

**Expert Workshop on Good Practices of United Nations-System Support to States in Preventing and Fighting Against Corruption, with a Focus on Human Rights**

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This year marks not only the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but also the 15th anniversary of the [United Nations Convention against Corruption](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/uncac.html) (UNCAC). UNCAC is one of the most widely ratified international treaties, with 185 States parties. This number exemplifies the almost universal reach of the Convention, as well as the importance given worldwide to addressing corruption. UNCAC is not only a crime convention, but also contains comprehensive provisions on preventing corruption.

Under the Convention, States are required

* to ensure transparency, integrity and accountability in all parts of government;
* to guarantee judicial and prosecutorial integrity;
* to provide access to information to its public
* to call for the active engagement of society, including ng the private sector, in addition to civil society and non-governmental organizations
* to ensure the right of victims to compensation;
* to protect witnesses, victims and whistleblowers
* to return assets to the countries from which they were taken.

All of these Convention requirements are consistent with a human rights approach to anti-corruption.

As with human rights conventions, the Convention against Corruption also has an enforcement mechanism – the Implementation Review Mechanism

* Unique for crime conventions
* IRM - mandatory, peer review mechanism
* While involvement of other stakeholders (civil society, private sector) not mandatory, 90-100% of countries have done so
* Through the reports of the Mechanism, the executive summaries of which are public, it is possible to determine how individual States incorporate the provisions of the Convention into their domestic legal systems.
* This Mechanism therefore provides an entry point to cooperation with governments and all relevant stakeholders to strengthen their anti-corruption measures.

**Technical assistance**

The Convention recognizes that many countries will need TA to be able to effectively implement its provisions

* Key part of IRM

UNODC provides a range of technical assistance to States

* UNODC works with countries to carry out corruption risk assessments in government institutions and to develop strategies and actions to mitigate those risks identified
	+ Police, procurement, customs etc (ensuring all people treated equally and provided with public services)
* Judicial integrity
	+ Global Judicial Integrity Network
	+ Tools on ethics and integrity,
	+ Working closely with judiciaries and prosecutors in Tunisia, Myanmar, Kosovo, Nigeria, Indonesia to strengthen integrity, independence and accountability
* Whistleblower protection
	+ Large need for TA identified from reviews
	+ We’ve held regional workshops, helped draft legislation, assessed effectiveness of systems in every region of the world
* Access to information laws
	+ Setting up access to information systems has been very important in the Pacific with countries seeking to strengthen civilian oversight
	+ Required by both UNCAC and ICCPR
* National anti-corruption strategies
	+ We support States to understand what corruption is occurring in a country and prioritizing actions to address it
	+ Including recommendations from reviews
	+ Ex: Georgia, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait
* Development of broad education materials and networks
	+ At the university level – modules on integrity and ethics and anti-corruption
	+ Working with UNESCO at the primary and secondary levels to develop materials based on values and skills such as honesty, acceptance, empathy and teamwork
* Investigations and prosecutions of corruption
	+ Critical element of addressing corruption that has occurred and deterring others
	+ Based on human rights standards
	+ Recently conducted a training for countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia jointly with Singapore — example of encouraging south-south cooperation which we feel is critical to sustainable solutions

**Recommendations:**

* Urge those few remaining States that are not yet a party to UNCAC to ratify or accede to the Convention
* Urge States to effectively implement UNCAC as a means of achieving SDG 16
* Highlight the importance of preventing and combating corruption as a means of protecting human rights
* Emphasize the anti-corruption and human rights approaches are complementary
* Urge human rights bodies who address corruption to consider the framework of UNCAC to prevent and fight corruption and to build on work in this area, including the findings of the Implementation Review Mechanism