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**Implementation of relevant Conference resolutions:
good practices and initiatives in the prevention of
corruption: thematic discussion on promoting the
use of information and communications
technologies for the implementation of the
Convention**

Use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 6/1, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption requested the secretariat to structure the provisional agendas of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions, while respecting their mandates.
2. In its resolution 9/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, the Conference acknowledged that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption should continue its work to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption and should hold at least two meetings prior to the tenth session of the Conference.
3. 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 requested the Working Group to include, as a topic for discussion in its future meetings, how to promote the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention.
4. In its resolution 9/8, entitled “Promoting anti-corruption education, awareness-raising and training”, the Conference decided that the Working Group should include,

* [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/1](#).



as a topic for discussion for its thirteenth meeting, challenges to and good practices in anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research.

5. Pursuant to those resolutions, and as endorsed by the Bureau of the Conference at its meeting on 1 March 2022, it was decided that the topics for discussion at the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group would be:

(a) Promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention;

(b) Challenges to and good practices in anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research.

6. At its second meeting, held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2011, the Working Group recommended that, in advance of each of its meetings, States parties should be invited to share their experiences of implementing the provisions under consideration, preferably by using the self-assessment checklist and including, where possible, successes, challenges, technical assistance needs and lessons learned in implementation. The Working Group requested the secretariat to prepare background papers summarizing that information and decided that panel discussions should be held during its meetings, involving experts from countries that had provided written responses on the priority themes under consideration.

7. In accordance with the considerations set out above, the present background paper has been prepared on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a note verbale by the secretariat dated 23 February 2022. As at 30 March 2022, submissions had been received from 20 States parties. The following 16 States parties provided information relevant to the topic of promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention: Albania, Austria, Bahrain, Egypt, France, Holy See, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kiribati, Myanmar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. The full texts of the submissions have been made available on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) website¹ and incorporated into the thematic website developed by the secretariat.²

9. The purpose of the present paper is to provide a summary of the information submitted by States parties and signatories to the Convention on the use of information and communication technologies for the implementation of the Convention. A summary of the information submitted by States parties and signatories on challenges to and good practices in anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research is provided in document [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/3](#).

II. Analysis of submissions of States parties and signatories

A. Thematic background

10. The use of information and communications technologies in the fight against corruption has attracted growing attention in recent years. Innovation in anti-corruption efforts and the rapid development of those technologies have led to new approaches and solutions, which may be used to strengthen transparency and accountability, increase public participation and build trust in government.

11. Solutions based on information and communications technologies provide citizens with direct access to government information and public services, limit face-to-face interaction with public officials, thus reducing opportunities for corruption, provide direct communication channels with society and facilitate

¹ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/session13.html.

² Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/thematic-compilation-prevention.html.

citizens' feedback, and can be used to build the capacity of preventive anti-corruption bodies, to facilitate inter-agency coordination and to boost the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts.

12. The Conference of the States Parties, prior to its ninth session, held in 2021, had recognized the importance of information and communications technologies for the prevention of corruption in its resolution 6/7, entitled "Promoting the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption", and its resolution 6/8, entitled "Prevention of corruption by promoting transparent, accountable and efficient public service delivery through the application of best practices and technological innovations".

13. The Working Group discussed the use of information and communications technologies to promote integrity in public procurement and transparency and accountability in the management of public finances (article 9 of the Convention) at its sixth meeting, held in 2015. The use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention was a topic for discussion by the Working Group at its seventh meeting, held in 2016. At its ninth meeting, held in 2018, the Working Group discussed the topics of conflicts of interest (article 7, paragraph 4, of the Convention)³ and the use and effectiveness of asset declaration systems (article 8, paragraph 5, of the Convention), also exploring the aspect of information and communications technologies in relation to those topics.

14. The General Assembly, at its special session against corruption held in June 2021, reconfirmed the commitment of Member States towards using innovative and digital technology to prevent, identify and manage conflicts of interest, including by assessing and mitigating corruption risks and through effective and transparent financial disclosure, with due regard for data protection and privacy rights.

15. The importance of the use of information and communications technologies in the prevention of corruption was reiterated by all States that provided information in preparation for the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group. States reported extensive use of such technologies with a view to promoting transparency and integrity in public procurement and the management of public finances (article 9 of the Convention) and public reporting (article 10 of the Convention). Information and communications technologies were also frequently used to: promote the participation of society and encourage contributions to decision-making processes; ensure that citizens had adequate access to information; promote and protect the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption; undertake public information activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption; and disseminate information about anti-corruption bodies and provide access to such bodies for reporting incidents of corruption (article 13 of the Convention). Moreover, information and communications technologies were also used to strengthen the effectiveness and the capacity of anti-corruption bodies through measures such as the provision of online training and the promotion of online coordination.

16. The analysis of the responses revealed evidence of an increased use of information and communications technologies to ensure the transparency of procurement processes and simplify administrative procedures for the participation of tenderers. That trend had already been identified by the Working Group at its sixth and seventh meetings. The lockdowns and remote working arrangements implemented in many States to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have further accelerated the use of those technologies.

17. Reporting States parties indicated extensive use of information and communications technologies to promote public reporting. Centralized transparency portals and websites were used by Governments to provide information to the public and to seek feedback. The use of e-government solutions to simplify administrative procedures and deliver public services was also frequently reported.

³ See [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2018/2](#).

18. Reporting States parties mentioned an increasing use of information and communications technologies to promote the participation of society in government decision-making, to raise awareness of the risks of corruption, to provide information to the public and to strengthen the visibility of anti-corruption bodies. The use of dedicated websites and mobile telephone applications to facilitate reporting, including anonymously, of corruption was also frequently reported, confirming the information provided to the Working Group at its sixth and seventh meetings.

19. Some States parties, however, indicated that the introduction of new technological solutions was hampered by limited Internet penetration and poor digital literacy.

B. Measures adopted by States to use information and communication technologies to ensure full compliance with the Convention

Integrity in public procurement and management of public finances

20. Article 9 of the Convention requires States parties to take the necessary steps to establish appropriate systems of public procurement, based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making, that are effective in preventing corruption. Those systems are expected to provide the public and potential bidders with broad access to information, including details on selection and award criteria.

21. In the information provided in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Working Group, held in 2015, many States parties reported that they had employed new information and communications technology solutions to strengthen the integrity and transparency of the procurement process. Those States parties were Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Germany, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Serbia and Uruguay. The following solutions were highlighted: publication of procurement notices on government websites; establishment of Internet procurement portals, allowing potential tenderers to download document templates; and fully integrated electronic solutions allowing paperless, end-to-end procurement processes.

22. The findings of the sixth meeting of the Working Group were complemented by the information provided in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Working Group, held in 2016, by the following States parties: Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Jamaica, Mauritius, Panama, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Turkey and the United States of America. At that meeting, several States reported that they had moved from systems that provided passive information to systems that allowed for interaction with users and clients.

23. All of the States parties that provided information in preparation for the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group reported that e-procurement portals had been established or were about to become operational as a means of simplifying procurement procedures.

24. Egypt noted that an online platform was used to manage public procurement, allowing for the publication of tender notices and tracking the implementation of public procurement contracts.

25. Turkey indicated that all tender notices were published in the Public Procurement Bulletin through its Electronic Public Procurement Platform. The Platform allowed access to information on each tender, including contract notices, tender documents, award decisions, the estimated and actual value of contracts, the number of bids, the highest and lowest bids, names of contractors and the terms of contracts. All standard bidding documents were published on the Internet. The Platform provided access to help videos, flow charts and other guidance materials aimed at assisting contracting authorities and tenderers.

26. The Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that its Centre for e-Commerce Development was responsible for managing information related to government procurement. Government transactions were recorded electronically under three categories: partial and mediated purchases, tenders and auctions. Bidders could register and submit information online, which was subject to online verification. To prevent conflicts of interest, government employees were not allowed to register in the system and were therefore unable to participate in public procurement in their private capacity.

27. The United Kingdom reported that the use of online platforms was a priority in order to reduce corruption in public procurement, in the issuance of grants and in the management of public finances. All public contracts worth £10,000 or more, as well as information on the national budget and public spending, were made available online. The United Kingdom had published guidance on preventing and detecting corruption in public procurement, including in emergency procurement in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Practical tools were available online to personnel responsible for public procurement.

28. The United Arab Emirates reported on several initiatives to digitalize the delivery of public services. More than 5,500 essential government processes, services and preventive controls had been automated. A public treasury management system tracked every transaction and identified suspicious ones in real time, thus reducing risks of corruption. The United Arab Emirates had also introduced electronic channels to process payments and refunds, collect revenues and manage banking transactions. The Government had introduced a digital system for all stages of the electronic procurement process, allowing for better detection of fraud and corruption. An official government portal provided access to all government agencies and public service providers in key sectors, such as health, education, the economy, business, infrastructure and residency. The portal also served as a central repository of national policies and strategies. The supreme audit institution sought to use information and communications technologies in all of its activities, including the training of personnel to better prevent and detect corruption. Online training included courses leading to professional certifications. A data analysis platform was utilized to identify risks of corruption in procurement and public financial management.

29. Saudi Arabia reported on the Etimad platform, launched in 2018. The platform allowed government entities and private sector contractors to make full use of advanced electronic procurement services, thus enhancing the speed of processes and ensuring data accuracy. The platform offered features such as budget management, tender management, contract management, payments management, unified government payroll and revenue collection. Using predetermined indicators, the platform processed information to detect potential cases of corruption. Examples of such indicators were: (a) submission of a single bid; (b) contracts awarded for less than 35 per cent of their estimated value; (c) withdrawal of offers after submission; (d) cancellation of contracts; and (e) offers from multiple vendors submitted from the same IP address.

30. Romania reported that the prevention and detection of corruption in public procurement were based on a system of online integrity forms. The forms provided information on procurement procedures and award criteria, registered government consultants, experts and bidders, and action taken to manage conflicts of interest. Contracting authorities were obliged to fill out and update the electronic forms at every step of the process, up to the publication of the notice of award.

31. Myanmar reported that it had introduced the e-Filing management system, an electronic payment system used to facilitate financial transactions between citizens and the Government. The system reduced the time and costs of interacting with tax authorities. Myanmar had also implemented a mobile credit system, accessible also in remote areas, to manage credits, loans and other financial services.

32. The Republic of Moldova indicated that a State register of public procurement had been established. The register included a web portal for electronic procurement

and a central open database. The register operated in a network with certified commercial electronic platforms to support electronic tendering procedures for public contracting entities and vendors. A digital business intelligence analysis tool was used to analyse data from the electronic public procurement system in order to identify trends, study tenderers' behaviour, ensure transparency, strengthen control systems and reduce corruption risks.

33. Israel reported on four information and communications technology-based systems that had been introduced, or were about to become operational, with a view to promoting good governance and preventing corruption. Such systems were designed to standardize the public acquisition of goods and services and strengthen control mechanisms and public reporting.

34. The Holy See indicated that information and communications technology-based solutions had been introduced to prevent corruption, strengthen control mechanisms and improve efficiency in public procurement. Those solutions hosted every step of the procurement process, including vendor accreditation and registration in the official register of suppliers and the publication of invitations to tender, award criteria and decisions. In the case of purchases not subject to an open tender procedure, an information and communications technology-based solution allowed for the automatic solicitation of offers from registered suppliers on the basis of the goods or services required. The system allowed for the exclusion of suppliers at risk of conflicts of interest or convicted of corruption, fraud, money-laundering, financing of terrorism or trafficking in human beings. In addition, the Holy See reported that it also used electronic platforms to exchange information between public bodies.

35. Bahrain reported that information on public procurement was published on a dedicated official website. The website provided detailed information on tenders, bids received, award decisions and the total value of public contracts, and it allowed for the generation and publication of statistics. It also enabled bidders to register, maintain electronic records of correspondence, submit complaints and review procurement plans.

36. France reported that a system of online dashboards was utilized by each ministry and was accessible to the public. The dashboards, updated regularly, were used to provide, receive and store detailed information on public procurement. In order to ensure effective control of public procurement, the Court of Auditors had immediate and independent access to all procurement-related government databases.

Public reporting

37. Transparency is critical for the effective prevention of corruption. The importance of public reporting is underlined in article 10 of the Convention, under which States parties are required to adopt effective procedures or regulations allowing members of the public to obtain, where appropriate, information on the organization, functioning and decision-making processes of the public administration and on administrative decisions and legal acts, to simplify administrative procedures in order to facilitate public access to competent decision-making authorities, and to actively disseminate information, including periodic reports on the risks of corruption in the public administration.

Using information and communications technologies to provide access to information on the organization, functioning and decision-making process of public bodies

38. Many reporting States, including Armenia, Bahrain, Egypt, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Myanmar, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and the United Kingdom, underlined the importance of using information and communications technologies to provide information to the public and to raise awareness of corruption. States reported extensive use of online transparency portals that provided information on the structure and procedures of public administration at the central and local levels. The features of such portals ranged from the provision of basic information on the

structure of public administration to systems that allowed for direct access to documents and interaction with users.

39. Turkey reported that information and communications technologies had been used to facilitate the work of the Chief Ombudsman. To promote the rights to petition and to information, the Presidency's Communication Centre allowed citizens to submit complaints, suggestions and requests for information. All regulatory actions taken by legislative and executive bodies were published in the Official Gazette and made available online. An e-government website provided access to all public services, from health care to education, from judicial services to matters relating military service.

40. The United Kingdom indicated that online platforms and portals were used to enhance transparency in public administration, to establish and communicate the standards applicable to the management of public affairs and to publish information on the interests of and gifts received by ministers. Information on public contracts worth over £10,000 was also published.

41. Romania indicated that information on the functions and operations of public bodies was published online. All public bodies were required to post on their websites information on draft normative acts for public consultation. A dedicated web page provided public access to evaluation reports on the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy.

42. The United Arab Emirates reported that mobile telephone applications had been introduced for the general public to communicate directly with ministers and other high-level public officials.

43. Myanmar reported that online platforms had been established to enhance transparency and provide information on the organization, functioning and decision-making processes of public bodies. The platforms also provided information on public spending, draft normative acts, the recruitment of certain categories of public officials, procedures to obtain licences and permits, and access to public services.

44. The Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that it had adopted an e-government strategy that required all ministries and banks to publish information on their organization and to receive complaints online. Draft normative acts and information on the steps of law-making processes were also published on the Internet. The national portal of the judiciary was the main channel of communication between the judiciary and citizens. Similar portals allowed for interaction with local authorities.

45. The Republic of Moldova provided information on its e-governance agency, which had been established to maintain a public service portal. The government portal for citizens and businesses (MCabinet) facilitated interaction between the public and private sectors.

46. Israel reported that citizens' requests for information could be submitted through the website of the Freedom of Information Unit within the Ministry of Justice. The Unit responded and provided reasons in cases where a request for information was denied.

47. Bahrain reported on the establishment of a national electronic portal that, together with the websites of individual ministries, was used to communicate with the public. The portal provided information on the work of the public administration and the delivery of public services. The results of investigations of offences of corruption and other irregularities were also published.

48. Egypt reported that information and communications technologies were used to obtain feedback from citizens on all services provided by the public administration, with a view to evaluating the quality of the services and their continuous improvement.

49. Albania indicated that 1,212 public services were provided to citizens and businesses in electronic format through the e-Albania platform.

50. The Holy See indicated that several websites had been established to facilitate public reporting and to provide information on the structure of the Holy See and a detailed description of the organization of its most relevant authorities.

Using information and communications technologies to provide information on the management of public finances

51. Some reporting States underlined the importance of publishing information on government financial transactions and audit reports in order to promote transparency and accountability.

52. Bahrain indicated that all of the country's laws regulating the adoption and implementation of the budget for two consecutive fiscal years were published on the website of the Ministry of Finance. A single government website and various social media networks allowed the public to communicate with the public administration.

53. In France, the Court of Auditors published all of its work online through a dedicated website and social networks. The Court regularly updated its data sets and made them available online.

54. In Egypt, an online platform was used to strengthen transparency and accountability in the management of public finances.

Participation of society

55. Article 13 of the Convention requires that States parties take measures to promote the participation of society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness. Specific measures provided for in article 13, paragraph 1, of the Convention include: (a) enhancing the transparency of and promoting the contribution of the public to decision-making processes; (b) ensuring that the public has effective access to information; (c) undertaking public information activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption, as well as public education programmes, including school and university curricula; and (d) respecting, promoting and protecting the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption, allowing for restrictions provided for in the Convention.

56. Article 13 further requires States parties to ensure that anti-corruption bodies are known to the public and to provide access to such bodies for the reporting, including anonymously, of corruption.

57. The Working Group discussed the topic of public education programmes, the engagement of children and youth and the role of mass media and the Internet at its fourth and eighth meetings, held in 2013 and 2017, respectively. The reports of the Secretariat in preparation for those meetings have been made available on the UNODC website.⁴

Enhancing the transparency of and promoting the contribution of the public to decision-making processes

58. Public participation in decision-making processes is key to the promotion of transparency, accountability and public trust in institutions.

59. At the seventh meeting of the Working Group, held in 2016, many States, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Greece, Japan, Paraguay, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovenia and the United States, recognized the importance of information and communications technologies to promote public participation in the prevention of and fight against corruption and to raise awareness of the threat posed by it.

⁴ Available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/session4.html and www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/WG-Prevention/session8.html.

60. States that provided information in preparation for the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group confirmed that they made extensive use of websites and mobile telephone applications to stimulate public debate over important issues and allow citizens and civil society to provide input to draft laws and policies.

61. The United Kingdom reported that measures to facilitate public contributions to decision-making processes had been adopted. Online public consultations were used to seek citizens' feedback on the planning, management and delivery of public services.

Open data

62. In line with a trend observed by the Working Group at its seventh meeting, open data were frequently mentioned as a tool to promote public participation. Making government data sets available to the public and allowing the public to undertake its own analysis of raw data were considered essential to strengthening transparency and promoting accountability and trust in public administration.

63. France reported that the Court of Auditors participated in the open government initiative and published data on its activities.

64. Saudi Arabia indicated that open data were considered vital to achieving the goals set out in the Saudi Vision 2030 and meeting the commitments of the country's National Transformation Programme 2020. Saudi Arabia had launched a national open data portal, a public data hub to enable transparency, promote citizen participation and inspire innovation. The objective of the portal was to publish data sets from ministries and government agencies in an open format and make them available to the public.

65. Romania reported that it had published, in open data format, the indicators used to evaluate the national anti-corruption strategy and audit reports on the implementation of the strategy.

66. The United Arab Emirates reported on its e-government initiative, launched in 2013, under which multiple websites containing open data had been established.

67. The Republic of Moldova indicated that an open data portal had been established to provide a single source of public sector data. The objectives of the portal were to increase and diversify the data provided to the public and to expand the spectrum of users.

68. The United Kingdom reported that it was one of the founders of the Open Government Partnership, which was cited as an example of how information and communications technologies had been used to implement the Convention. The United Kingdom had released over 40,000 data sets online as open data.

Ensuring effective public access to information

69. The submissions received in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Working Group, held in 2016, highlighted two complementary approaches to ensuring public access to information: the provision of government information at the request of members of the public and the proactive provision of information by Governments to the public.

70. The United Kingdom reported that it had placed high priority on the freedom of the media and the critical role played by investigative journalism in alerting the public and exposing corruption.

Public information activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption, as well as public education programmes, including school and university curricula

71. Article 13, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention requires States parties to undertake public information activities that contribute to non-tolerance of corruption, as well as public education programmes, including school and university curricula.

72. The implementation of that provision of the Convention was considered by the Working Group at its fourth meeting, held in 2013. Information on implementation efforts was provided by Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Ecuador, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,⁵ the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Those States parties shared their experiences in public education regarding the engagement of children and young people and the role of mass media and the Internet.

73. At the seventh meeting of the Working Group, held in 2016, several States parties reported the use of information and communications technologies to conduct public information activities that contributed to non-tolerance of corruption or as part of public education programmes, including at schools and universities. Those States parties were Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Germany, Jamaica, Mauritius, Montenegro, the Russian Federation and the United States. The reported practices ranged from using institutional websites to provide information to conducting coordinated anti-corruption campaigns through the Internet.

74. An analysis of the submissions received for the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group revealed that States parties continued to implement initiatives aimed either at the general public or at specific groups of the population.

75. Austria reported on its efforts to raise awareness of anti-corruption matters among adolescents and young adults. The Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption, in cooperation with students from Austrian universities, had supported the development of a mobile telephone application designed to confront users with ethical dilemmas and raise their awareness of corruption, ethics and integrity issues. Additional initiatives reported by Austria included events for students and the development of board games.

76. More information on measures taken by States parties to implement this provision of the Convention is contained in document [CAC/COSP/WG.4/2022/3](#).

Developing anti-corruption programmes for public officials

77. Austria underlined the importance of building public officials' knowledge of the anti-corruption policy of the Government and the dangers posed by corruption. To that end, Austria reported on its programmes for the public service to provide information, raise awareness and build skills to identify and manage ethical dilemmas and conflicts of interest. E-learning tools had been introduced, also for newly recruited civil servants, to raise their awareness of corruption, of measures to prevent it and of relevant laws, codes of conduct and ethical standards in the public sector.

Raising awareness of corruption

78. An approach identified by the Working Group at its second meeting, held in 2011, and confirmed at its seventh meeting, held in 2016, was the use of social media to raise awareness of corruption.

79. The submissions received for the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group highlighted the use of various tools, platforms and social networks to provide government information and raise public awareness.

80. Saudi Arabia utilized nationwide text messages and social media platforms in English and Arabic. Information, including statistics on corruption, was published on the Internet.

81. Bahrain reported on its efforts to provide citizens with information and statistics on corruption. Anti-corruption legislation, regulations and ministerial and administrative decisions were made available on the Internet. The anti-corruption

⁵ Since 14 February 2019, "North Macedonia" has replaced "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" as the short name used in the United Nations.

body of Bahrain published and provided the media with extensive information on its operations.

82. Israel indicated that it had launched a website containing information on the prevention of and fight against corruption. The website, aimed at the general public, the private sector, civil servants and reporting persons, provided information about rights and duties related to the prevention of corruption.

83. France reported that the Court of Auditors had introduced a citizen participation platform in order to raise awareness of corruption and of planned audits, to solicit citizens' views on public services and to receive feedback for improvement.

Making relevant anti-corruption bodies known to the public and providing access to such bodies for the reporting, including anonymously, of corruption

84. Ensuring that anti-corruption bodies are known to the public and enjoy public trust is essential for their successful operation. All reporting States indicated that measures had been or were being taken to ensure the visibility of anti-corruption bodies and to promote the reporting of corruption. Great importance was attached to the development of effective reporting mechanisms that contributed to the detection of corruption and effective subsequent investigations and prosecutions.

85. In relation to reporting mechanisms, direct communication channels were broadly used to allow citizens to report on corruption. Such channels ranged from telephone hotlines to dedicated websites and mobile telephone applications.

86. The Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that three mechanisms had been established to allow for online reporting while ensuring confidentiality and protecting the identity of reporting persons. One of those mechanisms was specifically designed to report alleged corruption, including anonymously, to the judiciary.

87. The United Kingdom reported that individuals and legal representatives of corporate entities could report fraud, bribery and other offences of corruption to the police, the Serious Fraud Office and the National Crime Agency through an online reporting portal.

88. Bahrain and Saudi Arabia indicated that they had provided multiple means of reporting that ensured confidentiality and the protection of reporting persons. Those means included toll-free numbers, dedicated email addresses, websites, social networks and in-person reporting.

89. Myanmar indicated that a hotline and a new online electronic complaint system were used to facilitate the reporting of corruption to the Anti-Corruption Commission. A toolkit had been developed to inform the public of how to report allegations of corruption.

90. In the Republic of Moldova, the reporting of corruption was made possible through an online electronic complaint system based on email or other forms of online communication.

91. The United Arab Emirates indicated that communication channels had been established at the central level to allow the reporting of corruption in a confidential and secure manner. Those channels included a website, social media accounts, a national call centre and mobile telephone applications. Individual Emirates had launched similar portals to facilitate reporting at the local level.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

92. The information provided by reporting States and summarized in the present background paper demonstrates an increasingly wide use of information and communications technologies to implement the relevant articles of the Convention more effectively. However, given the number of submissions received, it was not possible to provide a comprehensive assessment. Reading the current document in

conjunction with document [CAC/COSP/2021/10](#), which was submitted to the Conference at its ninth session and which contained an analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from country reviews conducted under the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, indicates that while progress has been made by a number of States parties in the use of information and communications technologies in preventing and combating corruption, a lack of efficient information and communications technology-based procurement systems (e-procurement) remains one of the most prevalent challenges in the implementation of article 9 of the Convention.

93. In the light of the considerations set out above, as part of its discussions, the Working Group may wish to encourage States parties to continue to provide information to the secretariat on the use of information and communications technologies to effectively prevent corruption.

94. The Working Group may also wish to discuss challenges in the use of information and communications technologies, considering factors such as different levels of computer literacy, the availability of technology, including computers and mobile telephones, and Internet penetration.

95. The Working Group may wish to request the secretariat to continue its efforts to gather information on good practices to promote the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention, in particular in the context of responding to needs identified in the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism.
