

Guidance note for the provision of information by States parties for the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

1. The secretariat has produced this Guidance Note to assist States parties in providing information on initiatives and practices that they have implemented regarding the topics under consideration at the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption taking place in June 2022.
2. The secretariat wishes to recall paragraph 12 of the report of the Group at its second meeting (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2011/4), in which the Group recommended that, in advance of each of its meetings, States parties should be invited to share their experiences of implementing the provisions of the Convention under consideration, preferably by using the self-assessment checklist.
3. In furtherance of that report, the secretariat outlines below some guidance on the type of information sought, that States parties may wish to consider when providing their responses. It should be emphasized that in addition to areas suggested in this guidance States parties should submit any information believed to be relevant to the topic under consideration. Moreover, it should be noted that some of the information may have already been provided by States parties in the context of their reviews under the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

Information requested from States parties in relation to promoting the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) for the implementation of the Convention.

Please describe (cite and summarize) the measures/steps your country has taken, if any (or is planning to take, together with the related appropriate time frame) to use ICT to ensure full compliance with the Convention:

1. In relation to integrity in public procurement and management of public finances (article 9)
2. In relation to public reporting (article 10)
3. In relation to participation of society (article 13)

In relation to integrity in public procurement and management of public finances (article 9), States parties may wish to provide information on measures that:

Utilize online platforms for the management and oversight of public procurement to prevent corruption, enhance transparency and ensure competition and objective criteria in decision-making.

Utilize information and communications technologies to promote transparency in the management of public finances (art. 9 paragraph 2).

Utilize information and communications technology to identify and analyse risks of corruption.

In particular, information sought may include descriptions of good practices adopted and challenges faced in adopting these measures.

In relation to public reporting (article 10), States parties may wish to provide information on measures that:

- Make available online, including in open data formats, government information relating to the implementation of the Convention, in order to foster greater transparency, accountability and efficiency;
- Promote the use of online platforms or portals to enhance transparency in public administration, including information on the organization, functioning and decision-making processes of the public administration and on decisions and legal acts.

Information sought may include:

- Use of websites, online libraries, online archives or other means by which information on the organization, functioning and decision-making processes of the public administration is made available to the general public;
- Outline of the laws, procedures or regulations allowing members of the general public to obtain information on the organization, functioning and decision-making processes of the public administration through information and communications technologies;
- Description of the type of information to be proactively made available and automatically published by the government through online platforms and websites, including details of:
 - The types of bodies required to publish information;
 - The scope of the information that is published;
 - The means by which the information is published;
 - How often the information is updated;
- Description of the types of information to be made available upon request by a member of the public (i.e. legislation on freedom of information or access to information);
- Standards to protect privacy and personal data when considering the disclosure of such information;
- Description of online initiatives to raise public awareness of the information available and how it can be accessed online;

In particular, information sought may include descriptions of good practices adopted and challenges faced in adopting these measures.

In relation to participation of society (article 13), States parties may wish to provide information on measures that:

- Use online platforms, smartphone applications, mobile telephone-based reporting, social media or other ICT tools to enhance the effective and efficient participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, in the prevention of and fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption;
- Enhance the transparency of, and promote the contribution of the public to, decision-making processes, in particular through the use of online platforms to facilitate consultation with the public on issues relating to the prevention of and fight against corruption;
- Respect, promote and protect the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption, in particular through online mechanisms;
- Provide public access, including through online mechanisms, to relevant anti-corruption bodies for the reporting, including anonymously, of any incidents that may constitute an offence established in accordance with the Convention.

In particular information sought may include good practices and challenges faced in adopting these measures.:

Please outline actions required to ensure or improve the implementation of these articles and describe any specific challenges you might be facing in this respect.

Examples of the types of challenge that States parties may face include:

- Developing the appropriate legislative framework for using ICT to facilitate public sector transparency and combat corruption;
- Building ICT infrastructure, including development of software and hardware solutions, to serve a broad range of stakeholders;
- Low levels of usage of ICT systems by the public owing to limited Internet access or other reasons;
- Building the capacity of the relevant governmental authorities to effectively implement legislation on transparency and access to information;
- Availability and quality of data in open formats and difficulties in building accessible databases;
- Difficulties in the coordination of action taken by government agencies to implement adopted legislation and policies.

Do you require technical assistance for the implementation of these articles? If so, please specify the forms of technical assistance that would be required. For example:

Legislative assistance: Please describe the type of assistance

Institution-building: Please describe the type of assistance

Policymaking: Please describe the type of assistance

Capacity-building: Please describe the type of assistance

Research/data-gathering and analysis: Please describe the type of assistance

Facilitation of international cooperation with other countries: Please describe the type of assistance

Others: Please specify

Is any technical assistance already being provided to you? If so, please provide a general description of the nature of assistance, including donor information.

When providing information on the use of ICT, States parties may wish to refer to their submissions for the sixth and seventh meetings of the Working Group, held in 2015 and 2016

Information requested from States parties in relation to challenges to and good practices in anti-corruption awareness-raising, education, training and research. (article 13, 1 (c))

Please describe (cite and summarize) the measures your country has taken, if any, (or is planning to take, together with the related envisaged time frame) to ensure full compliance with article 13(1)(c) of the Convention and, in particular, anti-corruption awareness-raising programmes, education, training and research.

Information sought may include:

- Description of relevant awareness-raising programmes aimed at the public at large or specific groups in society;
- Description of research programmes aimed at increasing knowledge of corruption in society;
- Description of educational courses or modules that have been introduced in primary and secondary schools that include elements of anti-corruption or related issues such as integrity, ethics, civic rights and duties, fiscal education or governance;
- Description of educational courses or modules that have been introduced in universities that include elements of anti-corruption or related issues such as public administration, public procurement, integrity, ethics, criminal or corporate law;
- Description of innovative teaching and learning tools and methodologies that have been used to foster and facilitate education programmes in schools and universities on anti-corruption;
- Description of interactive remote educational technologies and e-learning tools on anti-corruption, integrity and the rule of law in the institutions of secondary and higher education to create a virtual space for students and educators to engage in innovative learning;
- Description of training manuals, curricula, syllabi, course packets, websites and other materials related to anti-corruption education programmes in schools and universities;
- Description of the efforts to encourage the contribution of young people to the prevention of corruption and to promote a culture of respect for the law and integrity; and
- Statistics on number of students participating in anti-corruption education programmes in schools and universities.

Please outline actions required to ensure or improve the implementation of article 13(1)(c) on undertaking anti-corruption education programmes in schools and universities and any specific challenges you might be facing in this respect.

Examples of the types of challenges States parties may face include:

- Challenges related to the adoption or implementation of anti-corruption educational measures, the need to provide support following the introduction of new academic courses, including through training of academic staff responsible for delivering such courses; and
- Challenges related to resource limitations, limited capacity or overloaded curriculum.

Do you consider that any technical assistance is required in order to allow you to fully implement this provision? If so, what specific forms of technical assistance would you require?

Legislative assistance: Please describe the type of assistance

Institution-building: Please describe the type of assistance

Policymaking: Please describe the type of assistance

Capacity-building: Please describe the type of assistance

Research/data-gathering and analysis: Please describe the type of assistance

Facilitation of international cooperation with other countries: Please describe the type of assistance

Is any technical assistance already being provided to you? If so, please provide a general description of the nature of assistance, including donor information.

Information requested from States parties in relation to achieving the commitments regarding corruption prevention from the UNGASS political declaration.

Please describe (cite and summarize) measures/steps your country has taken, if any (or is planning to take, together with the related appropriate time frame) to implement the commitments contained in paragraphs 1 to 22 (preventive measures) of the UNGASS political declaration.

Please outline actions required to ensure or improve the implementation of the commitments contained in paragraphs 1 to 22 of the political declaration, as well as any challenges faced or technical assistance required.