

## Annex

The present note presents information on some of the initiatives and practices of Holy See related to the topics for discussion at the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption scheduled for June 2022.

### **1. Information on the promotion of the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) for the implementation of the Convention.**

#### In relation to integrity of public procurement and the management of public finances

In order to prevent and counter corruption, and with the view to maximize both the efficiency of the processes and the effectiveness of the controls, the Holy See has been adopting, where possible, new IT technical solutions. In June 2020, the public procurement process was reviewed, aligning it, with the appropriate adaptations, to the international standards. New *Rules on Transparency, Control and Competition of Public Contracts of the Holy See and the Vatican City State* (the *Procurement Code*) were enacted, along with related implementing regulations.

Since public procurement is one of the most relevant areas for the prevention and contrast of corruption, special attention has been devoted to the development of a specific IT solution. The solution developed in house by the Holy See's authorities, is designed to manage the different stages of the public procurement process, in particular:

- the accreditation and presentation of documents by the suppliers, which are listed in the official Register of Suppliers;
- the management of the above mentioned Register;
- the publication of the tender documentation;
- the request of quotations and related publication, under penalty of exclusion.

In the case of ordinary purchases, not carried out through a tender, the IT solution allows for the automatic and random extraction of suppliers, according to the type of product/service requested, in order to obtain from them a quotation for the purchase required.

In line with the Procurement Code, the analysis of the documentation present in the IT solution enables Holy See's authorities to exclude any suppliers

which have a conflict of interest or who may have been convicted of corruption, fraud, money laundry, terrorism financing or human trafficking.

To allow effective control at all stages of the public procurement process, access to the IT solution is granted to Holy See's supervisory and control Authorities.

In addition, most Public Authorities, including those that manage public finances and those tasked with supervisory and control roles, use IT platforms to exchange data and information within their respective institutional activities. These exchanges information are processed through an in house cloud solution, managed by the Governorate of the Vatican City State, and are accessible to all authorised Vatican City and Holy See staff.

IT solutions are also used by Supervisory and control authorities to process data and to manage the respective operational activities.

#### In relation to public reporting

The laws of Vatican City State currently in force are available on the institutional websites ([vatican.va](http://vatican.va); [vaticanstate.va](http://vaticanstate.va); [vaticannews.va](http://vaticannews.va); [osservatoreromano.va](http://osservatoreromano.va)). This legislation, which is different in types and levels, includes - *inter alia* - provisions concerning the implementation of the Convention and rules on transparency.

In the above mentioned websites it can also be found information regarding the structure of the Holy See and the Vatican City State, as well as a detailed description of the internal organization of the most relevant Authorities.

#### In relation to participation of society

Regarding the participation of civil society, it is necessary to bear in mind the specific nature of Holy See and Vatican City State.

As it is known, the Vatican City States has a population of approximately 620 inhabitants, of which only about 450 are resident citizens. Moreover, the Law on the Economic, Commercial and Professional Order creates what is in effect a public monopoly regime within the territorial jurisdiction of the Vatican City State. Accordingly, in the territory, there is no free market in the economic, financial and professional sectors.

Regarding public access, including online, to relevant anti-corruption bodies for reporting of incidents that may constitute an offence under the Convention, it is possible to refer to the institutional website the Office of the

Auditor General which, pursuant art. 7 of its Statute, is tasked with receiving reports from all persons who, in the course of their own work, become aware of particular anomalies and irregularities which may indicate cases of corruption.

## **2. Information in relation to challenges to and good practices in anticorruption awareness-raising, education, training and research.**

Anticorruption awareness-raising, education, training and research are considered fundamental for the prevention of corruption and essential for the implementation of effective prevention and risk management systems.

The Financial Security Committee – the Holy See’s body tasked with policy coordination for the prevention and contrast of money laundry, terrorism financing and proliferation of mass weapons of destruction – has organised specific training programmes. Those programs, although focused mainly on the prevention of money laundering and the finance terrorism, also delve on the risk of corruption as a predicate crime of money laundering.

Courses are offered to all the administrative staff of the Vatican Authorities. Classes generally include both theoretical notions on the provisions currently in force and practical examples. Particular attention has been given, for example, to the identification of the inherent risks in the main operating procedures and the relevant reporting requirement to supervisory and control authorities.

Specific anti-corruption training programs are offered to the staff of the Office of the Auditor General. Training is provided by leading consulting firms, specialized in risk management, and have focused on both the analysis of national and international sector regulations and the applicable operational practices and standards.