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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”*.

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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.

The Ministry of Justice has appointed [the Anti-Corruption Cooperation Network for the term 2022-2024](#). In addition to representatives of ministries, state agency and operational officials, the network include several non-governmental stakeholder representatives, e.g. from civil society, trade unions, and business. The aim of the Anti-Corruption Cooperation Network is to contribute to minimising corruption in Finland. The network was established for the first time in 2002. The establishment of the network was based on a recommendation issued by the anti-corruption body (GRECO) established under the auspices of the Council of Europe. According to the GRECO recommendation, its Member States should have a cooperation body whose primary task is to exchange anti-corruption information and practices between different authorities.

The cooperation network has played an important role in promoting cross-administrative cooperation against corruption, supporting the implementation of the Convention, which establishes that state parties must have an anti-corruption body, which, *inter alia*, adopts and promotes effective practices to combat corruption and increase and disseminate information on the fight against corruption.

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The network executed the first phases of the preparatory work of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Implementation Action-Plan for 2021-2023. The Network has been informed regularly of the implementation progress of the Action Plan. Meetings are held four times a year.

In December 2022, the Ministry of Justice organized as part of the International Anti-Corruption Day – two seminars. First seminar on 8.12.2022 was about the role of civil society and the media in anti-corruption work – an online seminar that gathered up to 100 participants. The second seminar, 13.12.2022, was the publication of the local government anti-corruption guide, including a panel discussion with representatives from municipalities, academia, civil society and internal audit. The hybrid event gathered in total 90 participants, majority of which worked in the municipalities.

In May 2024, the Ministry of Justice held two-day (Anti-)Corruption Research Seminar for Finnish researchers in the field. The seminar was construed around presentations on current topics in research relating to corruption as well as discussions, which aimed at feeding into the new Anti-Corruption Action Plan, which will be prepared during 2024. All members of the Anti-Corruption Cooperation Network were also invited to take part to the seminar and discussions.

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?

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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.

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.

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

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