

Annex I - Questionnaire

Measures taken to implement the Convention and the commitments contained in the UNGASS political declaration, as well as good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention

Country	Mauritius
Implementing authority/authorities	The Independent Commission Against Corruption (the Commission)
Corresponding paragraph(s) of the UNGASS political declaration and/or article(s) of the Convention	UNGASS – Para 24 UNCAC – Article 8
Title of initiative	Extension of the Declaration of Assets Act to include all officers of the Mauritius Prisons Service.
Keywords of initiative	Declaration of Assets Act 2018 and Declaration of Assets (Mauritius Prisons Service) Regulations 2022
Short summary of initiative (please indicate the start date/duration if relevant)	<p>Asset declaration is a tool aimed at preventing and detecting illicit/unjustified enrichment. It also aims at building greater integrity and transparency in the public sector. It is therefore a prevention tool as well as an enforcement one.</p> <p>The list of officers having an obligation to make a declaration of their assets and liabilities under the Declaration of Assets Act 2018 has been extended to all officers of the Mauritius Prisons Service following the promulgation of the Declaration of Assets (Mauritius Prisons Service) Regulations 2022 which came into operation on 04 April 2022.</p> <p>This initiative seeks to curb any abuse of power by Prison Officers in the discharge of their duties and deter them from engaging into any act of corruption, money-laundering or any other illegal activities which may subsequently result into illicit enrichment and/or unexplained wealth, amongst others.</p>
Detailed description of initiative	<p>Recently, many Prison Officers were subject to investigations by the Commission in money laundering cases. They were allegedly providing SIM Cards to detainees and were acting as liaison persons between drug traffickers in jail and their networks.</p> <p>In one case, a prison officer was provisionally charged and convicted for corruption offence, inasmuch as he was providing confidential information to a detainee and in return he obtained a gratification.</p>

	<p>Following the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on Drug Trafficking, the Declaration of Assets (Mauritius Prisons Service) Regulations 2022 was made by the Prime Minister on 31 March 2022. The Regulations provided that, every officer of the Mauritius Prisons Service in office at the commencement of these regulations shall, not later than 90 days after the coming into force of these regulations on 4 April 2022, make a declaration of his/her assets and liabilities with ICAC, including the assets and liabilities of his spouse, his minor children and, subject to section 4(4) of the Act, his children of age and grandchildren.</p> <p>This measure is expected to contribute in minimizing the risks of corruption, money laundering or illicit enrichment of prisons officers as they evolve in a high risk environment.</p>
Lessons learned in implementing the initiative	The list of declarants could be extended to other public officers operating in high risk areas.
Challenges encountered in implementing the initiative	No major challenge
Link to more information	Please refer to the DOA page on the website of the ICAC. https://www.icac.mu/declaration-of-assets/

Annex II - Questionnaire

Measures taken to implement the Convention and the commitments contained in the UNGASS political declaration, as well as good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention

Country	Mauritius
Implementing authority/authorities	The Independent Commission Against Corruption
Corresponding paragraph(s) of the UNGASS political declaration and/or article(s) of the Convention	UNGASS – Para 20 UNCAC – Article 7 and 13
Title of initiative	Anti-Corruption Empowerment Programmes

Keywords of initiative	Empowerment Programmes
Short summary of initiative (please indicate the start date/duration if relevant)	With a view to build corruption resistance, anti-corruption empowerment programmes are conducted throughout the year by the ICAC with public officers, specific technical cadres, newly recruited officers, employees of the private sector and members of the civil society.
Detailed description of initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fight against corruption requires a change in mindset. Accordingly, officers of the public sector, private sector and members of the civil society are empowered on a regular basis on corruption and its dangers, corruption offences, channels to report corruption, ethics and on their roles and responsibilities in reinforcing a culture of integrity. • For the period July 2021 to June 2022, over 100 sessions have been conducted reaching some 3000 participants. • A 13 hrs Anti-Corruption programme is conducted with all new recruits of the Mauritius Police Force. About 500 newly recruited Police Officers were empowered in 2022. • New recruits of the civil service are empowered through an anti-corruption programme developed and run by the ICAC in collaboration with the Civil Service College Mauritius. • With a view to support the adoption of a risk-based approach in the public sector, training on Corruption Risk Management is conducted regularly with officers who are tasked to conduct corruption risk assessments in their respective organisations. A batch of 131 officers was trained in October 2021 following the extension to Parastatal bodies and local authorities of the Key Performance Indicators on Corruption Risk Assessment set by the Government. • Numerous sessions were also conducted targeting private sector employees and members of the civil society.
Lessons learned in implementing the initiative	<p>Continuous empowerment and training are necessary so as to build capacity and ensure effective implementation of anti-corruption policies and good practices in Ministries/Government Departments and public bodies.</p> <p>Our evaluation exercises indicate that training has helped to expedite implementation of anti-corruption measures contained in Corruption Prevention Reviews issued by the ICAC and mitigating measures recommended by Anti-Corruption Committees set up in around 150 public bodies.</p>
Challenges encountered in implementing the initiative	<p>Due to COVID-19, the priority of the private sector was more inclined towards survival.</p> <p>Need to strike a balance between public officials' obligations/responsibilities and adequate time for training.</p>
Link to more information	Please refer to the Annual Reports on the website of the ICAC https://www.icac.mu/publications/

Annex III - Questionnaire

Measures taken to implement the Convention and the commitments contained in the UNGASS political declaration, as well as good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention

Country	Mauritius
Implementing authority/authorities	The Independent Commission Against Corruption
Corresponding paragraph(s) of the UNGASS political declaration and/or article(s) of the Convention	UNGASS – Para 20 UNCAC – Article 13
Title of initiative	Sustaining public awareness on corruption through digital campaigns
Keywords of initiative	Digital campaigns
Short summary of initiative (please indicate the start date/duration if relevant)	In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, ICAC has reinforced its online presence on social media (Facebook, Instagram and YouTube). In this context, in-house videos, animated banners and graphic images have been developed to reach a larger segment of the population.
Detailed description of initiative	<p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a shift in ICAC’s education strategy to sustain the momentum generated. To reach a larger audience, face to face interventions have been complemented by digital campaigns namely through Facebook, and YouTube.</p> <p>With the 18-35 year old age group as the main target, ICAC developed short video productions and Facebook/Google campaigns featuring specific messages to trigger reflection on the fight against corruption. In two years, the total audience reached amounts to approximately 360,000 individual accounts. ICAC is now seeking to reach out to the younger audience by through its Instagram account, on which specifically designed content will be promoted to further expand the spectrum of its global audience.</p> <p>Digital campaigns besides being cost effective has allowed the ICAC to reach a larger audience among active social media users and create greater awareness.</p>
Lessons learned in implementing the initiative	Social media represent a powerful and useful tool in raising public awareness.

	Constant feedbacks from diverse target groups are obtained which are considered by the Commission for necessary actions.
Challenges encountered in implementing the initiative	There is a need to create more anti-corruption content on social media. Capacity building of officers in the field of digital communication is imperative.
Link to more information	Please refer to the Annual Reports on the website of the ICAC https://www.icac.mu/publications/

Annex IV - Questionnaire

Measures taken to implement the Convention and the commitments contained in the UNGASS political declaration, as well as good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention

Country	Mauritius
Implementing authority/authorities	The Independent Commission Against Corruption
Corresponding paragraph(s) of the UNGASS political declaration and/or article(s) of the Convention	UNGASS – Para 6 & 7 UNCAC – Article 7 & Article 10
Title of initiative	Key Performance Indicators (KPI) with regard to the conduct of Corruption Risk Assessments (CRAs)
Keywords of initiative	Corruption Risk Management, KPIs
Short summary of initiative (please indicate the start	To reinforce the risk-based approach to minimise corruption opportunities in public bodies, Government has adopted Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (as recommended by the ICAC) which put an obligation on public sector organisations to conduct Corruption Risk Assessments (CRAs) as well as to implement mitigating measures recommended following the assessments.

date/duration if relevant)	
Detailed description of initiative	<p>ICAC adopts a risk-based approach in the fight against corruption. Hence, following discussions with the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, two KPIs on Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) have been set by the Government as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries and Government Departments are required to implement 75% the recommendations made following CRAs conducted the previous year; and • Statutory bodies and local authorities are required to undertake 2 CRAs. <p>In this context, public bodies have set-up Anti-Corruption Committees in their respective organisations to conduct CRAs. They are also required report to the ICAC and Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms on progress made.</p> <p>As such, as at date, over 90 CRAs were conducted in high risk areas.</p>
Lessons learned in implementing the initiative	<p>Corruption Risk Management represents an effective tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify corruption risks and weaknesses in systems; • For the organisation to work on remedial measures; and • Reinforce organisational systems, procedures and practices to prevent corruption and malpractices.
Challenges encountered in implementing the initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous empowerment of public officers and management commitment is required for effective implementation.
Link to more information	<p>https://mof.govmu.org/Documents/2021/MOFEPD%20Circular%20No%208%20of%202021%20-%20Guidelines%20for%20establishment%20of%20Risk%20Management%20in%20the%20Public%20Sector.pdf</p>

Annex V - Questionnaire

Measures taken to implement the Convention and the commitments contained in the UNGASS political declaration, as well as good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention¹

Country	Mauritius
Implementing authority/authorities	The Independent Commission Against Corruption
Corresponding paragraph(s) of the UNGASS political	UNGASS – Para 17, 25, 28 & 74 UNCAC – Article14

declaration and/or article(s) of the Convention	
Title of initiative	Measures to prevent the financial system from being abused to hide, move and launder assets stemming from corruption in line with applicable international obligations.
Keywords of initiative	Recent measures to prevent the financial system from being abused.
Short summary of initiative (please indicate the start date/duration if relevant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several amendments were brought to the Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 and other relevant legislations to provide for new tools. • Establishment of specialised division of the Intermediate Court and the Supreme Court dealing with Financial Crimes Offences, which include Money Laundering and Corruption • Continuous specialised trainings are being provided to officers to enhance effectiveness of investigations and prosecutions. Trainings were provided to officers of the Legal & Investigation Divisions on the following topics: Financial Investigations and Asset Recovery; Investigating and Prosecuting Ransomware Crimes; Maritime piracy, money laundering and counter-terrorism financing; Advanced Financial Analysis and Planning; Financial Fraud Analytics; Forensic financial Investigation; Financial crime, anti-money laundering, crypto currencies, artificial intelligence, Illicit Financial Flows & Corruption Nexus • ICAC has also embarked on corruption investigations having international ramifications under the Joint Investigation Team Agreement of Eurojust through MLA collaborations under Sections 37, 46 and 48 of UNCAC.
Detailed description of initiative	<p>Amendments brought to relevant legislations were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Courts Act 1945 has been amended so as to provide for the use of Agreed Statement of Facts in cases of, inter alia, corruption and money laundering. The use of Agreed Statement of Facts allows for speedy trial by admitting to uncontested evidence. • Section 188C of the Courts Act 1945 has been amended to provide for the possibility to produce a statement of a witness who has passed away, unfit to be called as a witness, is outside Mauritius and his presence cannot reasonably be secured, cannot be found or through fear, does not want to depose in Court. • Section 161B of the Courts Act 1945 was amended to provide for the possibility of the prosecution to move the court to hear a witness deposition through live video and television link.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has also been noted that at the time a Forfeiture Order is made by the Court, a property subject matter of an Attachment Order is normally subject to depreciation such that the value which the Court is forfeiting is less than the value of the property at the time of Attachment Order. Consequently, the PoCA 2002 has been amended by the introduction of section 58A which allows for parties to agree to realise such properties and the sale value is deposited into a dedicated bank account until disposal of the matter. • Through the Courts (Amendment) Act 2020 to combat financial crimes and corruption more effectively, a Financial Crimes Division within both the Intermediate Court and the Supreme Court to have jurisdiction to hear and determine a financial crime offence. The Divisions ensure that prosecutions of corruption, money laundering and other financial offences, are dealt with expeditiously by specialized Judges and Magistrates. • The PoCA 2002 has been amended to including new Section 8A. This section concerns the ‘bribery by, or of, foreign public official’. The foreign public official may be defined as a person who holds a legislative, an executive, an administrative or a judicial office in a foreign country or performs a public function for a foreign country, or for a foreign public agency, public enterprise or public company. For instance, if a foreign public official solicits, accepts or obtains from a person a gratification, he shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to penal servitude for a term not exceeding 10 years. • Section 17B has been included in the PoCA 2002 and the amendment pertains to ‘non-tax deductibility of bribes’. As per the amendment, no person shall, in his tax return to the Mauritius Revenue Authority, deduct from his turnover or income, in any manner whatsoever, any sum which has been given, directly or indirectly, as a bribe. Any person who contravenes this section of the law shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine of not less than 50,000 rupees but not exceeding one million rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.
Lessons learned in implementing the initiative	Due to the dynamic nature of the crime, the legal framework also needs to be reviewed regularly.
Challenges encountered in implementing the initiative	Enforcement of the legal provisions.
Link to more information	Please refer to the Annual Report below on the website of the ICAC for further information. https://www.icac.mu/publications/