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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.

Civil society and the media have an indispensable role in the national integrity and anti-corruption system, contributing to the effective implementation of the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2017-2023 (adopted by Parliament Decision No 56/2017, extended by Parliament Decision No 241 of 24 December 2021 amending Parliament Decision No 56/2017 approving the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2017-2020). The policy document is interlinked with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and based on the analysis of the National Integrity System (NIS) comprising 8 integrity pillars, thus Pillar VIII is dedicated to Civil Society and Media.

During the implementation of this Strategy, civil society provided support through independent and impartial monitoring of sectoral and local anti-corruption action plans, but also through equidistant information of society on deficiencies in the system. Similarly, civil society was involved in conducting annual surveys, one of the key elements of the monitoring process, which is the evaluation of the impact of the actions concerned, based on public opinion, being questioned the general population, economic agents and public agents.

Subsequently, in order to ensure transparency in the process of monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy, civil society representatives were appointed as members of the 3 Monitoring Groups of the Strategy.

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In order to ensure the continuity of policies to prevent and combat corruption at national level, following the completion of the actions planned in the Strategy and Action Plan for 2017-2023, the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Programme for 2024-2028 and the Action Plan for its implementation, which further promote the contribution of civil society and the media to the creation of a sustainable integrity and anti-corruption system in the Republic of Moldova, were developed and approved by Parliament Decision No 442 of 28 December 2023.

The National Anti-Corruption Centre (NAC) of the Republic of Moldova carries out **corruption prevention activities in collaboration with civil society**, and in particular can be mentioned the most extensive campaigns/projects, namely:

- **NAC-PA 'HOMECARE' and PA 'CASAMED'** – '*Integrity for Health*' information and awareness-raising campaign aimed at strengthening the culture of integrity among healthcare professionals, pharmacists, patients and society at large.

- **NAC-PA "Independent Analytical Centre EXPERT Grup"** - project carried out within the Master course "Anticorruption and Good Governance" at the Academy of Economic Studies of the Republic of Moldova.

- **NAC-PA Theatre Centre of Moldova and "Mihai Eminescu" Theatre** – socio-cultural project to prevent corruption, which started with the presentation of the performance 'The election of Mr Macabets' and aimed at promoting and cultivating integrity among young people and society in general.

- **NAC-PA Chamber of Commerce and Industry – State Agency on Intellectual Property** – partnership within the national competition "Trademark of the Year", by offering the Integrity Award to private companies implementing integrity standards in the private sector.

- **NAC – Court Administration Agency – National Integrity Authority** "Integrity: Pre-condition for the prevention of corruption risks" – project aimed at representatives of the justice sector aiming at promoting and ensuring integrity and anti-corruption rigors.

- **NAC - PA European Association of Law Students** – initiatives to organize study visits of students to the NAC premises.

- **NAC - PA VeDemJust and PA Judicial Academy** – educational project for young people which consisted in conducting public lessons on the role of the NAC in preventing the fight against corruption and on corruption, integrity and anti-corruption.

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- **NAC - PA Centre for Analysis and Prevention of Corruption** – project carried out at country level on the promotion of the whistleblower institute.

- **NAC - Lex-XXI Human Rights Association** - a project aimed at young people and teachers that was carried out through anti-corruption education activities and aimed at promoting the culture of integrity.

Another tool to promote **corruption prevention activities and raise awareness among the public through the media**. Thus, the NAC officers on the prevention component participated as guests in various TV and Radio shows on corruption prevention activities, projects, initiatives promoted by the NAC, activities and results of the institution, activities of anticorruption volunteers of the NAC.

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?

In the process of implementing the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2017-2023, actions were carried out to strengthen the participation of civil society in monitoring the national climate of integrity, in which civil society was actively involved, by identifying, capitalizing on the most effective achievements and informing the public about the good practices recorded by public entities in the implementation of sectoral anti-corruption initiatives.

Some obstacles in the process of civil society participation in corruption prevention measures within the National Anti-Corruption Centre have not been identified.

**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

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country to country”<sup>1</sup> as it relates to sociocultural, institutional, economic and political factors, and adapts to the countries where it operates.<sup>2</sup> 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.

The National Anti-Corruption Centre (NAC) on the anticorruption education component with young people carries out various activities, public lessons, projects, initiatives, anticorruption information and awareness campaigns, jointly with the anticorruption volunteers of the NAC. They are actively involved in anti-corruption education activities, namely: trainings in educational institutions and summer camps, information and awareness campaigns, the development of anti-corruption social spots and other information materials in the field of integrity. The purpose of the activities carried out by the anticorruption volunteers of the NAC is to promote the culture of integrity, to educate generations of honest, upright and loyal specialists to democratic principles. Thus, we mention the most important anti-corruption education projects for young people, namely:

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

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



1. **Quiz Pro Integrity** -non-formal educational project in the form of Quiz, whose questions are developed with the support and involvement of NAC volunteers, the latter also participating in the organization of that activity, whose purpose is to strengthen the culture of integrity among pupils, high school students, students through the interactive assimilation of information on the premises and effects of the corruption phenomenon.
2. Information and awareness-raising campaign '*Integrity: credibility in the education system*' and '*No corruption at the BAC*' – within these campaigns, anti-corruption volunteers conducted lessons on corruption, anti-corruption and integrity with students.
3. **The campaign "An anti-corruption day in your city"** - the campaign was launched at country level for public entities and citizens, attended by NAC volunteers and was guided by the slogan "Your attitude counts - say NO to corruption", aimed at raising awareness and educating young people, public agents, the population, the business environment, on the phenomenon of corruption, obtaining public disapproval of corruption and denouncing corruption cases and ways of denouncing corruption acts.
4. **The information and awareness-raising campaign "An integrity lesson in my school/university"** – consisted of organizing and conducting lessons on integrity and corruption prevention in the educational institutions where the NAC anti-corruption volunteers study and aimed to promote the culture of integrity.
5. **The campaign "Integrity comprehensible to children!"**- took place at the children's rest camps in the country, where the anti-corruption volunteers of the NAC, together with NAC collaborators, disseminated relevant information in the field of anti-corruption and integrity.
6. **The "Dictionary of Integrity" project** consisted in filming 10 video spots in which NAC volunteers exposed the content of the basic notions reported to the field of anti-corruption and integrity. Data spots are disseminated on social networks and during training activities with young people, in order to familiarize them with the anti-corruption field.
7. **Pod-Cast "Anti-Corruption and Integrity for Young People"** – consisted of the broadcast of video dialogue sessions conducted by a NAC volunteer, as moderator, and a guest, on topics related to anti-corruption and integrity and aimed at promoting the culture of integrity.
8. **The project "Simulate, learn, remain upright"**– consisted of simulating a trial on a corruption case by the anti-corruption volunteers of the NAC. This practical exercise had an educational and formative purpose, providing participants with a detailed perspective



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on judicial procedures and the importance of fighting corruption in society, including a call for integrity and accountability in the face of corruption. The event highlighted the importance of actively involving the community in this fight, thus promoting an upright and fairer environment for all citizens.

**9. “4integrity” game** – an interactive game that was developed and promoted among young people with the support of the NAC’s anti-corruption volunteers. The game aims to promote and educate young people in the spirit of integrity and respect for the law.

**10. The information and awareness-raising campaign ‘The Art of Staying Integral’** – a socio-cultural project to prevent corruption launched by the NAC in partnership with the Moldovan Theatre Centre and the ‘Mihai Eminescu’ National Theatre, in which the performance ‘The Election of Mr Macabets’ was staged and broadcast. Within this project, the anti-corruption volunteers of the NAC conducted an information and awareness raising activity about the competence, mission of the NAC and anti-corruption education activities for spectators.

Also, the NAC, together with the anti-corruption volunteers, participates in TV and radio shows with topics on promoting the culture of integrity among young people, conducts flash mobs *“I am integrity! Be you!”*, develops anti-corruption awareness-raising materials and publishes them on the facebook page of anti-corruption volunteers under the title ‘DO YOU KNOW THAT ...’; ‘COMMENTED QUOTES’, ‘File from history’; “On Honor through Lyrics”, Giffs, Awareness Drawings, Anti-Corruption Awareness Comics, etc.

Also, the NAC ensures the promotion of the culture of integrity among young people by conducting public lessons in educational institutions, participating in various conferences/events/round tables on integrity and anticorruption, ensuring study visits to the NAC of groups of students, teaching staff students, conducting master programs within the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova and the Free International University of Moldova.

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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Within the National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy for 2017-2023, Pillar III, Priority III.3. ‘Strengthening education and corruption prevention measures’ is set out in Action 24 ‘Training pupils and students in the spirit of integrity and intolerance towards corruption’, which aimed to strengthen young people’s participation in promoting the national climate of integrity. Thus, during the period concerned, several activities were carried out with the involvement of pupils, students and young anticorruption volunteers.

Strengthening intolerance to corruption and corruption-related acts among young people is also one of the objectives set out in the new anti-corruption policy document, the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Programme for 2024-2028 and the Action Plan for its implementation (approved by Parliament Decision No 442 of 28 December 2023). Thus, activities to prevent corruption and strengthen national integrity with the involvement of young people will continue to be carried out in 2024-2028.

## **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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