



מדינת ישראל
משרד המשפטים
State of Israel
Ministry of Justice

Office of the Deputy Attorney General (Criminal Law)

ייעוץ וחקיקה (משפט פלילי)

22 March 2022

Provision of Information by the State of Israel for the Thirteenth Meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

Following the request for information on initiatives and practices related to the topics for discussion at the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, the State of Israel is pleased to provide the Secretariat with updates, as follows.

1. Article 9 of the Convention – Integrity in public procurement and management of finances:

Over the past several years, the administration of governmental acquisition in the department of the Accountant General has been working on a digital transformation in the field of governmental acquisition. This work is meant to improve the acquisition process, the control and supervision of governmental acquisition, and to allow acquisition processes to be run in a more equal and transparent manner. Until today, this work has produced several acquisition systems – some have been put into use already, others are in a pilot stage, and some are still being developed. All of the systems were planned in a manner that allows standardization of the acquisition process and production of control and surveillance reports – for the purpose of good governance and corruption prevention. Following are details regarding some of the different systems:

A. Yahalom System: This system is meant for management of short acquisition processes. The main innovation of this system are its centralized and mechanized control abilities. It allows to address a wide range of suppliers,



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accept their proposals and examine them, in a unified and equal manner. The control and surveillance allowed by the system, is available both live during the tender process, as well as in retrospect.

- B. Digital Competition: This system helps in managing the competition between pre-registered and pre-approved suppliers, all competing to supply a certain service. The system includes several mechanisms meant to ensure good governance and equality. One such mechanism draws suppliers from the list of pre-approved suppliers in a manner that ensures equality of opportunity. Another mechanism performs a central supervision of the process for the administration of governmental acquisition and allows production and analysis of reports, during the competition process. A different mechanism appraises the suppliers in order to ensure the quality of suppliers and the intactness of their work. The system also issues a protocol of the opening of the tender box and a summary of the process – without any human involvement – and these are brought before the tender committee.
- C. Digital Tender Box: This system allows the submission of bids in public tenders through a digital process – thus enabling digital documentation and supervision of the bids received, their date of submission and their contents. The system prevents alterations of the bids in the middle of the tender process and passing of information to certain bidders.
- D. The website of the administration of governmental acquisition: among other things, the website supplies to the public information regarding processes of exemptions. See the website at: <https://mr.gov.il/ilgstorefront/en>.

2. Article 10 of the Convention – Public reporting:

- A. The Freedom of Information Law 5758-1998 obliges the government to respond to requests for information filed by citizens. In January 2022, the



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Governmental Unit for Freedom of Information in the Ministry of Justice published Regulation number 13, regarding the manner in which to respond to requests for publication of the calendar of a public official. Among other things, the Regulation stipulates that submission of a calendar in response to a request, must be in a digital Excel format (that is, if the calendar is managed on Outlook, which allows the information to be exported). The obligation to respond in this manner is meant to enable easier processing and use of the information supplied in the response.

- B. In January 2015, the Governmental Unit for Freedom of Information published Regulation number 9, which requires the Supervisors of Public Access to Information in governmental units, to publish their responses to requests for information sent according to the Freedom of Information Law 5758-1998, on the website of the Governmental Unit for Freedom of Information (subject to limitations set in the Law for Protection of Privacy, 5741-1981). This includes also responses that contain a refusal to provide the information requested due to certain reasons outlined in the response – as these reasons are a matter of public interest. The requirement is meant to allow the public greater access to information, as the information, which previously was sent only to the filer of the request, is now public knowledge. See the responses published at: <https://foi.gov.il/he/search>.

3. Article 13 of the Convention – Participation of society:

- A. In accordance with Article 13(1)(b) of the Convention, in January 2022, the Anti-Corruption Unit, which is part of the Office of the Deputy Attorney General in the Ministry of Justice, launched its new website (see at <https://www.gov.il/he/departments/units/corruption-prevention-cluster/govil-landing-page>). The website provides reliable information on



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different topics related to the fight and the prevention of corruption, and is aimed at two target audiences: 1) the general public – for whom the website supplies information on legislation, case law, international treaties and conventions etc.; 2) specific groups such as corporations, civil servants and whistleblowers – for whom the website supplies mainly information which can assist them in learning about their rights and/or duties having to do with corruption prevention. The website also assists both target audiences in referring them to the websites of other relevant government authorities. Currently the website is available only in Hebrew, but it is planned to be translated into English in the future.

- B. In accordance with Article 13(1)(a), in July 2021, after the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Unit, the Deputy Attorney General (Criminal Law), published a call to bodies and organizations that deal with corruption prevention, including the academia, civil society organizations and the business sector, to send proposals and topics regarding corruption prevention that should be considered for treatment by the Unit (see at https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/publications/Call_for_bids/public_appeal-1606). Many academia members, civil society organizations and businesses sent proposals, which have been studied by the Unit, and some have been integrated into its work plan. Regarding specific proposals, the unit contacted the organization that submitted the proposal in order to better understand the problem and/or the solution proposed with the aim of addressing the subject effectively.
- C. The Office of the State Comptroller and Ombudsmen of Israel, among its other functions, receives complaints regarding the bodies subject to its inspection – including complaints regarding corruption and retaliation against whistleblowers. In accordance with Article 13(2), in November 2021, the Office



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began receiving in some cases complaints also by video conference (using the Zoom virtual platform) – in order to allow access to those who are not able to file a complaint in person nor a written complaint.


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