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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 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.

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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.

- a) Anti-corruption prevention program lies in its provisions under sections 7(f) and 7(g) of Act 694, which focus on educate the public to fight corruption, to enlist and foster public support against corruption.
- b) The strategy for delivering the anti-corruption message targets various groups, including private companies, GLCs, government agencies, schools, universities, and NGOs across Malaysia, both at the federal and state levels. The effectiveness of the program is measured through the implementation of Anti-Corruption Program Effectiveness Study (KPAR).
- c) As an incentive for the private sector, MACC also offers tax deduction to private sectors that conduct anti-corruption programs in collaboration with the MACC for expenses incurred for this purpose. All MACC activities or programs are immediately disseminated through all major social media platforms in Malaysia, such as Facebook, Tik Tok, Instagram, and others.
- d) Collaborative engagement with the Center to Combat Corruption & Cronyism (C4) and Transparency International Malaysia (TI) to gather input and feedback during stakeholder engagement sessions for the drafting and formulation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2028.
- e) Participation as a panelist or speaker in forums organized by civil society organizations such as the Anti-Bribery Anti-Corruption (ABAC) and Coalition for Business Integrity (CBI).
- f) Inclusion of civil society representatives as panelists or speakers to offer input, insights, or best practices in MACC programs. For instance, inviting representatives from the Malaysian Shipowners Maritime Symposium to share their best practices in the maritime industry during the Anti-Corruption Symposium.

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?

None, MACC are committed to working towards the betterment of the country.

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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.

- **Does your country collect data disaggregated by age on the experience of young people as victims of corruption?**

Yes, we do.

- **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.**

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has recognized the importance of involving young people in anti-corruption efforts, particularly through education and outreach programs targeting youth. This is part of a broader strategy to build a culture of integrity from a young age. Despite these efforts, specific studies focusing exclusively on how young people experience and are affected by corruption, particularly in terms of accessing economic opportunities, are limited.

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).



A general study conducted by Transparency International in their Global Corruption Barometer highlights that youth in many countries, including Malaysia, often face significant barriers due to corruption when accessing services and opportunities. This can include challenges in starting businesses, where young entrepreneurs might encounter demands for bribes or favoritism that undermine fair competition.

<https://www.transparency.org/en/publications/people-and-corruption-citizens-voices-from-around-the-world>

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.

For Primary and Secondary levels:

- i) Anti-corruption elements in textbooks.
- ii) Programs during extra-curricular activities.
- iii) Integrity & ethics education in the Ministry of Education syllabus.

For Tertiary level:

- i) Integrity & anti-corruption course – compulsory for undergraduates
- ii) Corp Anti-corruption students' volunteer course

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?

Strategy 1: Substrategy 7 in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2024 – 2028 includes an initiative to Introduce the implementation of Integrity and Anti-Corruption modules / courses for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) training at TVET institutions.

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.



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The "Bridging the Gender Gap: Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment as a Game Changer in Anti-Corruption Initiatives" project highlights several key findings on the impact and benefits of integrating gender perspectives into anti-corruption efforts. Here are some of the notable outcomes:

1. **Enhanced Policy Design and Implementation:**

The project emphasized the importance of designing and implementing anti-corruption policies that consider gender differences. By doing so, these policies become more effective in addressing the unique challenges faced by women, thereby promoting their active participation in anti-corruption efforts.

2. **Empowerment of Women in Various Sectors:**

Empowering women in law enforcement, economic, political, and social spheres is crucial. The project demonstrated that when women are empowered, they can significantly contribute to reducing corruption. This empowerment is facilitated through training, gender-sensitive reporting mechanisms, and supportive environments within anti-corruption agencies.

3. **Policy Recommendations:**

The project resulted in eight policy recommendations aimed at integrating gender perspectives into anti-corruption initiatives. These recommendations focus on ensuring that anti-corruption policies and programs benefit women equally, thereby engaging them more effectively in anti-corruption activities.

4. **Impact on Economic Participation:**

Gender-sensitive anti-corruption policies can help remove barriers to women's economic participation. This aligns with broader objectives such as the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth, which seeks to improve women's economic opportunities by addressing corruption and other impediments.

5. **Training and Capacity Building:**

Future initiatives include developing gender-sensitive training and guides to enhance gender mainstreaming in anti-corruption efforts. This training aims to empower women to report corruption confidently and participate actively in anti-corruption activities.

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Overall, these findings suggest that gender mainstreaming and women empowerment can be powerful tools in combating corruption, leading to more inclusive and effective anti-corruption initiatives.

https://www.apec.org/Press/Blogs/2020/1221_ACTWG

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.

Yes, Malaysia has actively promoted the role of women in preventing and combating corruption, including efforts to ensure their meaningful participation and engagement with women's and community-based organizations. These efforts are encapsulated in several strategies and policies aimed at empowering women and integrating their involvement in anti-corruption measures.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and other government bodies have been working to include women actively in anti-corruption efforts, emphasizing the importance of women's participation in decision-making positions and empowering them with the necessary skills to promote integrity.

The National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) includes strategies to enhance the involvement of women in anti-corruption measures. These strategies recognize that women can play a pivotal role in promoting transparency and accountability, especially in sectors where they are significantly represented. Efforts have been made to collaborate with women's organizations and community-based groups that support women, integrating their perspectives into policy development, planning, implementation, and monitoring of anti-corruption programs.

These strategies are part of Malaysia's broader effort to integrate gender perspectives into its anti-corruption initiatives, ensuring that women's experiences and needs are addressed in the fight against corruption. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2024-2028 builds

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on the previous NACP and aims to continue improving governance and integrity across all sectors with a specific focus on inclusivity and gender equality .

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