



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

People at the Heart of Facing Corruption

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Corruption is a multifaceted and layered problem that affects countries across the world. It goes beyond institutional offices and hallways; its heart is the people. Citizens of Member States are all responsible for acts of and prevention of corruption – individuals who request or provide services, the employees across different cycles, those who do the hiding and those who do the auditing, and more. In turn, corruption poses serious threats to the people as it affects development, stability and security at national, regional and international levels. It undermines the rule of law, hinders economic growth, distorts the allocation of resources and endangers the citizens' rights to live in secure and peaceful societies.

While calculating the cost of corruption may be complex, it is estimated that corruption approximately costs 5% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which clearly shows how it is taking a huge toll on everyone's life, especially the poor and the most vulnerable.

The COVID-19 pandemic amplified the impact of corruption, revealed weaknesses and gaps and highlighted the fact that countries cannot respond to corruption without collaboration.

UNODC supports the Member States in facing corruption by working with people across the relevant institutions and authorities, youth, the private sector, and the general public.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides secretariat services to the Conference of the States Parties (COSP), the main decision-making body established under the Convention, and its subsidiary bodies. Within this frame, UNODC provides tailored technical assistance activities to States in support of the implementation of the Convention and mandates related to economic fraud and identity-related crime. This technical assistance covers several thematic areas and takes different forms, including legislative assistance, assistance in the development of national policies and strategies, capacity building activities, etc.

The UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) works with the Member States across the region to support them in the implementation of UNCAC, the development and adoption of anti-corruption strategies, the development of anti-corruption legislations, the enhancement of institutional capacity to prevent and counter corruption, delivery of training on anti-corruption related matters, as well as cooperation with public and private sectors and civil society on preventing and combating corruption.

Through these interventions, and over the course of the past 10 years, UNODC held more than 165 national and regional events on combatting and preventing corruption and money laundering and promoting integrity with the participation of more than 4,550 people from law enforcement, public prosecution, judiciary, financial intelligence units, academia, other national authorities and the private sector. Our work involved study tours between

different countries to allow for practical insight exchange and the establishment of formal and informal channels which in turn helped to enhance regional cooperation and coordination between MENA countries.

Our capacity building activities are designed to suit country-specific contexts and with a practical approach to ensure long-term impact. UNODC also focuses on addressing the linkages between corruption, financial crimes and other serious organized crimes such as trafficking in person and smuggling of migrants to better support national authorities in addressing them. Furthermore, our joint efforts with the MENA Member States included the deployment of the UNODC goCASE and goAML software as part of its strategic response to corruption, money laundering and organized crime. goCASE is an integrated and investigative case management and analysis tool for government law enforcement, investigative and prosecution agencies of all UN Member States. Similarly, goAML is an integrated database and intelligent analysis system developed for Member States to support them in countering financial crimes including money laundering and terrorist financing. The ability of both applications to receive, input, validate, collate, analyze and manage information in an orderly and systematic fashion can significantly impact the outcome of an investigation and the ability of investigators, financial analysts or prosecutors to build a case that includes all available evidence in a format that is understandable and logical.

A parallel innovative initiative is the recently launched UNODC Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE) initiative, which aims to enhance the role

in recent years, UNODC strengthened its cooperation with the Egyptian National Anti-Corruption Academy through partnering in the implementation of anti-corruption programmes that benefit public and private officials from Egypt and other countries in the region. This partnership contributed to strengthening national and regional cooperation and facilitated the exchange of expertise among practitioners from the region and established formal and informal communication among them



of education and empower youth in preventing and countering corruption. This initiative expands on UNODC's anti-corruption efforts by focusing on three areas: Primary and Secondary Education; Academia and Research; and Youth Empowerment by working with children, young men and women, educators, academics, and other relevant stakeholders. This global initiative is implemented in several countries across the globe and was launched lately in our region, specifically in Egypt and Libya and will be implemented in other countries in the coming period.

The private sector as well plays a pivotal role in addressing corruption and complementing Governments' efforts. For instance, by engaging Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in this fight, private sector companies will help in protecting their investments, securing a transparent and trustworthy business environment and promoting fair practices, which will eventually lead to corruption-free solidities. UNODC has been working with SMEs and anti-corruption authorities to prevent and combat corruption in private sector companies. UNODC's support consists of the delivery of capacity building trainings to private and public officials, development of relevant anti-corruption legislation, anti-corruption risk assessment tools and research in addition to facilitating direct dialogue between the public and private sectors.

Every single person - young and old - has a role to play to prevent and counter corruption and to promote resilience and integrity at all levels of society. On the same day, the 31st of October 2003, the General Assembly adopted the UNCAC and requested that the Secretary-General designate UNODC as secretariat for the Convention's Conference of States Parties (resolution 584/), the Assembly also designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day, to raise awareness of corruption and everyone's role in countering and preventing it. An example of raising awareness efforts has been an anti-corruption media campaign in Egypt that attracted more than 55 million viewers on national TV.

In Egypt, UNODC enjoys a solid partnership with the Government, in particular the Administrative Control Authority (ACA). ACA has been a key partner in UNODC's work on preventing and addressing corruption, not just in Egypt, but in the MENA region as well. This partnership was formed through the implementation of regional and national programmes on different thematic areas including countering corruption; enhancing integrity, strengthening financial investigation capacity; strengthening the private sector capacity to counter corruption and building the capacity of practitioners in Egypt and beyond.

ACA spares no efforts in engaging with UNODC

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in all of its activities; in recent years, UNODC strengthened its cooperation with the Egyptian National Anti-Corruption Academy through partnering in the implementation of anti-corruption programmes that benefit public and private officials from Egypt and other countries in the region. This partnership contributed to strengthening national and regional cooperation and facilitated the exchange of expertise among practitioners from the region and established formal and informal communication among them. UNODC also partnered with ACA with regards to the implementation of GRACE initiative as well as combating corruption in sports and tackling competition manipulation.

In December 2021, Egypt presided over the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the UNCAC in Sharm El-Sheikh, during which Member States have adopted a political declaration to intensify the efforts to combat corruption and implement the UNCAC. The CoSP was concluded with the adoption of a set of recommendations and the "Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration" on "Strengthening International Cooperation in the Prevention of and Fight Against Corruption During Times of Emergencies and Crisis Response and Recovery" that calls for States Parties to

strengthen cooperation to prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute corruption during the time of crisis.

Egypt also hosted in November 2022 the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which brings me to highlight the great importance of addressing corruption linked to crimes that affect the environment. Furthermore, if corruption persists within the action to address climate change, it will only slow the process.

Let's all work to make 2023 a year of action on all fronts. We should all use and accelerate the momentum gained from the adoption of the COSP recommendations and work towards making a better future for the coming generations.

