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Annex I

Guidance Note

Guidance note for States parties and signatories on sharing information and experiences on:

- **the participation of society in the prevention of and fight against corruption;**
- **the negative effects of corruption on women and youth; and,**
- **the role played by women and youth in preventing and combating corruption.**

In its resolution 10/1, entitled “Atlanta 2023: promoting integrity, accountability and transparency in the fight against corruption”, the Conference reiterated that:

“the active participation of society is integral to complementing States’ efforts in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and promoting transparency, integrity and accountability”,

and urged States parties to:

“put in place and effectively implement policies and practices, within their means and in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic laws, that allow individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental and community-based organizations, the private sector, academia and media, to be able to contribute in this regard also thereby promoting accountability, including through the full and effective implementation of article 13 of the Convention”.

The resolution also emphasized the importance of engaging young people in the prevention of and fight against corruption.

Corruption affects all members of society – women and men, boys and girls - in different ways. It often results in the exclusion of vulnerable groups from decision-making processes and access to basic public services, reproducing negative stereotypes and limiting economic power and educational opportunities.

In its resolution 10/3, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, the Conference requested the Working Group to consider including, as a topic for discussion at its fifteenth meeting *“the negative effects of corruption on women and youth and the role played by women and youth in preventing and combating corruption”*.

The secretariat has prepared the attached questionnaire as guidance on information sought on the above topics. Should sufficient information be received, a report will be prepared in view of facilitating the

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discussion at the fifteenth Working Group on Prevention to be held from 28 August to 6 September 2024. Unless otherwise indicated in the submissions, the input will be published online and may be used for the development of knowledge products. The information sought includes descriptions of good practices and challenges faced in adopting and/or implementing these measures. The submission of supporting documentation, if any, is encouraged, including but not limited to legislation, regulations, reports, policy documents and evaluations.

Participation of society in preventing and fighting corruption, inclusive decision-making processes; role of non-governmental stakeholders, journalists and media

1. Has your country promoted the participation of society, including non-governmental stakeholders, journalists and the media, in anti-corruption activities, programmes and initiatives, including in relation to anti-corruption strategies? If yes, please specify how.

The participation of various civil society actors constitutes a strategic priority of the Austrian **National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAKS)**.

According to the NAKS, the systematic exchange of best practices and new approaches in corruption prevention and integrity promotion between the public and private sector is institutionalised in the **Coordinating Body on Combating Corruption (KgK)**. Civil society actors are intensively involved in this process. Efforts to prevent corruption as well as to promote transparency and integrity are based on a strong cooperation with civil society, media and the private sector. This collaborative approach is manifested in the NAKS principles, which are:

- Commitment to Integrity,
- Cooperation
- Transparency
- Awareness raising.

The focus of the participating stakeholders from the public sector, civil society and the private sector is on implementing the measures in the **National Action Plan (NAP)** and achieving the targets set within the specific timeframe.

Links: **National Anti-Corruption Strategy: [NAKS](#) (ENG)**

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2. Has your country identified any barriers to the participation of society in the prevention of and fight against corruption? If yes, have any programmes been designed and implemented to address such barriers?

Based on the NAKS and the NAP, as well as the active involvement of civil society actors, there has been a strong cooperation between state and non-state actors. A best-practice example which evolved over the last couple of years are the so-called workshops for schools, where anti-corruption experts from different fields, as well as police investigators share their knowledge in public schools in Austria. The close collaboration between various stakeholders in the planning procedure of the NAKS, constitutes an essential element which helped to avoid potential barriers.

The negative effects of corruption on youth and the role played by youth in preventing and combating corruption. For each reply, we would be grateful for hyperlinks to relevant supporting documentation or websites, or any other supporting documents.

While the official definition of youth provided by the United Nations refers to persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years (and indeed, all United Nations statistics on youth are based on this definition), the United Nations recognizes that “the operational definition and nuances of the term ‘youth’ vary from country to country”¹ as it relates to sociocultural, institutional, economic and political factors, and adapts to the countries where it operates.² UNODC uses the age range of 15 to 30 when referring to engaging young people outside the UN as partners and leaders in their shared objective to prevent and counter corruption. In line with this flexible definition of youth, we encourage Member States to decide which definition they would like to refer to and specify it in their answers to the questionnaire.

1. Does your country collect data disaggregated by age on the experience of young people as victims of corruption? Please provide the findings of any studies you may have carried out on the impact of corruption on young people. An example could be the impact of corruption on access to economic opportunities for businesses owned by young people.

To date, no studies have been conducted that specifically use data on corruption related topics disaggregated by age. However, the BAK is continuously increasing resources and efforts to

¹ United Nations, “Global Issues: Youth”, <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/youth>.

² General Assembly resolution 36/81; and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), *Meaningfully engaging with youth* (Paris, 2019).



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intensify anti-corruption and integrity work with youth in Austria. Further details can be found below.

2. Does your country have education for young people on integrity, ethics and anti-corruption at the primary, secondary, tertiary or informal level? If yes, please describe and provide any supporting documents.

Yes, education for young people is an essential part of Austria's National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NAKS) as well as the National Action Plan 2023-2025 (NAP).

The **Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK)** is responsible for the area of prevention and education. It offers anti-corruption workshops in schools and universities to raise awareness of corruption among young people before they start their professional careers. Several of these workshops took place in 2023.

Tertiary Level

On the **tertiary education level**, in April 2024, the BAK signed a cooperation agreement with the Vienna University of Teacher Education, which marks a milestone for the collaboration between the BAK and the education sector. Specifically, a nationwide training programme for teachers, in the form of an interactive teaching module on the topic of corruption prevention will be included in the curriculum. This has been developed by education experts from the BAK.

The cooperation shall enable graduates to train and sensitize their pupils on the topic of corruption on the one hand and to strengthen their own expertise and know-how in dealing with situations involving corruption on the other.

Secondary Level

Being at the threshold of entering their professional life, pupils have received training in their respective field, but often have little knowledge of the ethical and legal challenges that await them in their careers. The BAK specifically counteracts this problem by organizing **anti-corruption workshops in schools**.

Two concrete good practice examples took place in June 2023, with around 50 students from the fourth grade of an educational institution for economic professions in Vienna, and in October 2023, when almost 100 students from the high school St. Pölten took part in anti-corruption workshops (Link: [Imparting integrity and anti-corruption expertise \(bak.gv.at\)](#))

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Over the course of the day, the participants learned interesting facts about corruption. For example, they took on roles in a scenario branded as the “Corruption Theatre”, classified pictures according to corrupt and non-corrupt actions in the “Corruption Scale” and heard about the everyday life of an investigator and the criminal consequences of corrupt actions.

Furthermore, the lecturers also gained valuable insights to the students' concerns, perspectives and problems based on Q&A sessions and comments.

Primary Level

The BAK plans to broaden its scope of educational programs to reach an even younger age group. Through this approach, the Federal Bureau intends to start the process of raising awareness for integrity as early as in kindergarten and primary school. Therefore, the BAK is currently in close contact with other anti-corruption authorities in order to implement best practices.

To be able to extend the anti-corruption events to the whole of Austria, the BAK's Prevention and Basic Research as well as Education Unit further developed the anti-corruption workshops in 2023: Corruption Prevention Officers in each of the Austrian federal states will play a central role in the implementation of these events.

Additionally, other Police units dedicated to combat economical crime and business high schools have launched a new module called “Security Management, Cyber-Security and Public Administration”. The BAK contributes to this project in the form of a workshop on anti-corruption.

The entire strategy is based on the principle that corruption prevention cannot start early enough. Therefore, conveying a positive image of integrity and incorruptibility as well as specialist knowledge is an essential contribution to the BAK's prevention mandate.

Further information on the BAK's activities in the area of prevention can be found in its annual report 2023 on the [Webpage](#) (GER).

3. How does your country meaningfully include young people in the development, implementation and monitoring of anti-corruption efforts, including in relation to national anti-corruption strategies?

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Yes, there are various types of inclusion of young people in this process. In the framework of anti-corruption events in schools, the lecturers gained valuable access regarding the students' concerns, perspectives and problems through their feedback in the form questions and comments. The BAK is constantly working on new approaches and concepts to provide targeted anti-corruption workshops for all age groups. Feedback from already implemented best practice projects is essential in this regard. The BAK is also working together with anti-corruption authorities from other countries to exchange information and adapt practices to the national context. Close collaboration with the BAK's International Cooperation Unit is an integral part.

The negative effects of corruption on women and the role played by women in preventing and combating corruption

1. Have any studies (quantitative or qualitative) been undertaken or has information been gathered in view of discerning the negative effects of corruption on women in your country? If available, please provide the findings of any such studies or information collection efforts.

To date, no studies have been conducted in view of discerning the negative effects of corruption on women in Austria.

2. Has your country promoted the role of women in preventing and combating corruption? Has this included efforts to promote the meaningful participation and engagement of, and cooperation with, women's and community-based organizations that support women in the policy development, planning, implementation and monitoring of your anti-corruption programmes? Please enclose any supporting documentation or hyperlinks, if available.

Please see answer above.

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