Role of Ethics Offices in Preventing Corruption and Promoting Integrity

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United Nations Secretariat
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Common Definition of Ethics

Ethics is the set of criteria or principles that we use when selecting a course of action in the face of competing values.
An ethical culture based in integrity helps prevent corruption

- Values are explicit
- Clear rules and expectations
- Speaking up is OK
- Train and communicate
- Respect for moral judgment
- Align rewards with right conduct
- Rules stay same in good and bad times
- Rules are enforced and consequences understood by all
Ethics Network of Multilateral Organizations

Roles
From Most to Least Common EO Services

1. Confidential ethics advice
2. Outreach, communication, training
3. Research and policy development
4. Conflicts of interest prevention
5. Financial disclosure systems
6. Protection against Retaliation
7. Hotlines/Helplines/Whistleblowing systems
8. Intake on misconduct allegations
9. Investigations
10. Disciplinary action
11. Proponent of cultural and organizational change
12. Ethics and reputational risk assessment
13. Technical assistance to governments/others
Ethics Offices offer an Ethical Framework

Ethical Leadership
- Behavior
- Ethical Decision-making

Codes of Conduct
- Regulations
  - Rules
  - Standards

Culture for Ethical Action
- Values
- Reputation

Awareness
- Communication
- Training
- Confidential Advice

Process
- Whistle-blowing Systems
- Protection from Retaliation
- Financial Disclosure

Roles
Four Practical Undertakings to Promote Integrity

• Transparency
  – Financial Disclosure Programmes

• Protection
  – Whistleblowing systems
  – Protection against Retaliation

• Confidentiality
  – Ethics advisory services

• Development
  – Investing for the future
Financial Disclosure Programme Goals

• Manage risks and enhance public trust in the integrity and reputation of the UN
• Identify, mitigate and resolve personal conflicts of interest

➡️ while protecting the confidentiality and privacy of personal information

➡️ However, the FDP is not designed to detect unjust enrichment
FDP is Honour Based

• Disclose in confidence
  – to an independent authority and **not** to management
• Identify potential conflicts of interest arising from a staff member’s
  – Assets and liabilities
  – Personal interests and affiliations
  – Outside activities
• Provide confidential advice as how best to manage any potential personal conflicts of interest in the interests of the Organization
Whistleblowing Systems are successful when they include:

1. Reporting channels
2. Cultural support
3. Investigative process based on fairness and respect
4. Protection against retaliation
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Most Requested Service is Ethics Advice

Requests for UNEO Services 2010-2011

- Ethics Advice: 70%
- General Information: 5%
- Office Alerted: 3%
- Training: 7%
- Procurement Due Diligence: 3%
- Coherence: 4%
- Standard Setting & Policy Input: 2%
- Retaliation Protection*: 7%

* data includes Ethics Committee case review requests
Investing in the Future—Leadership Development

- Ethical Awareness
- Ethical Decisions
- Ethical Action
- Ethical Leadership

Integrity
Contact the Ethics Office

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Click, call or come visit. We are here to assist you.