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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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”*.

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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 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.

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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?

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.

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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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.

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?

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.

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

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policy development, planning, implementation and monitoring of your anti-corruption programmes? Please enclose any supporting documentation or hyperlinks, if available.

The Government of Canada understands that corruption is gendered because its drivers, impacts, and opportunities for recourse (e.g., access to justice, reporting on wrongdoing) are affected by power dynamics that typically marginalize women and other groups including the LGBTIQ+ community.

To be most effective, it is important to support and advance programming and partnerships to prevent and fight corruption which involve the participation of society and make the most of their contributions to efforts against corruption.

Canada is one of eight partners of the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (U4) along with Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Established in 2003, U4's mission is to help reduce the harmful impact of corruption on sustainable and inclusive development, studying the causes and pathways of corruption, documenting its effects on development outcomes, and identifying and supporting efforts to address it. U4 research publications and self-paced online courses are made available as global public goods. In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the Government of Canada provided support to U4 to deliver Ukrainian-language online training, as well as the development of reports, tailored advice and guidance to inform practical anti-corruption efforts on the ground. Published in December 2023, the report -- Feminist policy in Ukraine's recovery and post-conflict reconstruction: A gender perspective in anti-corruption efforts -- examines corruption challenges, highlighting that the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda provides an opportunity to integrate gender perspectives into Ukraine's anti-corruption strategies, including by **ensuring that women's groups, and other underrepresented communities, have a role and opportunity to inform decision-making with respect to Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction efforts.**

In partnership with **Transparency International**, Canada is supporting a four-year project titled "Inclusive Service Delivery Africa" (CAD \$9.7M 2022 to 2025). The project supports civil society, media and journalists to contribute to efforts against corruption, through initiatives that address how corruption impacts citizens' everyday lives, such as the impact of corrupt practices on access to basic public goods like health care. The project aims to address **the impact of corruption on access to education and health services for groups at risk of discrimination, particularly women and girls in the Republic of Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.**

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