations on article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, only one of them received a recommendation on publishing additional data on the existing public procurement portal.

76. Reviewers commended the public procurement portals and platforms established in Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

C. Outlook

77. The present report reflects the analysis of 58 completed executive summaries and more detailed information provided in the public country review reports. As more data become available from completed country reviews, more comprehensive trends and analysis will be identified in future regional reports and will be used to keep the Implementation Review Group informed of successes and challenges identified in the course of the reviews. With regard to future regional reports, different topics will be selected from among those that lend themselves to more nuanced regional analysis.