

Statistical framework to measure corruption

Angela Me

Chief UNODC Research & Trend Analysis Branch



International efforts to measure corruption

Agenda 2030

SDG16 Indicators
Manual to measure prevalence of bribery in households & businesses



2005



UNCAC Article 61

Collection, exchange and analysis of information on corruption



2015



2019



COSP Resolution 8/10

Measurement of Corruption

2021



UNGASS

To develop and share a comprehensive, scientifically sound and objective statistical framework

2023



UN Statistical Commission

Welcomed the UNODC statistical framework to measure corruption

COSP Resolution 10/4

Methodologies and indicators for measuring corruption and the effectiveness of anti-corruption frameworks

2024



UNODC work

Academia (Grace Initiative)
Anticorruption Authorities (Working on Prevention)

Why are countries facing challenges to measure corruption?

- Lack of resources
- Multiplicity of data collection approaches
- Lack of methodological guidance
- Lack of political will
- Technical capacities
- Lack of credibility in data
- Lack of legislation and procedures



Development of a Statistical Framework

- Developed through extensive global consultations online, in-person and in writing about the relevance and feasibility to collect data to produce the indicators included in the framework.
- Benefited from inputs received from 149 entities who provided written feedback from 81 Member States, including 25 national statistical offices, 56 anti-corruption authorities, 25 criminal justice authorities, ministries, think tanks, academia, and civil society organizations.

In February 2023, the UN Statistical Commission:

- **Welcomed** the Statistical Framework as a statistically robust framework to measure corruption.
- **Recognized** its ambitious nature and countries' limited ability to fully implement it.
- **Encouraged** UNODC to provide technical support to adopt it and invited relevant institutions, civil society and academia to promote its implementation.

Statistical Framework on Corruption Measurement

Corruption measurement

**Direct
measures**

Indirect measures

Perception

Risk

Response

Opportunities

De jure

Constraints

De facto

Corruption-related dimensions and elements

A. Corruption areas
criminalized in UNCAC

B. Preventive measures

C. Environment to report
and address corruption

UNODC Statistical Framework on Corruption Measurement

A. Corruption areas criminalized in UNCAC

- a.1 Bribery of national public officials
- a.2 Embezzlement, misappropriation, or other diversion of property by a public official
- a.3 Money laundering
- a.4 Illicit enrichment
- a.5 Abuse of functions

B. Preventive measures

- b.1 Public hiring based on merit
- b.2 Independence and integrity of the judiciary
- b.3 Conflict of interest
- b.4 Management of public finances
- b.5 Public procurement
- b.6 Candidature for and election to public office
- b.7 Preventive measures for the private sector
- b.8 Preventive measures for the state-owned enterprises
- b.9 Training programs

C. Enabling environment to report and address corruption

- c.1 Resources allocated to fight corruption
- c.2 Public reporting and access to information
- c.3 Protection of reporting persons

a.1 Bribery of national public officials, as an example

DIRECT MEASURES	INDIRECT MEASURES				
	PERCEPTION	RISK		RESPONSE	
		OPPORTUNITIES (Enabling circumstances)	CONSTRAINTS (Disabling circumstances)	DE JURE (Regulation)	DE FACTO (Implementation)
a.1.1 Prevalence of bribery in dealings with public officials among the population	a.1.4. Perception of corruption in the public sector		a.1.5 E-Government coverage	a.1.7 Criminalization of bribery	a.1.9. Bribery detection
a.1.2 Prevalence of bribery in dealings with public officials among businesses			a.1.6 Reporting bribery in dealings with public officials among the population/business	a.1.8 Comprehensive definition of public official	a.1.10. Bribery investigation
a.1.3 Total monetary value (in US Dollars) of bribes paid by all people during the previous 12 months					a.1.11. Bribery prosecution
				a.1.12. Bribery conviction	a.1.13. Assets recovery from bribery
				a.1.14. Administrative sanctions	

Indicators of Bribery in Mexico

DIRECT MEASURES	INDIRECT MEASURES				
	PERCEPTION	RISK		RESPONSE	
		OPPORTUNITIES (Enabling circumstances)	CONSTRAINTS (Disabling circumstances)	DE JURE (Regulation)	DE FACTO (Implementation)
<p>a.1.1 Prevalence of bribery in dealings with public officials among the population</p> <p>13,966 per 100,000 population in 2023</p> <p>a.1.3 Total monetary value (in US Dollars) of bribes paid by all people during the previous 12 months</p> <p>624 million in 2023</p>	<p>a.1.4. Perception of corruption in the public sector</p> <p>83% Percentage of people considered that acts of corruption are frequent or very frequent in 2023</p>		<p>a.1.5 E-Government coverage</p> <p>47.9% of the population of 18+ interact with government via internet in 2023</p> <p>a.1.6 Reporting bribery in dealings with public officials among the population/business</p> <p>4,871 per 100,000 population reported bribery when dealing with officials in 2023</p>	<p>a.1.7 Criminalization of bribery</p>	<p>a.1.11. Bribery investigation</p> <p>2,251 investigations in 2023</p> <p>a.1.12. Bribery prosecution</p> <p>140 people were prosecuted in 2023</p> <p>a.1.13. Bribery conviction</p> <p>60 people were convicted in 2023</p>

How is this framework useful?

Countries are not anticipated to report data based on this framework, but they can use it **to gradually collect and analyze relevant data on corruption** at the national and subnational levels for

- Establishing baselines to grasp corruption
- Observing trends and patterns
- Understanding of the extent of corruption and monitoring the effectiveness of preventive policies



How can the framework be used for the Review Mechanism?

- To support the review mechanism with **objective data**
- It provides a solid and universal **Menu of Indicators** and their related metadata from where to select those who are available and most relevant for the review
- It provides a bases for the review team to **assess national capacity** to measure corruption
- Provide a **framework** to correctly interpret data and trends



How can the framework be used for the Review Mechanism?

For each UNCAC article/area:

Outcome/Direct	Perception	Risk	Response de jure	Response de facto
Measure effectiveness	Describe a mix of corruption, awareness, and response	Measure corruption opportunities and existing constrains	Look at the adequacy of the legal framework	Measure a mix of corruption and capacity to address it
Interpretation of trends on corruption is clear (for parts)	Trends need to be interpreted with caution	Trend of risk is clear but not clear for corruption	Clear interpretation (UNCAC)	Trend can not be used to understand trend in corruption



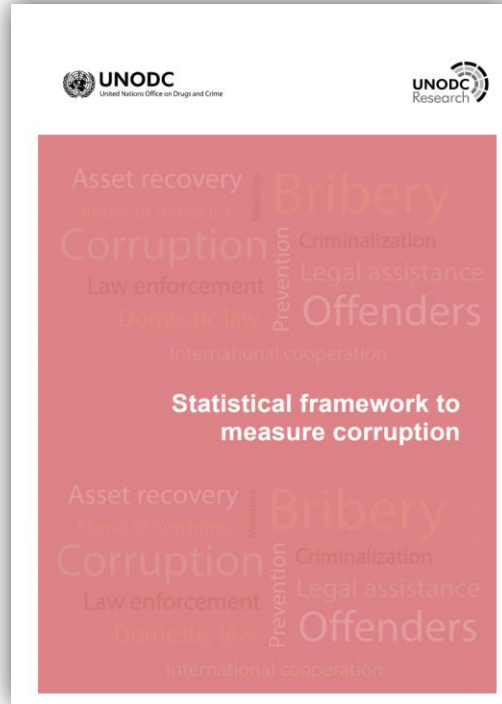
Which authorities can use this framework?

The following authorities can benefit from the framework:

- National Statistical Offices
- National Anticorruption agencies
- Ethics Commission
- Public Procurement Units
- Financial Regulatory Authorities
- Customs and Border control agencies
- Tax authorities
- Law enforcement agencies
- Auditing agencies
- Judicial bodies



UNODC Statistical Framework on Corruption Measurement



Key points

- Corruption is a complex phenomenon that is difficult to define as it takes many forms and affects all sectors of society
- One indicator or one index alone is not useful to understand and monitor:
 - the magnitude of corruption
 - the associated risks
 - the state response
- The Framework can help countries to develop their own national statistical systems to measure corruption based on their national anticorruption priorities.
- It does not intend to replace or substitute the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of UNCAC but rather complement it providing a statistical perspective of the findings of the Mechanism



Join us

Side event

Measurement and effectiveness - supporting countries in employing a data-driven approach to country reviews

Wednesday 4 September at 1:30 pm in M5



Thank you!

Angela Me

Chief of UNODC Research & Trend Analysis Branch

angela.me@un.org