

CELEBRATING **10 YEARS** OF THE  
**UNCAC IMPLEMENTATION  
REVIEW MECHANISM**



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# FOREWORD

Twenty-five years ago, there were no international agreements on corruption. Corruption was not regularly discussed in international settings, and bribes were tax deductible in some countries.

The environment has changed drastically since then. There is now unchallenged unity in acknowledging that corruption is unwanted. There are 186 States parties to the UN Convention against Corruption, the only truly global anti-corruption instrument and the most comprehensive international agreement, with its innovative chapters targeting corruption from the angles of prevention, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance.

Governments are more attuned to their commitments and ready to learn and share experiences. The Implementation Review Mechanism

provides a technical, objective and non-adversarial entry point for discussions with and between governments on programming for anti-corruption reforms and can ultimately form the basis for strong comprehensive frameworks to prevent and combat corruption.

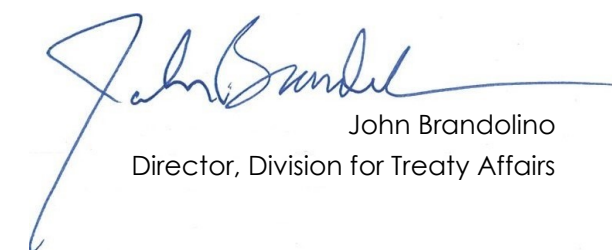
The need to address corruption as an impediment to development is now cemented in the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16, and fifteen years after the adoption of the UNCAC, Member States have unanimously adopted a resolution calling for a Special Session of the General Assembly dedicated to corruption in 2021.

As the awareness for corruption as a root cause of many of a multitude of problems has deepened in recent years, the political will to combat corruption has grown across the globe and countries are working individually and collectively to effectively address it.

Civil society is organized and active in this area. Frameworks and ideas for addressing corruption are continually developing. With all this, we have safely moved beyond the beginning stage of successfully addressing corruption globally, but so much more needs to be done.

We are at a next stage, where we need to find more ways to allow governments to effectively find help and help each other. We need more transparency and implementation of measures that will help make the fight against corruption irreversible. We need to find ways to feed the hunger of all stakeholders – whether governments, civil society, individual citizens or private sector.

If we want to reach SDG 16 by 2030, we must continue to make full use of the Mechanism, and I look forward to seeing what impact the next ten years will bring.

  
John Brandolino  
Director, Division for Treaty Affairs

IN MEMORIAM  
DIMITRI VLASSIS  
1959—2019

*Will we ever win the battle against corruption? „We are paving the way for future generations.“*

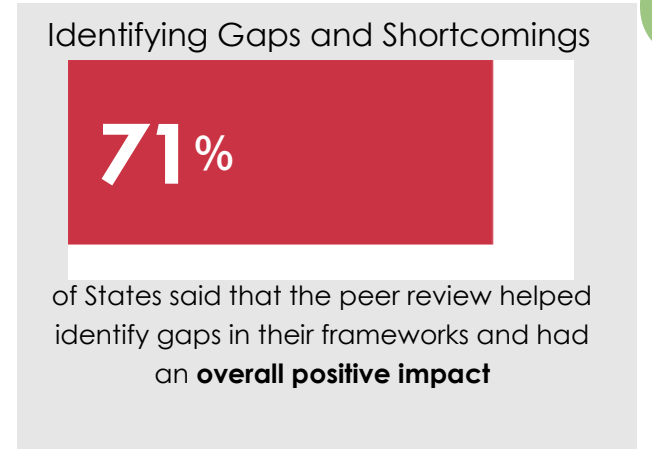
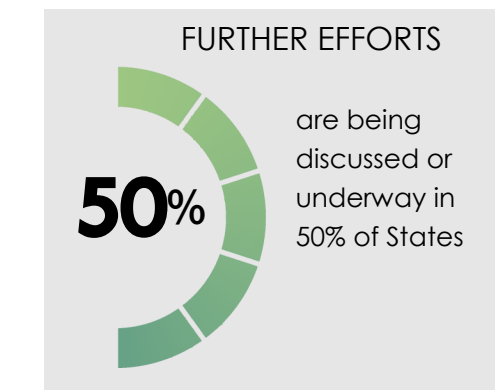
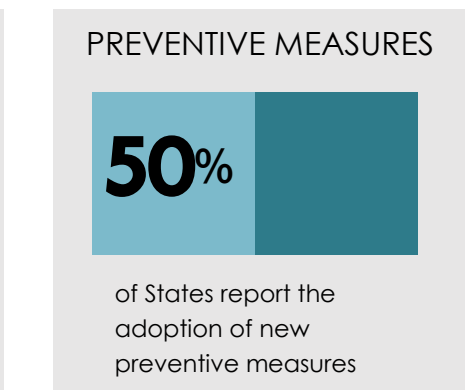
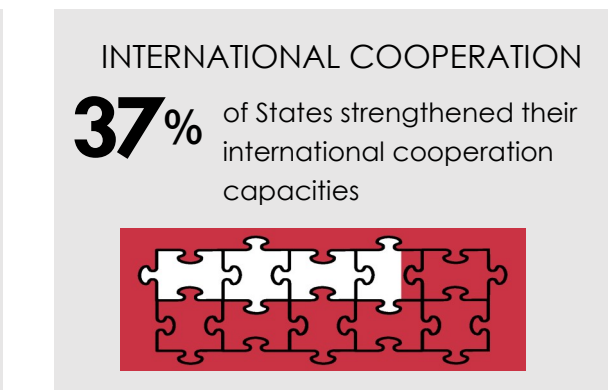
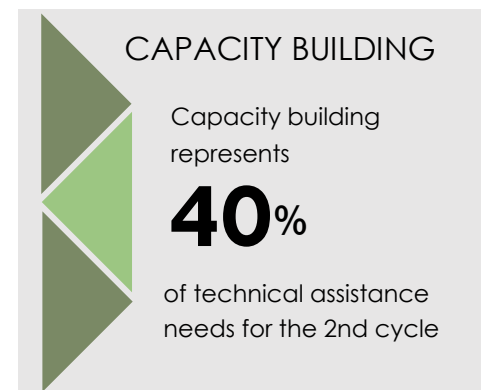
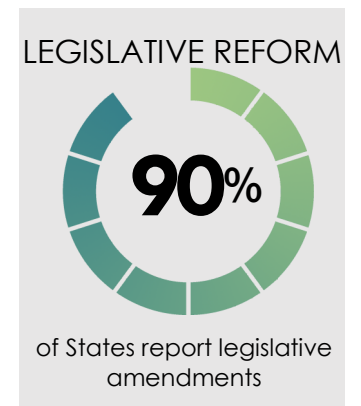
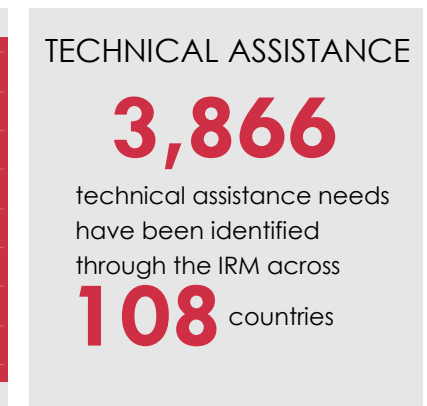
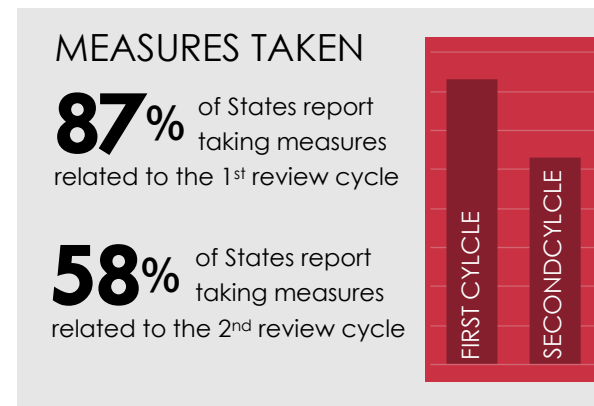
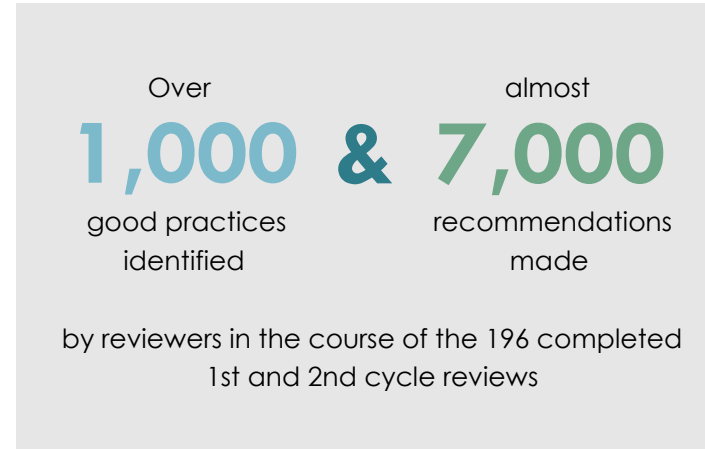
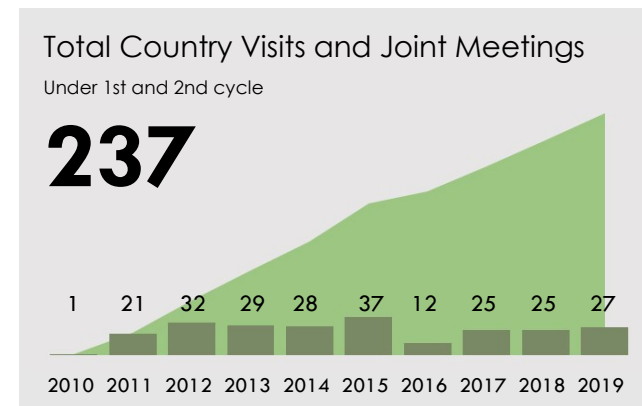
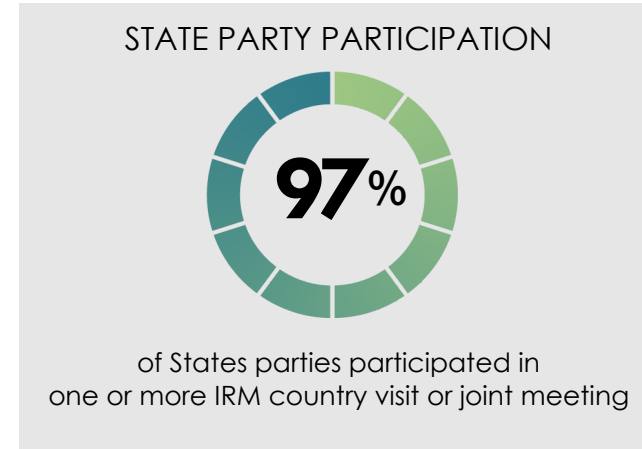
# INTRODUCTION

Sixteen years after the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003 and nearly ten years after the launch of its Implementation Review Mechanism in 2010, it is time to take stock of the impact of the Review Mechanism in the global fight against corruption.

With 196 finalized executive summaries and 237 country visits or joint meetings under both review cycles combined, the picture the Implementation Review Mechanism paints is global. The country reviews have produced a worldwide, comprehensive and detailed analysis of what challenges countries and regions face and what solutions they found to address them. In the course of the reviews, almost 7,000 challenges, over 1,000 good practices, and over 3,500 technical assistance needs have been identified across all regions. Through the review process, strong working relationships have been established with and between the responsible authorities in the States parties, such as the relevant ministries, anti-corruption authorities, audit institutions or financial intelligence units.

Through follow-up reporting after a review or during the meetings of the Implementation Review Group, 147 States parties have shared information on good practices, experiences and measures taken after the completion of their first cycle reviews or in preparation for the second cycle, with measures ranging from the creation of new and independent anti-corruption authorities, the active engagement of the private sector in the fight against corruption, the opening of a dialogue with civil society, the introduction of new criminal offences or the signing of new mutual legal assistance treaties to the sharing of technical support with neighbouring countries.

The solutions countries are finding and implementing are creative, diverse, and effective. This publication serves to highlight approaches countries across the globe are taking to combat corruption, both individually and together, to showcase the impact of the Review Mechanism since its launch ten years ago.



*The Mechanism guarantees the principles that it endorses in terms of respecting the diversity of the States Parties, it is neither intrusive nor invasive [...], it is conducted at a high technical and inter-governmental level, meaning in practice a real and effective assistance without discrimination. This exercise has strengthened, by its very nature, objectives and methods of implementation, greater inter-institutional coordination and the development of multidisciplinary teams that interact with the different actors in society. It has also been characterized by the responsibility, professionalism and quality of the work contributed by reviewers and reviewed from the process of self-assessment and the exchange of good practices and identification of legislative deficiencies, risks and problems to be solved and in this sense it is the promoter par excellence of preventive work. We consider it an example, which must be disseminated for its work and experiences.*

María del Carmen Romero Pérez  
Head of the Legal Department, Office of the Comptroller-General, Cuba

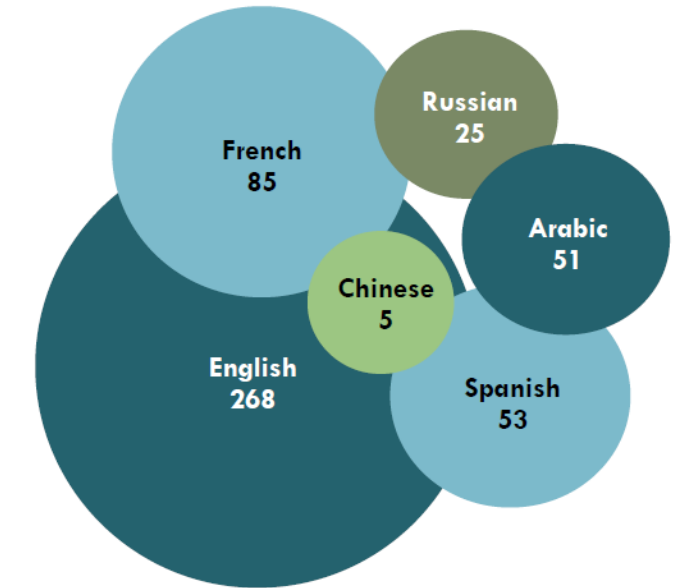
# DIRECT DIALOGUE

To date, 237 country visits and joint meetings involving 180 State Parties have taken place. In keeping with the requirements of the IRM for each visit, the State party under review has been reviewed by a State from the same region as itself, and by another State. This feature has enabled a global exchange of ideas, providing knowledge sharing opportunities for diverse State parties from around the world.

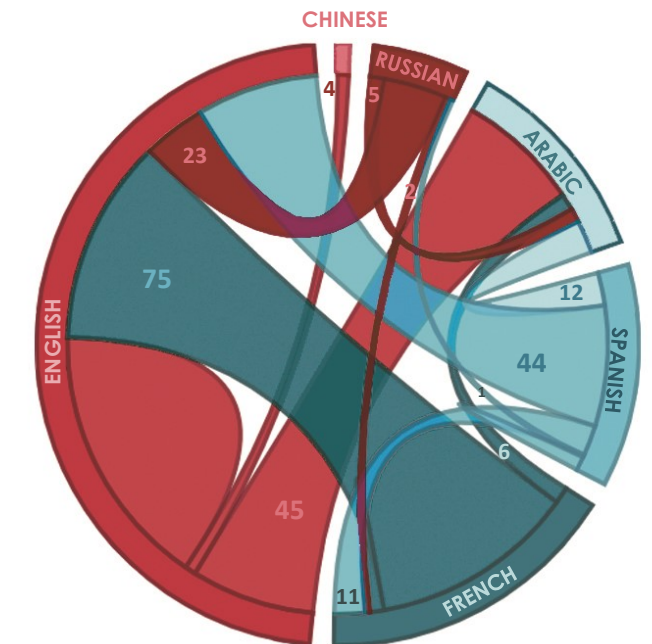
Country visits have taken place between neighbors, such as Poland and Belarus, or Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, and between States who may rarely have an opportunity to work together, such as Kiribati and Yemen, or Zimbabwe and Finland. The Mechanism was created by States parties as an opportunity to share good practices and challenges, and it provides a learning opportunity not only for the State party under review, but also for the reviewers. As a most recent example, during the country visit to Ghana in October 2019, the experts from South Sudan shared their experience with confiscation, providing important food for thought on how to proceed with the development of a confiscation and asset management regime in Ghana. After the country visit to Palau, reviewer Malaysia shared a law with Palau that would help them address one of the recommendations. In addition, Malaysia returned to Palau to provide in-country assistance in preparing for the second review cycle.

Reviews have been conducted in all six of the official United Nations languages, making the results both transparent and accessible. Including executive summaries, country reports and self-assessment checklists, 309 documents resulting from the country reviews are publicly available on the UNODC website. 89% of States under the first cycle and 96% of States under the second cycle chose to include other stakeholders in the country visits, such as civil society, the private sector or academia.

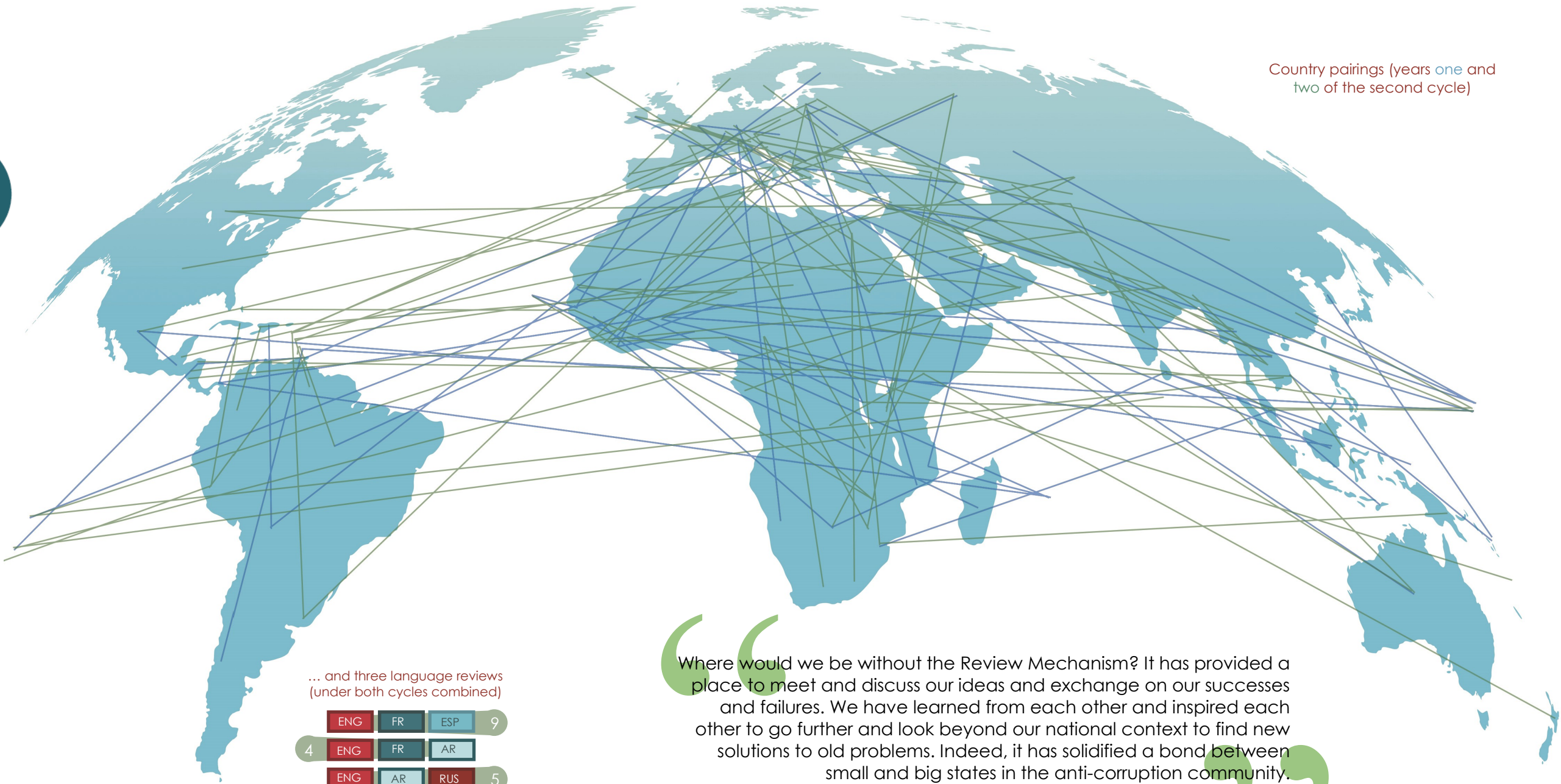
Languages used in country reviews...



... two-language reviews....



... and three language reviews (under both cycles combined)



Country pairings (years one and two of the second cycle)

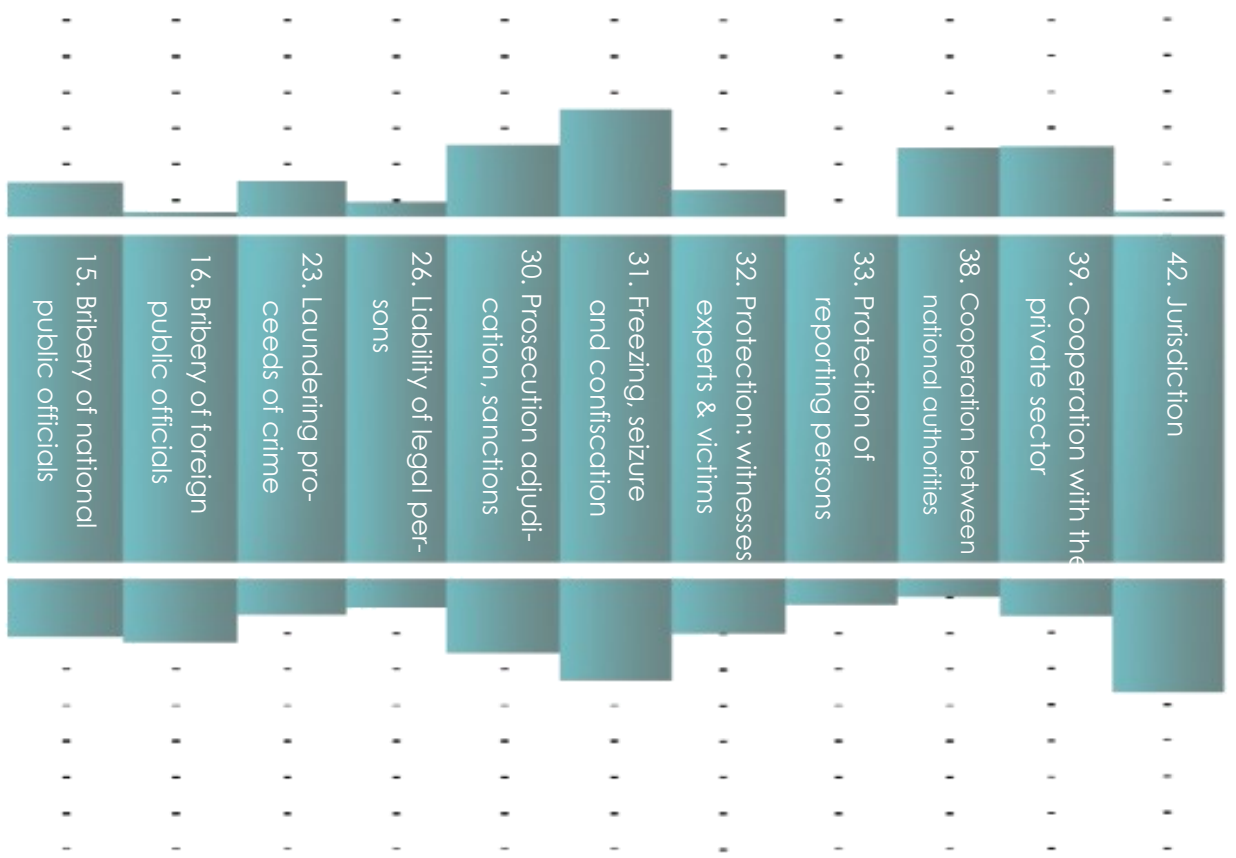
“Where would we be without the Review Mechanism? It has provided a place to meet and discuss our ideas and exchange on our successes and failures. We have learned from each other and inspired each other to go further and look beyond our national context to find new solutions to old problems. Indeed, it has solidified a bond between small and big states in the anti-corruption community.”

Charles Ayamdoo, Director, Anti-Corruption, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Ghana

# SUMMARY OF GOOD PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

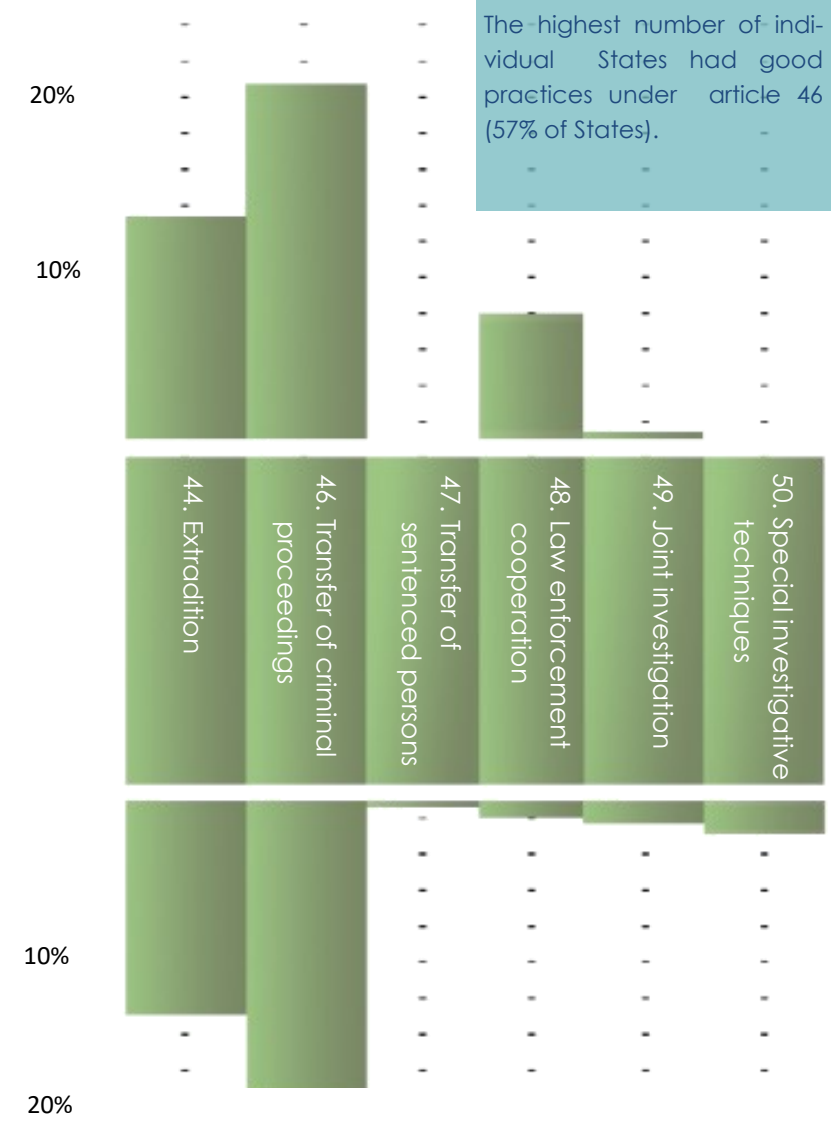
Distribution of good practices in percent

This chart displays the percentual distribution of recommendations and good practices per review cycle. In total, reviewers have identified nearly 6,000 recommendations and 1,000 good practices for the first cycle, and roughly 800 recommendations and 150 good practices under the second cycle. Under some articles, the majority of States received recommendations, such as 61% of States for article 15, 70% for article 16, 92% for article 44, and even 95% of States for article 46.



Distribution of recommendations in percent

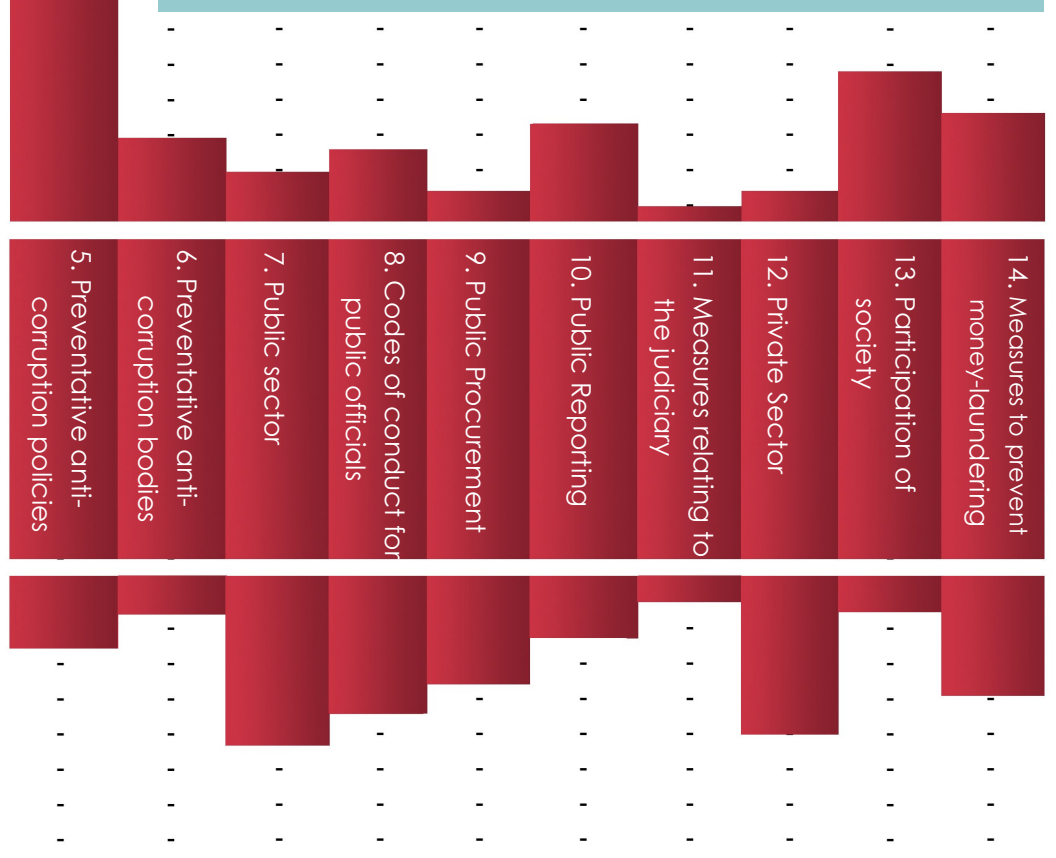
## FIRST CYCLE



The highest number of individual States had good practices under article 46 (57% of States).

Distribution of good practices in percent

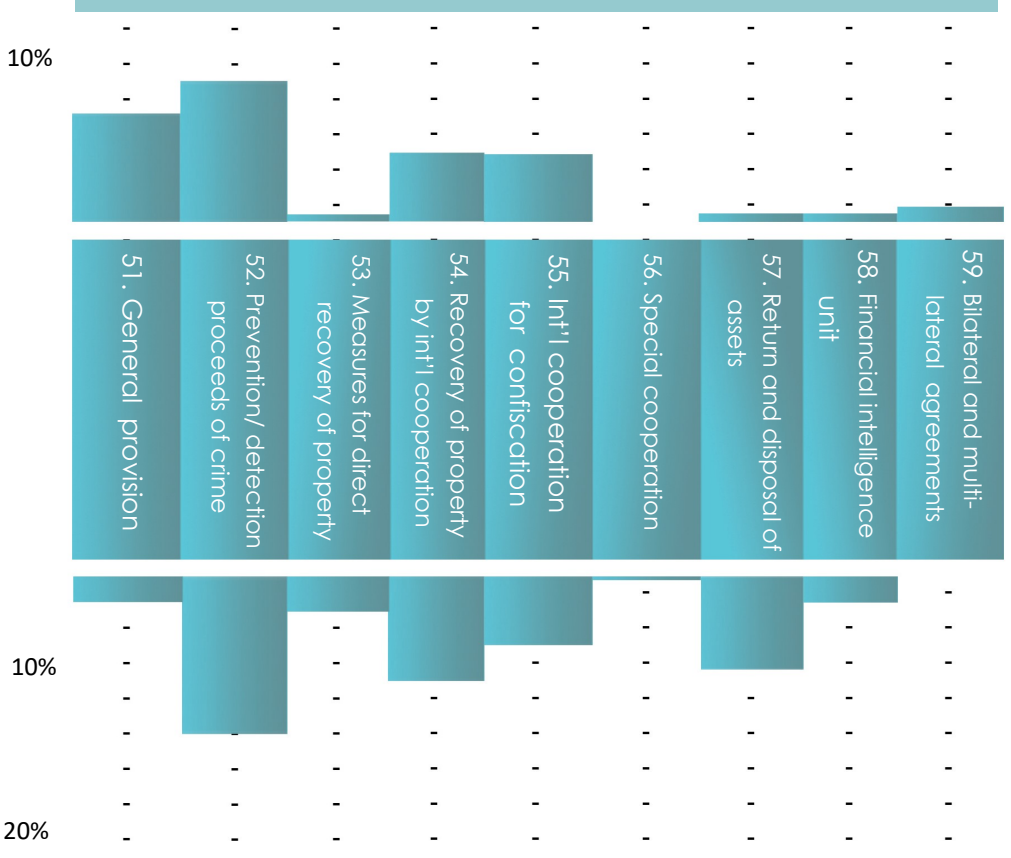
Under the second cycle, many good practices are being identified with regard to preventive measures. Over 60% of States have been commended on their efforts regarding anti-corruption strategies, nearly half of all States for procurement or management of public finances, and 25-35% of States on codes of conduct, or anti-corruption bodies.



Distribution of recommendations in percent

## SECOND CYCLE

At the same time, over 50% of States have received recommendations for each of the articles under chapter II, with over 85% of States having gaps identified under articles 5, 7, 8, 9 and 12. Under chapter V, 96% of States received recommendations under article 52, and 70% under articles 55 and 57, respectively.



# PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Corruption can be prosecuted after the fact, but first and foremost, efforts must be undertaken to effectively prevent it, as public trust, the effectiveness of institutions, economic development and the security of the State are at stake. The entire second chapter of the Convention is dedicated to prevention, with measures directed at both the public and the private sectors. Preventing corruption also requires an effort from all members of society and the Convention calls on countries to actively promote the involvement of civil society, and to raise public awareness of corruption and what can be done about it. The Convention encourages a broad range of preventive measures, ranging from anti-corruption strategies and bodies to enhanced transparency in the financing of election campaigns and political parties. Those who use public services expect a high standard of conduct from their public servants. States must endeavour to ensure that their public services are subject to safeguards that promote efficiency, transparency and recruitment based on merit. Once recruited, public servants should be subject to codes of conduct, requirements for disclosure of conflicts of interests, and appropriate disciplinary measures. Transparency and accountability in matters of public finance must also be promoted, and specific requirements are established for the prevention of corruption in the particularly critical areas of the public sector, such as the judiciary and public procurement. Through the country reviews and working groups, States parties have shared a wide array of measures taken to prevent corruption, a full overview of which is available on the website of the Working Group on Prevention.

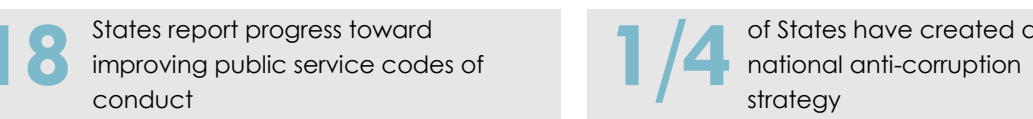
## PREVENTIVE ANTI-CORRUPTION BODIES

Preventive anti-corruption bodies with sufficient operational and institutional independence, capacity and resources to carry out their functions are essential corruption prevention tools. Under the second review cycle, 22 of 27 States received recommendations that specifically related to the creation or strengthening of these anti-corruption bodies.



## MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A vital tool in the prevention of corruption is the prevention, detection and management of conflicts of interests. States parties have found different means to address these, including targeted trainings, codes of conduct or financial disclosure requirements. Kuwait, Liberia and Malaysia report on the development of new codes of conduct to promote integrity and safeguard the interest of the State. In Armenia, the registries of interests and assets are available on a public ethics website. Through a new law from 2018, the scope of officials obliged to declare assets was expanded and failure to declare carries administrative and criminal liability. In Italy, the code of conduct for house representatives was enhanced to include additional asset declaration requirements and to allow an advisory committee to monitor violations of the code. Several new Codes of Conduct were introduced in Egypt, including for employees of the state, public prosecutors, diplomats, and employees of the Central Bank of Egypt. A compulsory course was added to all Egyptian universities that focuses on human rights and anti-corruption.



## PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT THE VOICE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

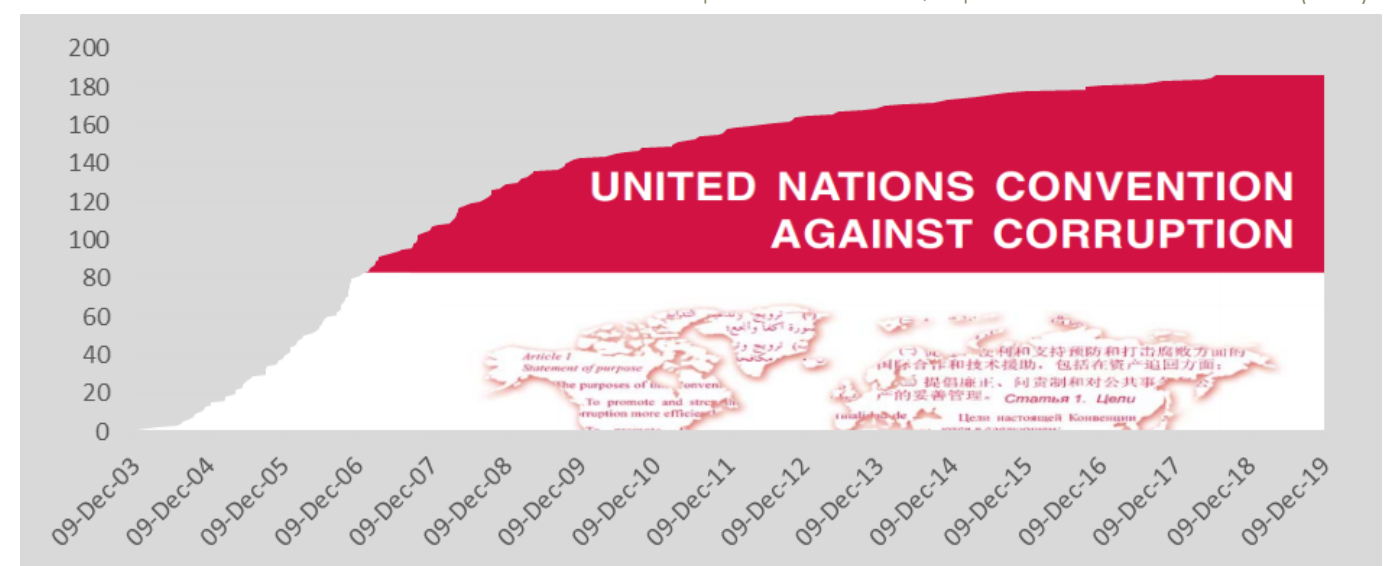
Neither governments nor companies can fight corruption alone and the private and public sectors must work together in this effort. The Convention considers the private sector's engagement as essential to the fight against corruption and encourages States to promote corporate compliance, to provide incentives for the private sector to cooperate with law enforcement in corruption cases, and to strengthen auditing and accounting standards in companies to increase transparency and accountability. Panama has established online portals and websites for the private sector, especially for new businesses. The United Kingdom relies on broad participation of CSOs and the private sector in the planning, development and implementation of national anti-corruption policies and practices. In Kenya, licenses for performing public duties are tied to the duty to proactively disclose information on corruption cases to authorities.

More and more States are including civil society not only in their review process, but more broadly consult the public in many aspects of fighting corruption. To support the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the UNCAC Coalition, a global network of over 350 civil society organizations from over 100 countries, mobilizes civil society action for UNCAC at international, regional and national levels. The Coalition's Transparency Pledge, signed to date by 18 States parties, is a voluntary commitment to make the review process more inclusive through enhancing transparency and civil society participation in the reviews. "For the IRM to have a greater impact in ensuring that UNCAC provisions are successfully implemented, we believe it is crucial for States Parties to involve civil society organizations in all stages of the review process. In numerous countries, civil society representatives have been invited to meet with country reviewers and have contributed to the review process. In more than 30 countries,

non-governmental organizations have produced their own civil society review reports, evaluating the transparency and inclusiveness of the country review process and country compliance with UNCAC standards," says Mathias Huter, Vienna Hub Coordinator of the UNCAC Coalition. "To further improve the IRM, States parties should also discuss the creation of a mandatory follow-up mechanism on previous reviews and the adoption of a continued review process. The release of the self-assessment checklist and the full country report as well as updated public information on the review schedule, country visits and the focal point are crucial to facilitate the involvement of civil society organizations in the review process. The end of the review process should be a starting point for reforms, with governments and civil society discussing how to follow up on recommendations stemming from the IRM." More information, and multi-lingual guidance material for civil society organizations, is available at [uncaccoalition.org](http://uncaccoalition.org).

UNCAC ratification from 2003 to 2019.

Opened for signature in December 2003 in Mérida, Mexico, with 186 States parties the 'Mérida' Convention has reached almost universal adherence. The newest States parties are Samoa, Equatorial Guinea and Chad (2018).



The regulatory and institutional reforms, complemented by the rise of civil society, measures aimed at awareness-raising and welfare amelioration appear to have changed 'the rules of the game' beyond the point of no return, landing us at the new reality of greater accountability and transparency.

Elnur Musayev, Senior Prosecutor, Anti-Corruption Directorate, Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan

## PROCUREMENT & MANAGING PUBLIC FINANCES

With large amounts of money involved and close cooperation between public officials and private companies, public procurement is one of the areas most vulnerable to corruption in any country. As public procurement is a necessity, sectors such as extractive industries, telecommunication or infrastructure are often particularly at risk. Examples of new measures identified through the reviews include:

In Namibia, a new law on Public procurement established a Procurement Policy Unit, a

Central Procurement Board, a Bid Evaluation Committee and an Independent Review panel. Procurement policies were also adopted in Afghanistan, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Timor Leste is gradually applying the technology to develop a national system on e-budgeting, e-procurement, and e-Planning. Portugal also relies on an e-procurement platform: Since the creation of the Portal BASE, public procurement is exclusively done on an electronic platform to increase transparency.

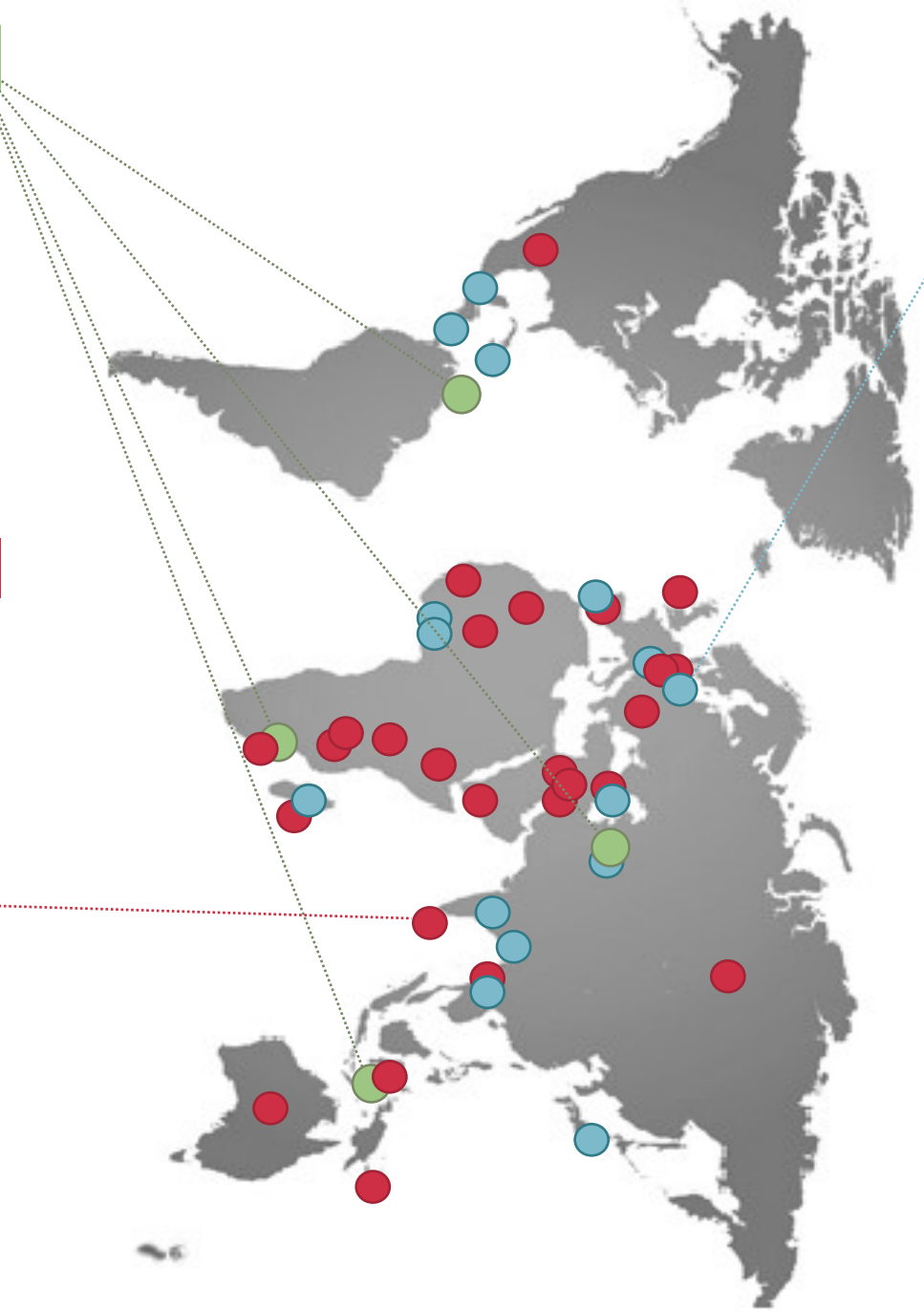
## COORDINATED ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGIES

According to article 5 of the Convention, each State party shall have effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability. When based on a needs assessment and tailored to a State's specific requirements, with ambitious but achievable goals, effective and targeted implementation and accompanying monitoring processes, anti-corruption policies, strategies or action plans can be an effective tool in the fight against corruption. Not only do they manifest underlying political commitment, but they can create partnerships between a State and its civil society, be it through the participation of

stakeholders in the drafting or monitoring, or through awareness-raising and implementation measures.

States across the globe, from Ethiopia and Mauritania to Austria and Jordan to Indonesia and Solomon Islands have reported back on new or improved anti-corruption strategies (see red dots on the map).

Oman, for example, developed a draft national strategy for the promotion of integrity and fight against corruption 2016 – 2020 in advance of the second review cycle, containing an action plan that sets out measurable achievements, expected results and reporting deadlines. The strategy also includes performance indicators for the evaluation of progress.



## RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Across the regions, recognition is growing that corruption must be tackled through a variety of means and with the participation of society as a whole. Many States parties have organized workshops, campaigns, and online and in-person educational materials to raise public awareness of corruption and how to fight it. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana promote the active participation of a plethora of groups outside the public sector. In both countries, these groups are now - as a rule - included in activities ranging from drafting new laws to supporting the reporting of corruption cases. In Ghana alone, over 3000 public awareness activities are carried out annually by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the country's main anti-corruption institution. In Côte

d'Ivoire, awareness-raising has included cartoons as well as a televised animated series showing real life situations of corruption and their occurrence in the daily lives of the family members in school or at work.

In Hungary, a public awareness campaign took place from 2012 to 2015 in national and local media, complemented by in-person contact with target groups at different events and festivals. The results of a survey measuring the awareness and attitudes of the public towards corruption showed that lack of information was a primary driver of distrust. In total, almost 2000 police and public administration professionals helped to share information on corruption at different campaign events. In Slovakia, two series of seminars were held to increase legal

awareness in the area of corruption and fraud prevention. The seminars were organized for various groups including youth, legal professionals and local governments. Information regarding the harmfulness of corruption was added to the school curriculum in 2014. In addition, comprehensive information was provided to the public through a dedicated web page.

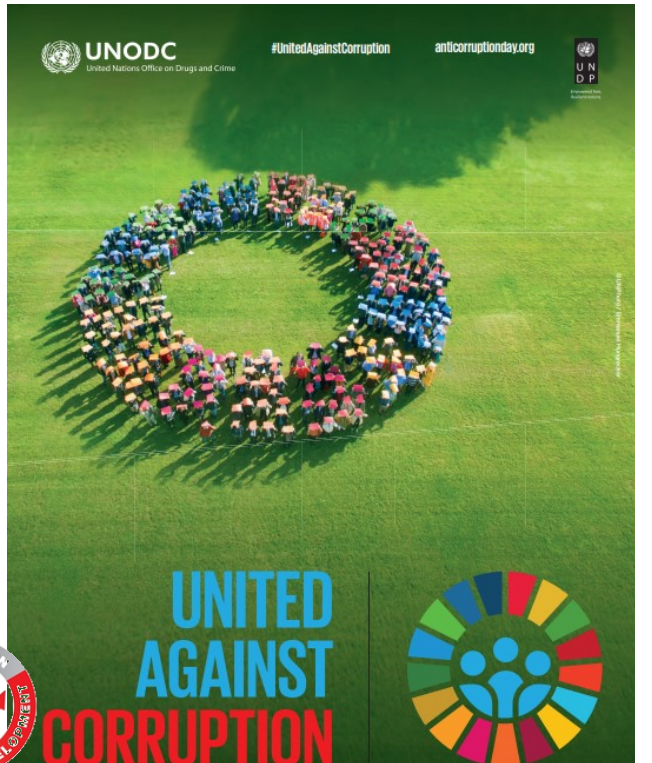
In the context of the "Images against Corruption" project, Portugal has been encouraging primary and secondary school students, their families and teachers to reflect on the topic of ethics and the prevention of corruption since 2012. Guided by manuals and teaching materials, art pieces such as plastic or video artworks on the topics are created.

## INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

Since its inception in 2003, the effects of the International Anti-Corruption Day have been felt all around the world every year on 9 December. The joint UNDP-UNODC *United Against Corruption* campaign focuses on how corruption affects education, health, justice, democracy, prosperity and development, making it one of the biggest impediments to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2018, International Anti-Corruption Day was celebrated around the Pacific. In Pohnpei, of the Federated States of Micronesia, a talent show was organized that allowed art to be used to speak out against corruption and raise awareness. This included songs, music jams, dances, drama, poems and presentations. The Pacific Youth

Against Corruption Network and Scripture Union Fiji organized a week-long anti-corruption programme. It centred around an 'artivism' competition, themed "Live Out Loud", which was part of an annual, national secondary school camp. In the Solomon Islands, the Government used the day to join with civil society, youth and the UN to enact its Anti-Corruption Bill and Whistleblower Bill.

The International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award seeks to raise awareness, support, and solidarity to combat corruption and encourage new initiatives in pursuit of corruption-free societies. The 2019 ACE Award summit will be co-hosted by Rwanda and Qatar in Kigali on 9 December.

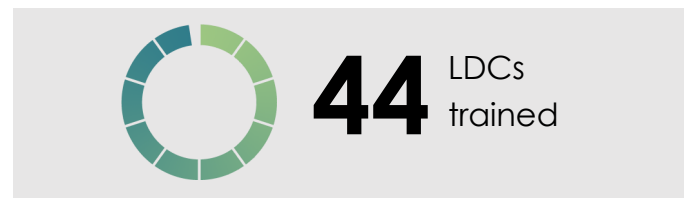


## ANTI-CORRUPTION TRAINING

Over the last 10 years, 177 countries have been trained on the Convention and the review mechanism. The objectives of these trainings are to inform States on the methodology for country reviews, to build their capacity to work with the private sector, to enable them to reproduce the training at the local, national and regional level, and to initiate dialogue with government focal points. Trainings provide opportunities for States to contribute by sharing their professional experiences freely. States are frequently asked to

present their national initiatives by running sessions and showcasing the systems that have been established to support the fight against corruption in their country. On a number of occasions, such presentations have led to requests for cooperation and assistance, such as through study tours.

In addition, through twelve multi-stakeholder trainings since 2012, representatives of nearly 400 civil society organizations have been trained on the Convention and on the Review Mechanism.

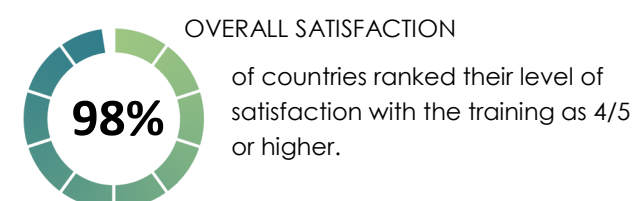
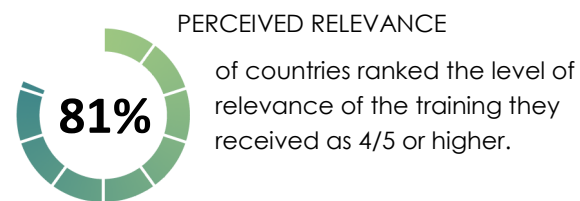
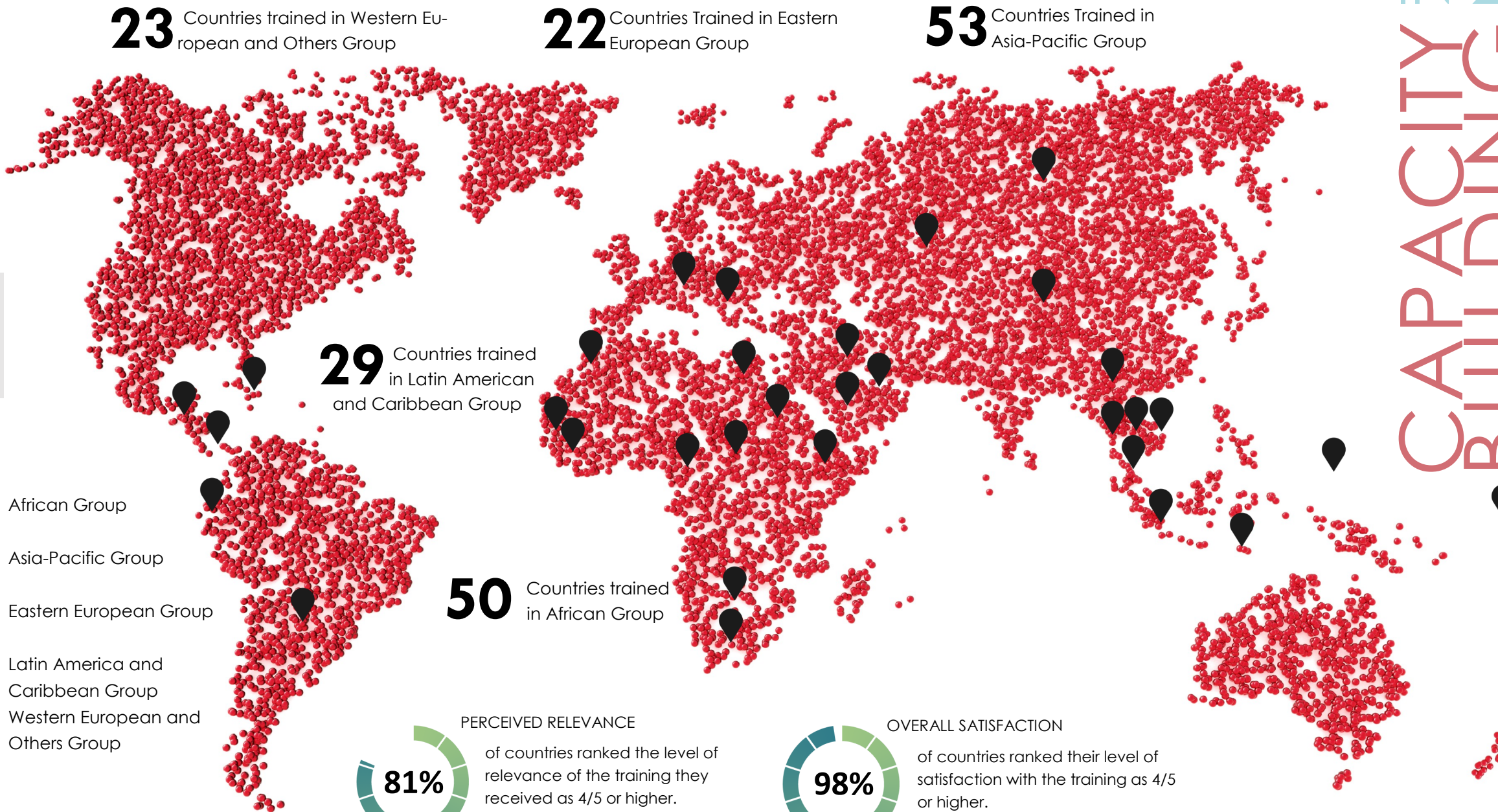


Training sessions held in **32** different countries

- Austria
- Botswana
- Cambodia
- Central African Republic
- China
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Indonesia
- Kazakhstan
- Kuwait
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Palau
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Qatar
- Russian Federation
- Samoa
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Serbia
- Sudan
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Viet Nam



- African Group
- Asia-Pacific Group
- Eastern European Group
- Latin America and Caribbean Group
- Western European and Others Group



## IN 2018 ALONE

- 1 600** stakeholders trained in preventing, detecting and investigating/prosecuting/adjudicating corruption cases
- 600** stakeholders trained on the Review Mechanism
- 50** laws and policies on which UNODC gave support
- 30** institutions strengthened through UNODC support
- 1 40** States received assistance from UNODC in areas such as: legislative drafting, financial crime prosecution, setting up anti-corruption agencies, asset declaration systems or developing ethics trainings for police officers

TRAINING LANGUAGES

Training was offered in all **six UN official languages:** Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish

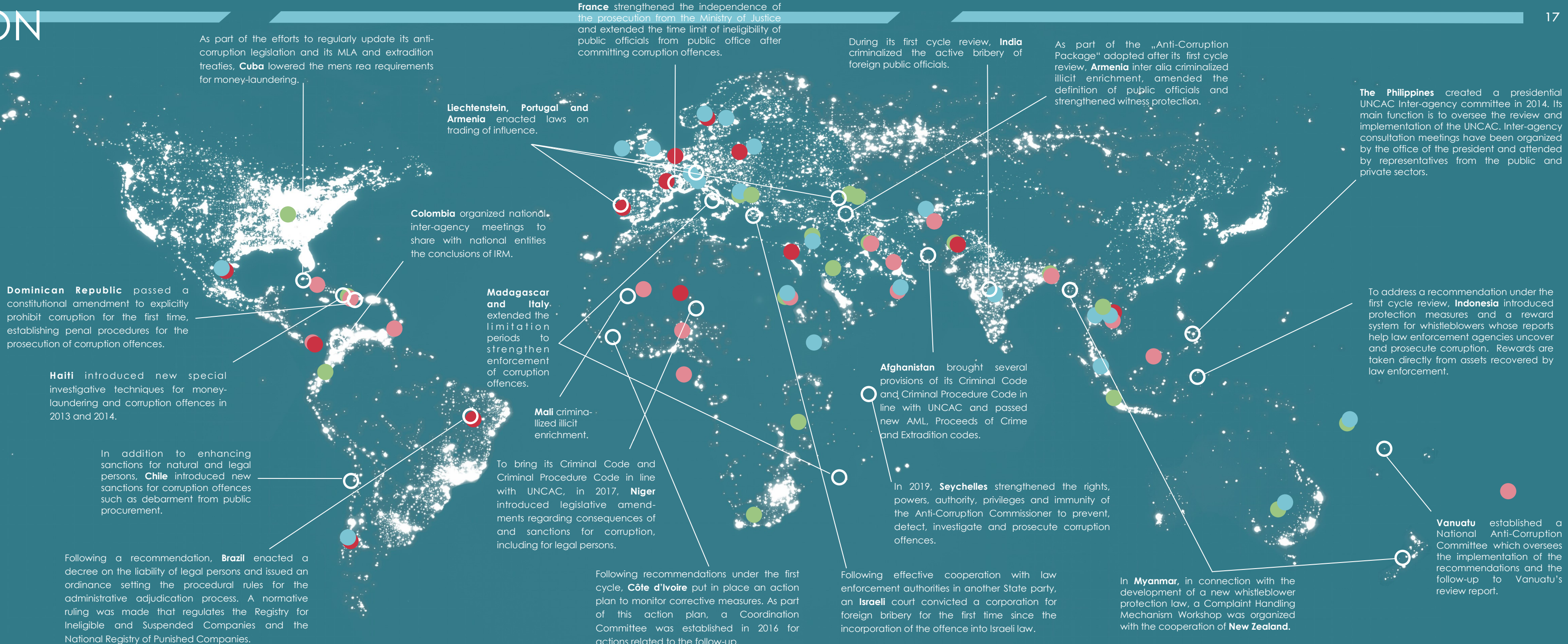


# CRIMINALIZATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Convention requires countries to establish criminal and other offences to cover a wide range of acts of corruption in the public and private sectors and to take measures to effectively enforce these offences. Besides the classic bribery offences, related offences such as obstruction of justice or money-laundering must be criminalized. Since the establishment of the Review Mechanism, countries have shared measures taken to strengthen criminalization and enforcement, ranging from the initial establishment of a criminal offence to the use of modern technology to improve the efficiency of law enforcement.

States parties that report recent legislative amendments on

- BRIBERY
- WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION
- MONEY-LAUNDERING
- LIABILITY OF LEGAL PERSONS



As part of the efforts to regularly update its anti-corruption legislation and its MLA and extradition treaties, **Cuba** lowered the mens rea requirements for money-laundering.

**Liechtenstein, Portugal and Armenia** enacted laws on trading of influence.

**Colombia** organized national inter-agency meetings to share with national entities the conclusions of IRM.

**Dominican Republic** passed a constitutional amendment to explicitly prohibit corruption for the first time, establishing penal procedures for the prosecution of corruption offences.

**Haiti** introduced new special investigative techniques for money-laundering and corruption offences in 2013 and 2014.

In addition to enhancing sanctions for natural and legal persons, **Chile** introduced new sanctions for corruption offences such as debarment from public procurement.

Following a recommendation, **Brazil** enacted a decree on the liability of legal persons and issued an ordinance setting the procedural rules for the administrative adjudication process. A normative ruling was made that regulates the Registry for Ineligible and Suspended Companies and the National Registry of Punished Companies.

**Madagascar and Italy** extended the limitation periods to strengthen enforcement of corruption offences.

**Mali** criminalized illicit enrichment.

To bring its Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code in line with UNCAC, in 2017, **Niger** introduced legislative amendments regarding consequences of and sanctions for corruption, including for legal persons.

Following recommendations under the first cycle, **Côte d'Ivoire** put in place an action plan to monitor corrective measures. As part of this action plan, a Coordination Committee was established in 2016 for actions related to the follow-up.

**France** strengthened the independence of the prosecution from the Ministry of Justice and extended the time limit of ineligibility of public officials from public office after committing corruption offences.

During its first cycle review, **India** criminalized the active bribery of foreign public officials.

**Afghanistan** brought several provisions of its Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code in line with UNCAC and passed new AML, Proceeds of Crime and Extradition codes.

In 2019, **Seychelles** strengthened the rights, powers, authority, privileges and immunity of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption offences.

Following effective cooperation with law enforcement authorities in another State party, an **Israeli** court convicted a corporation for foreign bribery for the first time since the incorporation of the offence into Israeli law.

As part of the „Anti-Corruption Package“ adopted after its first cycle review, **Armenia** inter alia criminalized illicit enrichment, amended the definition of public officials and strengthened witness protection.

**The Philippines** created a presidential UNCAC Inter-agency committee in 2014. Its main function is to oversee the review and implementation of the UNCAC. Inter-agency consultation meetings have been organized by the office of the president and attended by representatives from the public and private sectors.

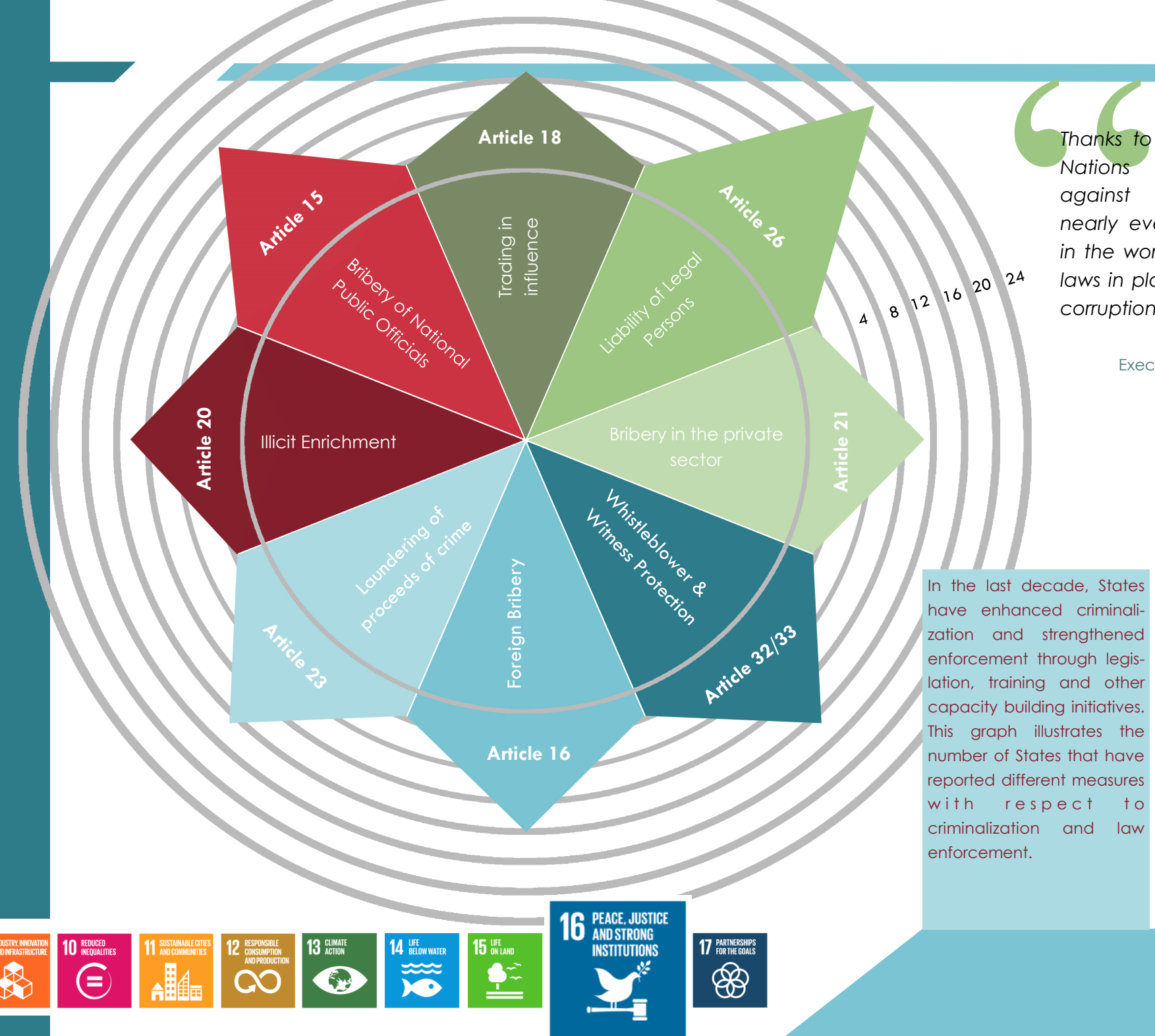
To address a recommendation under the first cycle review, **Indonesia** introduced protection measures and a reward system for whistleblowers whose reports help law enforcement agencies uncover and prosecute corruption. Rewards are taken directly from assets recovered by law enforcement.

**Vanuatu** established a National Anti-Corruption Committee which oversees the implementation of the recommendations and the follow-up to Vanuatu's review report.

In **Myanmar**, in connection with the development of a new whistleblower protection law, a Complaint Handling Mechanism Workshop was organized with the cooperation of **New Zealand**.

# ANTI-CORRUPTION AND THE SDGs

Within SDG 16, Target 16.5 calls on States to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. The inclusion of corruption in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development marks a milestone in the fight against corruption as it symbolizes commitment by States not just to criminalize, prevent or investigate this offence, but also to recognize the cross-cutting nature of corruption across all SDGs and to measure its magnitude by producing data on the achievement of SDG 16.5. Over the course of ten years, the Review Mechanism has contributed to the depoliticization of the issue of corruption by reviewing all States parties using the same methodology and holding them to the same standards set by the Convention, while not producing any ranking of a qualitative or quantitative nature. In 2015, at its forty-sixth session, the United Nations Statistical Commission created an Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, composed of Member States and including regional and international agencies as observers. Six main areas were identified through which the implementation of the SDGs would be reviewed. Among them, the development of the area of Justice would be addressed by achieving the practical targets of SDG 16: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". Measurement and monitoring of this pillar is paramount for the achievement of the rest of the Agenda, for it recognizes that "there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development".



“Thanks to the United Nations Convention against Corruption nearly every country in the world now has laws in place making corruption a crime.”

Yury Fedotov  
Executive Director  
UNODC

In the last decade, States have enhanced criminalization and strengthened enforcement through legislation, training and other capacity building initiatives. This graph illustrates the number of States that have reported different measures with respect to criminalization and law enforcement.

## SPOTLIGHT ON: PROTECTION OF REPORTING PERSONS

Under the first cycle, approximately 70% of States parties received recommendations to adopt or strengthen measures to protect whistleblowers and half of these States also raised technical assistance needs. The gaps and challenges that the review mechanism highlighted led to UNODC publishing the "Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons" in 2015. The Guide aims to highlight key principles and learning points on how to develop effective legal and institutional mechanisms for assisting and protecting reporting persons and provides illustrative examples. It also deepens the understanding of the differences between whistleblowers (article 33) and witnesses (article 32), which was not always clear, as identified during reviews.

Responding to technical assistance requests and the identification of enhanced whistleblower protection has become a priority measure in different regions. UNODC has conducted multiple regional workshops reaching participants from 65 States. Subsequently UNODC provided assistance to 15 States parties in various forms, ranging from awareness-raising workshops to comments on draft legislation or support for establishing whistleblowing procedures. Whistleblowing protection has been identified as a priority area of work in all the regional platforms created to fast-track UNCAC implementation (see page 32).

The catalytic role of UNCAC and UNODC's work contributes to the continuously rising interest in the topic and the increased global recognition of the need for effective whistleblower protection. Other international fora started to refer to UNCAC and the findings of the review mechanism, including ECOSOC, which encourages governments at all levels to adopt and enforce comprehensive legislation on whistle-blower protection, building on the findings of the Implementation Review Mechanism (resolution E/RES/2018/12 of 20 July 2018). The G20 High Level Principles for the Effective Protection of Whistleblowers, adopted under the co-chairmanship of Japan and Mexico in June 2019, build on existing standards and good practices from the United Nations, in particular article 33 of UNCAC. The various national and regional new laws and initiatives, including the new EU Directive on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law, adopted on 7 October 2019, further accelerate progress in the protection of reporting persons and enrich peer learning at a global level.

**1/3** of States report taking action to strengthen whistleblower protection



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Combating corruption requires a coordinated transnational response. Hence, one of the central goals of the Convention is to promote, facilitate and support international cooperation in the fight against corruption. Chapter IV of the Convention contains detailed provisions on the main modalities of international cooperation in criminal matters, such as extradition, mutual legal assistance and the transfer of sentenced persons; it also covers law enforcement cooperation, joint investigations and special investigative techniques.

Besides formal cooperation, informal information exchange between States parties has been reported as frequently leading to successes in concrete cases, including convictions or the return of assets. Many States parties allow their judiciary, police, financial intelligence unit or anti-corruption agencies to informally communicate with foreign counterparts to speed up and facilitate investigations. Through the Review Mechanism and through the open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings to enhance international cooperation, States parties share information on good practices and challenges encountered in international cooperation, and find new counterparts to cooperate with in other States parties.

Article 44 on extradition and article 46 on mutual legal assistance, in part due to their length and complexity, received by far the highest number of both recommendations and good practices for all first cycle reviews (92% of States parties received recommendations on article 46, and 95% on article 44), so it is a particularly positive development that a third of all States parties have reported changes in these areas implemented after their first cycle review, a few of which are highlighted on this page.

In response to its first cycle review, to expand its treaty network, **Switzerland** signed a bilateral agreement on MLA in criminal matters with **Indonesia** and MOUs with **Qatar, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania**. MOUs with four more countries are currently being negotiated.

In the **United States**, there have been more than 1,400 requests regarding extradition and MLA in corruption-related matters to and from the US since the adoption of the Convention, over 200 of which were based on UNCAC provisions and originated from more than 80 countries. For example, the US is cooperating with several States parties on the basis of the UNCAC in relation to the 1MDB investigation.

**Panama** has successfully created joint investigative teams between three or more countries in corruption cases.

In **Grenada**, a conference on effective ways to promote bilateral and international anti-corruption cooperation was held between **China, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, St. Lucia** and other Caribbean States.

**Brazil's** new Civil Procedure Code contains a chapter dedicated to international cooperation.

To address recommendations under the first cycle, **North Macedonia** introduced the LURIS system to strengthen efforts in monitoring and in the statistical reporting of extradition and MLA cases.

**Senegal** and the **State of Palestine** are negotiating a bilateral partnership on fighting corruption.

In **Nigeria**, the Senate passed the MLA in Criminal Matters Act which extends the scope of cooperation with all States. The development of an MLA Manual will soon follow.

In **Poland**, the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau cooperates with 54 countries and 13 international organizations. A number of bilateral agreements on information exchange and cooperation in fighting and preventing corruption were also signed with foreign law enforcement agencies, including from **Lithuania, Ukraine, Lebanon and Bulgaria**.

To comply with the requirements of the Convention, **Jordan, Kenya and Mauritius** have passed new or amended existing extradition codes.

**Sudan** has issued rules on international cooperation procedures, as well as on asset recovery.

**Tuvalu** has launched a website to provide information on its MLA requirements to guide requesting countries.

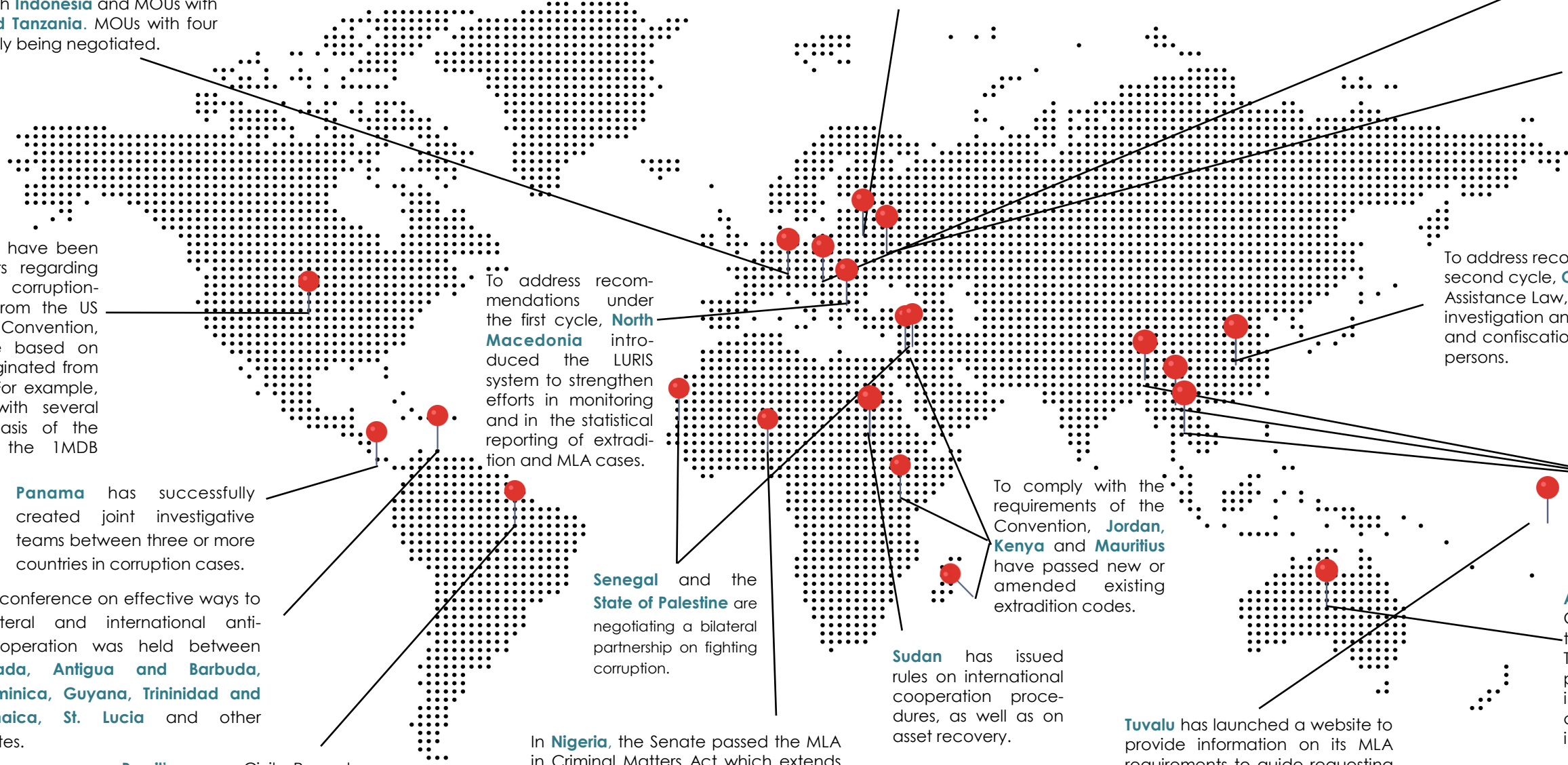
**Austria** strengthened its mechanisms of control to overcome unnecessary delays in providing MLA.

To exchange best practices in the fight against corruption and conclude MLA agreements, the Fifth Interstate Council on Combating Corruption took place in **Belarus** and was attended by delegations of the **Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation** and **Tajikistan**.

To address recommendations under the first and prepare for the second cycle, **China** enacted the International Criminal Judicial Assistance Law, regulating issues such as service of documents, investigation and evidence collection, witness testimony, seizure and confiscation of illegal assets, and the transfer of convicted persons.

**Myanmar** partnered with the Commission of Thailand, the State Inspection and Anti-Corruption Authority of **Lao PDR** and the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of the **Republic of Korea** for cooperation against corruption.

**Australia** enacted the Extradition and MLA in Criminal Matters Legislation Amendment Act and the Cybercrime Legislation Amendment Act. These laws will streamline the processes for providing assistance to foreign countries and increase the range of law enforcement tools the authorities can use to assist in a foreign investigation or prosecution.



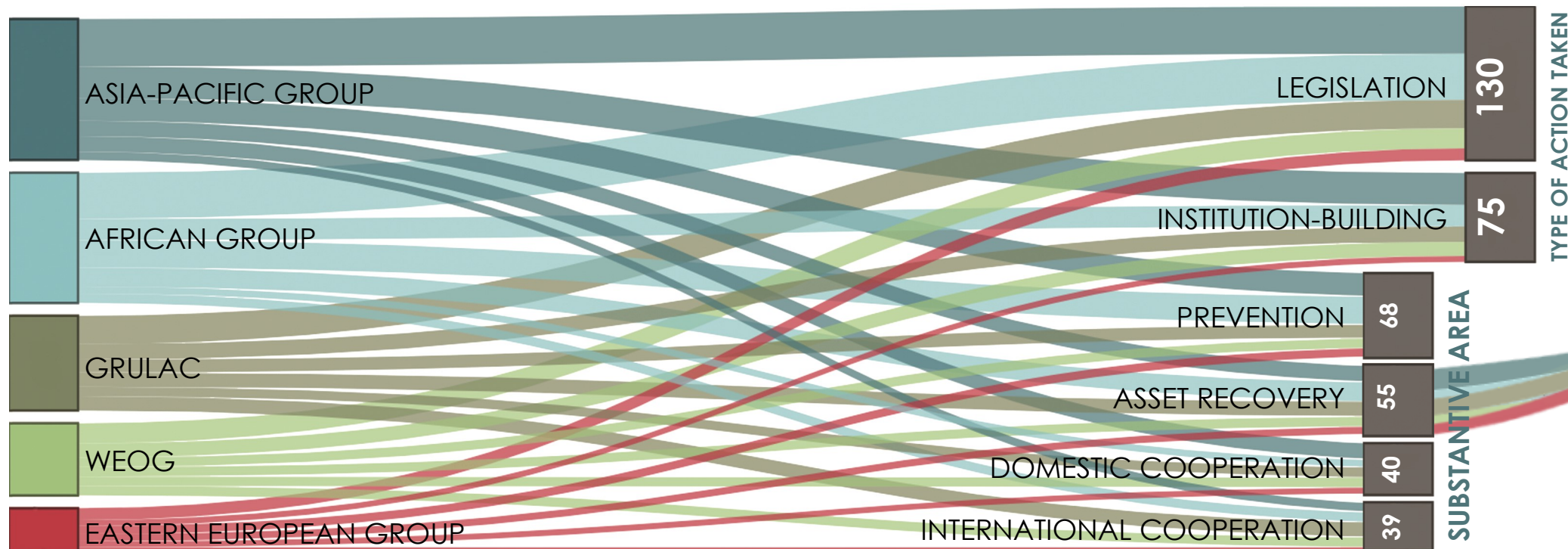
# ASSET RECOVERY

A novelty at the time, States parties agreed to the recovery of assets and the return to their country of origin as a fundamental principle of the Convention. Broadly, asset recovery is the subject of the reviews under both cycles, with the first cycle looking at freezing, seizure and confiscation under article 31 and the second cycle at cross-border asset recovery in chapter V. Whereas assets would flow into the treasury or possibly be subject to asset sharing agreements

before the Convention was adopted, under article 57, the return of assets is mandatory in cases of embezzled public funds, or upon proof of ownership or recognition of the damage caused to a requesting state. The catchphrase "crime must not pay" is valid in every country, but asset recovery and return is especially important for countries where State resources have been depleted by corruption and are needed for development, stability and security. Since 2010,

States have found and implemented ways and solutions to address and overcome the burdens posed by the usually lengthy and complicated technical, legal and political process of tracing, freezing, confiscating and returning stolen assets to their country of origin. Under the second cycle reviews, countries have showcased some progress through successful cases of asset return between States parties on the basis of the Convention.

Actions reported by 147 States parties in follow-up to the first cycle reviews or in preparation for the second cycle, by region, type of action taken and substantive area



In 2018, the **Polish National Public Prosecutor's Office** published a methodology for securing assets, based on the work of a multi-agency task team. The methodology focuses on practical issues relating to asset profiling, especially for the initial stages of criminal proceedings. It also covers, inter alia, extended confiscation and how to secure cryptocurrencies.

Further to far-reaching legislative amendments in 2018 to close loopholes in its asset recovery framework, in 2019 **Tanzania** has prepared a bill to incorporate plea bargaining into its asset recovery regime to assist in more effective recovery.

In 2018, **Bahamas** adopted, inter alia, a Proceeds of Crime Act and a Financial Transactions Reporting Act.

Through the Seized and Forfeited Asset Management Project (BIDAL), a technical consultancy project aimed at promoting good governance and identifying best practices, in cooperation with UNODC and OAS, **Brazil** conducted a comprehensive analysis of the Brazilian framework for investigation and management of seized assets.

Trainings on financial investigations for asset recovery were conducted in **Cambodia, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Palau and Myanmar.**

The **State of Palestine** has trained its officials on the management of seized and confiscated assets and on the use of the UNCAC in recovering assets.

**Trinidad and Tobago** passed new legislation in 2019 providing for the establishment of civil asset recovery and a management agency for the recovery and management of criminal property and unexplained wealth.

In **Portugal**, the practice of spontaneous sharing of information with a wide number of counterparts has led to the successful freezing of assets in concrete cases.

To broaden the FIU's powers and enable it to request additional information from reporting entities, **Liechtenstein** revised its FIU Act in 2016.

With the support of the Netherlands, **Montenegro** launched an electronic case management system for MLA in 2015, which enables MOJ to accurately track the number of received MLA requests and improve mechanisms for monitoring and statistical reporting in the area of MLA, including in asset recovery cases.

The **United Kingdom** has been employing a new database and case management tool since 2014 to streamline extradition and MLA requests, including in asset recovery cases.

In July 2019, **Madagascar** adopted a new law on the recovery of illicit assets, which provides inter alia for setting up an illicit assets recovery agency.

**Nigeria** has recovered vast quantities of assets and returned assets to other States through using flexible approaches that go beyond the minimum requirements of UNCAC.

To provide more robust powers to the FIU, anti-corruption bureau and enforcement agencies, **Brunei Darussalam** has introduced the Criminal Asset Recovery Act in 2012.

UNCAC provides a consensus on what corruption is, the damage it causes to sustainable development and clarity on the mutual responsibilities for tackling it. The greater publicity that is given to examples of egregious corruption now sparks outrage among the citizenry in affected countries and elsewhere, making it more difficult to tolerate any complicity of silence on the issue. UNCAC enables a far wider exchange of experiences and solutions by lifting the corruption response to the global level and encompasses all the relevant aspects of the problem, unlike regional and other more narrowly-focused conventions and scrutiny arrangements. The IRM has begun the journey to verify compliance. It is learning lessons as it proceeds, and continues to be an evolving exercise in ensuring that State Parties live up to their commitments in practice.

Phil Mason, former Senior Anti-Corruption Adviser for the UK Department of International Development

# RESOURCES

The reviews produce large amounts of data on measures taken to further implementation of the Convention, and good practices, challenges and gaps on a broad range of topics. This data flows into the knowledge products, tools, manuals and publications by UNODC, which focus particularly on those issues where needs have been identified through the reviews. All tools and publications are available free of charge in multiple languages on the UNODC website. The tools can be adapted to regional and national needs upon request.

## UNIVERSITY MODULES

UNODC is developing multidisciplinary and interactive university modules and teaching guides on anti-corruption, integrity and ethics. These materials are flexible and adaptable to local, cultural and disciplinary contexts, and designed to support lecturers in their teaching of these topics at universities around the world. Each module is designed as a basis for a three-hours session which can be integrated into an existing course. The majority of the modules is available on the UNODC website, the remainder will become available online shortly.

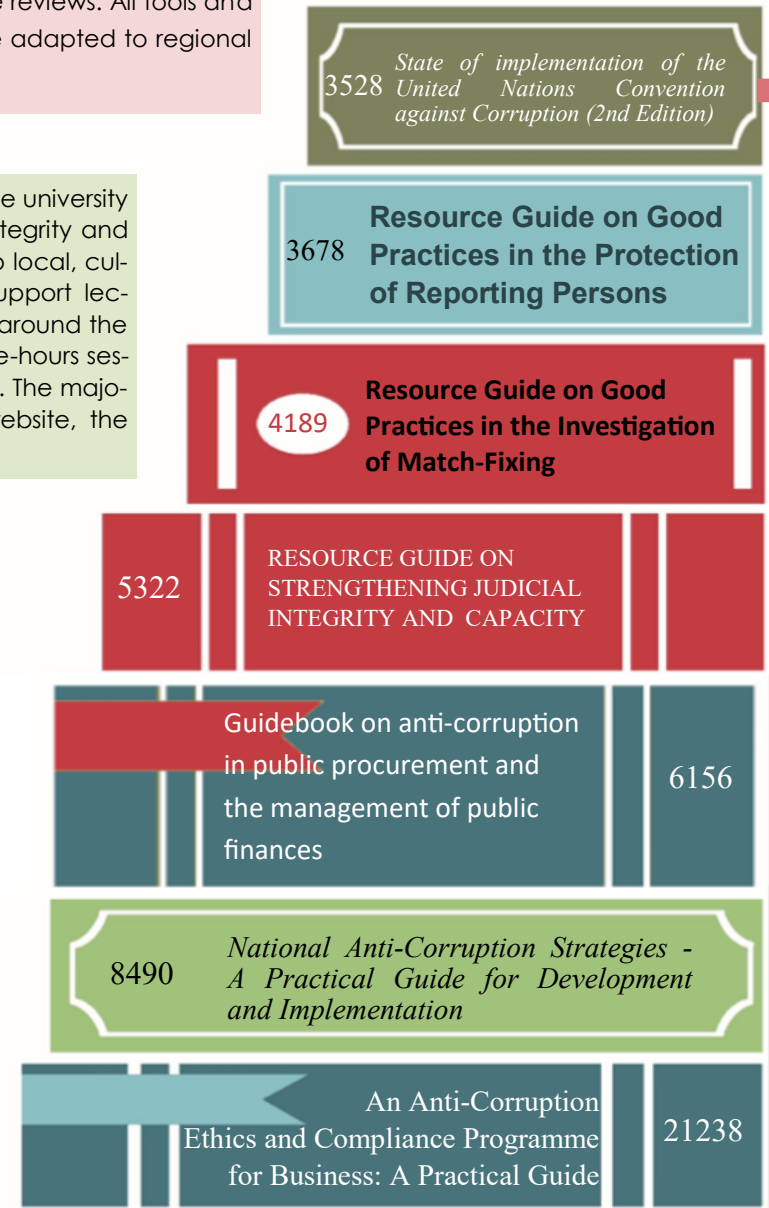
## SPOTLIGHT ON THE DONORS

WITHOUT WHOM THE REVIEW MECHANISM COULD NOT HAVE HAD THIS IMPACT

Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Panama, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the United Nations Development Programme.

In-kind contributions have also been provided by Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Fiji, Gabon, Granada, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Qatar, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

## ASSORTED KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS—TOTAL DOWNLOADS 2018



## DOWNLOADS BY LANGUAGE

| ENG   | FR   | AR  | ESP  | RUS  | CH & OTHER |
|-------|------|-----|------|------|------------|
| 1665  | 333  |     | 650  | 880  |            |
| 2569  | 666  | 443 |      |      |            |
| 3651  |      |     |      |      | 538        |
| 4146  | 342  | 523 | 311  |      |            |
| 4307  |      |     | 744  | 1105 |            |
| 2871  | 1717 | 324 | 2904 |      | 674        |
| 11544 | 1238 |     | 7018 | 1438 |            |

The Convention was downloaded **154,090** times in 2018

## THE LEGAL LIBRARY

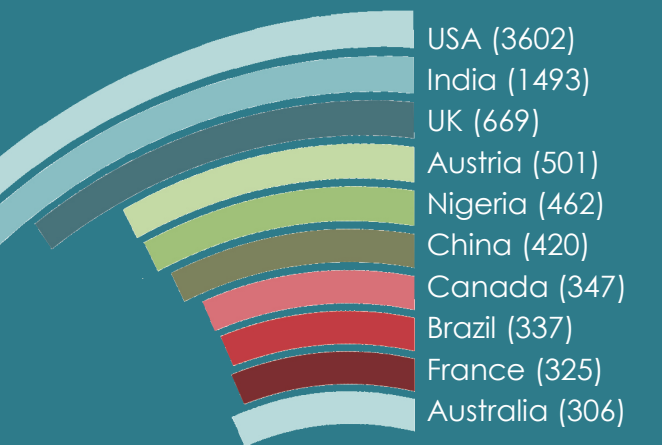
Legal data collected through the first and second cycle reviews is continuously uploaded into UNODC's legal library, which is available on the UNODC website. The library contains over 8,000 full text laws for over 180 jurisdictions, indexed and searchable for each provision of the Convention, it is accessed by over 15,000 users per year.

## THE CNA DIRECTORY

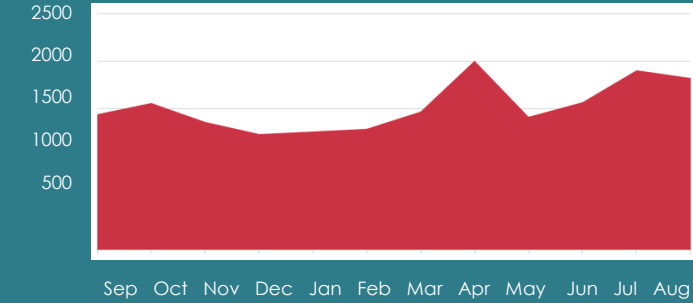
Under the Convention, States are obliged to notify the Secretary-General of their designated preventive anti-corruption bodies and central authorities for mutual legal assistance. The designations are collected and accessible in the Directory of Competent National Authorities in the SHERLOC portal on the UNODC website, together with the competent authorities under other conventions. As of September 2019, the CNA Directory contained:

- 129** States parties' central authorities for MLA
- 117** States parties' prevention authorities
- 81** States parties' asset recovery focal points
- 24** States parties' central authorities for extradition
- 32** States parties' focal points for international cooperation in civil and administrative proceedings

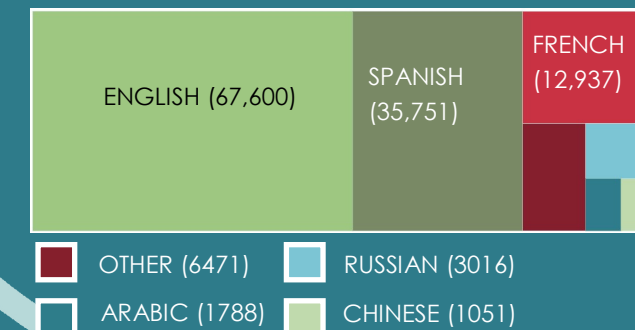
## LIBRARY USERS BY COUNTRY Top 10 Countries



TOTAL NUMBER OF LIBRARY USERS (September 2018 to August 2019) **17,249**



TOP 10 DOWNLOADS BY LANGUAGE (September 2018 to August 2019)



Will we ever win the battle against corruption? „We are paving the way for future generations.“

# CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

The environment has changed since the adoption of the Convention and the launch of the Review Mechanism: While before 2003, there was no global instrument against corruption, today there is political will, technical expertise, partnerships among a wide range of stakeholders, including private sector, civil society, academia and youth, and global consensus that corruption underlies many of our problems across the globe, and needs to be addressed through a holistic, targeted and collective response. States acknowledged that corruption can deplete a State of its vital resources, that certain sectors are especially vulnerable to corruption and need specific safeguards, that safe havens for illicit assets facilitate the laundering of proceeds of crime, and that corruption prevention must be an essential component when planning sports event as well as when designing environmental protection strategies.

In follow-up to the reviews, States parties have requested assistance from the secretariat in areas as diverse as trainings in financial investigations, drafting of new anti-money laundering laws, the creation of anti-corruption bodies or the development of codes of conduct for the judiciary. In addition, it has become apparent through the reviews that all States are fighting the same battle and that comprehensive implementation of the Convention can have direct and indirect effects on many cross-cutting issues. States parties are more and more motivated to explore these links and to look for solutions, through further research or through exchange of good practices in the working groups, expert group meetings and global conferences. Upon request of States parties, the secretariat is assisting in these new projects and some of these initiatives are highlighted on this page.

## PLATFORM APPROACH

To more effectively address common regional challenges and technical assistance needs resulting from the outcomes of the Implementation Review Mechanism, and to leverage regional capacities and knowledge in identifying achievable and practical reform priorities, UNODC has created four Regional Platforms on three continents: Southeast Asia, East Africa, South America and Mexico as well as Southern Africa, with additional platforms being envisaged as funding becomes available. These platforms aim to build and foster partnerships among the countries through thematic areas identified in each region as priority areas of work to fast-track UNCAC implementation. As there is no one-size-fits-all approach, the methodology applied is the same for all platforms, but thematic priorities and activities vary and depend of the specificities identified by each region and each country. However, commonalities were observed among the platforms regarding areas they consider regional priorities. For instance, whistleblower protection and strengthening transparency in public procurement have been identified as thematic priority areas in all four platforms.

## CORRUPTION IN SPORTS

Significant risks of corruption and criminality have accompanied the evolution of sports over the last decade, resulting in activities designed to exploit sport for illicit and often illegal gain. In line with resolution 7/8 on Corruption in Sport, UNODC is working to build capacity, raise awareness and provide technical assistance on corruption in sports. Key initiatives include the conference on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption in September 2019 (co-sponsored the Russian Federation and Italy, and co-organized by Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China, South Africa and UNODC), which served as the primary global platform for more than 270 participants from Member States, sports organizations and other stakeholders to discuss and share progress on the implementation of resolution 7/8, and where applicable other efforts to safeguard sport as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNODC and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have developed and launched a handbook with the ultimate aim of assessing existing mechanisms, analyzing best practices and providing guidance in establishing and implementing mechanisms for reporting potential breaches of integrity in sport particularly manipulation of competitions.

## GENDER & CORRUPTION

While a growing amount of research exploring the dimensions of gender and corruption shows that workplaces with a higher gender parity tend to be less corrupt, the influence of social norms appears to be an equally decisive factor. In September 2018, UNODC kick-started work on corruption and gender by organizing an Expert Meeting on Gender and Corruption in Bangkok. The meeting brought together representatives from civil society, national anti-corruption authorities, international organizations and academia. The discussions on criminal justice integrity, private sector, civil society engagement and public services led to a series of actionable recommendations and has laid the foundation for a study on the topic. The discussion also opened up avenues for further exploratory work, e.g. on gender bias in the judiciary and the impact of gender in procurement processes. UNODC intends to continue this work together with research institutes, other international organizations, and interested national counterparts in the States parties to the Convention.

## PRIVATE SECTOR & CORRUPTION

Through various programmes, tools and publications, UNODC works towards strengthening private sector integrity, including through guidance for companies, especially SMEs, on the development of anti-corruption compliance programmes and ethical codes of conduct. UNODC has teamed up with companies and governments to strengthen legal frameworks and improve communication between the public and private sectors by providing a common venue for further interaction, dialogue and knowledge sharing to reduce opportunities for corruption and facilitating a culture of integrity. "The fight against corruption" is an e-learning tool for the private sector produced in partnership with UN Global Compact. In six short video scenarios, users are faced with common corruption risks and guided through UNCAC requirements in each situation. This interactive tool is free to use and available in over 20 languages, so companies around the world can apply it directly in their anti-corruption compliance programmes. UNODC's "Practical Guide for Business" provides practical advice for setting up an anti-corruption ethics and compliance programme and has been used as a starting point for programmes and policies by companies around the world.

## ANTI-CORRUPTION EDUCATION

UNODC is leading the Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative (ACAD), a collaborative project and central hub for anti-corruption education worldwide that seeks to encourage the teaching and research of anti-corruption issues by higher level education institutions. ACAD brings together professors globally and regionally, fosters networking and offers over 1,200 free online resources. ACAD has also developed a multidisciplinary university Model Course on the United Nations Convention against Corruption in all official UN languages, which can be taught as part of, or a complement to, a degree in law, business or social sciences. The innovative and comprehensive educational initiative "Education for Justice" (E4J) supports schools, universities and other academic institutions in their efforts to teach students across the world about the rule of law, including anti-corruption, integrity and ethics, by engaging with educators and young people in a consultative and participatory process while building on and investing in them as agents of positive change. E4J develops and offers teaching modules on anti-corruption, integrity and ethics to complement the ACAD Model Course.

## PROTECTING WILDLIFE & FORESTS

Wildlife and forestry crime are highly lucrative illicit businesses that pose a significant threat to global economic and social development, security and governance, and the environment. While it remains challenging to reliably quantify the full scope of the problem, it has become clear that the billions of dollars generated are linked to corruption and money-laundering. Organized criminal groups involved in wildlife and forestry crime thrive on the existence of corruption as it enables them to commit, conceal and avoid conviction for their crimes. To that end, criminals exploit weaknesses in organizational, regulatory and governance frameworks, or lack of adequate capacity by wildlife and forest management and law enforcement authorities. UNODC has developed considerable expertise in preventing and combating the corruption that drives wildlife and forestry crime. The focus of our work lies in strengthening the capacity of wildlife management agencies to mitigate against the risk of corruption that may prevent them from achieving their mandate to protect wildlife, and in strengthening States' capacities to address financial and economic crime linked to wildlife crime. UNODC has also developed a guide on addressing corruption in the fisheries sector, entitled *Rotten Fish*, and the *Integrity Guide for Wildlife Management Authorities* will be launched at the 8th COSP in Abu Dhabi.

# (SOCIAL) MEDIA COVERAGE

## Cuba recibe el Mecanismo de examen de la aplicación de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la Corrupción

Granma.cu, 27 June 2019

Cuba ha sido sede, desde el 25 y hasta hoy, del Mecanismo de examen de la aplicación de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la Corrupción, un ejercicio que ofrece oportunidades para intercambiar sobre las buenas prácticas en materia de prevención y lucha contra la corrupción en nuestro país, además de propiciar un fortalecimiento de la cooperación entre los Estados parte. Examinadores de Uruguay, Mozambique y Funcionarios de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el

Delito (UNODC, por sus siglas en inglés) han llegado a la Isla como parte de este sistema, en el cual los representantes de estos Estados parte, escogidos por sorteo, realizan encuentros con los representantes del grupo cubano, integrado por la Contraloría General de la República, la Fiscalía General de la República, el Tribunal Supremo Popular, el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, el Ministerio de Justicia, el Banco Central de Cuba, el Ministerio de Finanzas y Precios, el Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera, el Ministerio de Economía y Planificación e integrantes de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular, la Sociedad Civil Cubana y la Universidad. [...] Las medidas para la recuperación directa de bienes, la cooperación internacional para fines de decomiso, y la restitución y disposición de activos, son algunos de los temas tratados. Igualmente importantes resultan las medidas para prevenir el blanqueo de dinero, las poli-

ticas y prácticas de prevención de corrupción, y los códigos de conducta para funcionarios públicos; todos analizados bajo los principios de igualdad soberana, integridad territorial y respeto al ordenamiento jurídico interno.



Foto: Cortesía de la Contraloría General de la República

Transparency Int'l @anticorruption · 17 juin  
La Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la Corrupción (#UNCAC) es el único tratado universal contra la corrupción legalmente vinculante. Fue aprobada por la Asamblea General de la ONU el 31 de octubre de 2003 y 186 Estados Miembros la han ratificado.



Bledi Çuçi @bledicuci · 17 juin  
Mtg. w/#UNODC experts and foreign govt.officials in the framework of evaluation of implement.of the #UNCAC in Albania



Rose Poreaux @roseporeaux · 11. Dez. 2018  
We need to use the #UNCAC to leverage our efforts: 27 CSOs from 9 ASEAN countries gather today in Bangkok to fast-track #UNCAC implementation in Southeast-Asia #AccessToInformation #PublicProcurement #BusinessIntegrity #UnitedAgainstCorruption



ICPC Nigeria @ICPC\_NG · 11. Dez. 2018  
Meeting of Nigeria and Mexico at the on-going Resumed 10th Session of The Implementation Review Group (IRG), on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), at Vienna, Austria. #UNCAC



Natacha Sarkis @Natasark · 8 sept.  
My participation for the 1st time in #UNCAC imp review group mtg on prevention. rep @OmsaRgov. made me reaffirm that: we are part of a global effort. We have common challenges. fighting #corruption is not an option anymore & yes #Lebanon is in the right direction be positive



LEBANON LEBANON

## As Asia's Corporates Grow Up, Tackling Global Corruption Will Fall To The UN

Forbes.com, August 8, 2017

The emergence of Asian corporates in the global economy requires a different approach to combating global corruption. An effort by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to address this issue may ultimately prove a better forum. [...] The Convention is a global initiative that aims to address corruption through a peer-review process that guides member states in their implementation of anti-corruption laws and procedures. This unique review mechanism is designed

to both complement existing anti-corruption efforts and ensure the process is impartial, transparent and non-adversarial. [...] Given the size and relevance of Asia, observers have keenly anticipated the results. Regarding China, reviewers noted the substantial progress authorities have made in combating corruption, including "the continued resolute determination of the Chinese authorities at the highest level to fight corruption that has resulted in an increased number of successfully prosecuted corruption cases in recent years." Moreover, China has indicated that it considers UNCAC to be "a legal basis for mutual law enforcement cooperation in respect of corruption-related offences." Indonesia is another jurisdiction where anti-corruption efforts have made progress and where the UNCAC framework is providing strong guidance on how to further strengthen the regime. Reviewers noted that

there is a high political commitment by the government to eradicate corruption in both the public and private sectors. However, the review also recommends [] allowing authorities, in addition to the Corruption Eradication Commission, to investigate high-ranking officials without seeking prior permission. The UNCAC framework is a step in the right direction for Asia. Moreover, there is evidence that social expectations are changing in the region, with politicians and industry leaders being held to higher ethical standards.[...] The progress made across Asia to address systemic corruption has been encouraging. However, it is critical that Asian countries continue to work constructively within the UNCAC framework to ensure continued progress. These efforts may one day see the scourge of corruption relegated to the fringes of the economy.

La Razón Digital @LaRazonBolivia · 13 Aug 2011  
#LoÚltimo  
La Convención de las Naciones Unidas Contra la Corrupción (#UNCAC) realiza la visita in situ de expertos examinadores al Estado Plurinacional de #Bolivia. (Fuente: @MinJusticiaBol)



## UN report calls for increased staff for anti-corruption unit and code of conduct for judges

Irish Examiner, 15 April 2019

The United Nations has called on Ireland to boost staffing at the Garda Anti-Corruption Unit, saying there are only three members attached to it. [...] The UN did commend Ireland's strong anti-money laundering legislation, its whistleblower laws and the Criminal Assets Bureau. The findings come from an evaluation of Ireland's compliance with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. The Government published an executive summary of the team's findings, saying it identified both "Ireland's successes and good practices" — however, it also identified "challenges" Ireland faces. Coinciding with the publication, and in advance of the full report next month, the Department of Justice announced a public consultation in relation to its review of anti-fraud and anti-corruption structures. [...] In the Government's public consultation, it is seeking submissions on structures within the Gardaí and other agencies to target fraud and corruption; whether or not there should be a stand-alone agency; adequacy of the legal basis for sharing information between relevant bodies; and the resources and expertise needed in relevant agencies.

## Review of Philippine Compliance with the UNCAC on Criminalization and International Cooperation

Ombudsman.gov.ph, Press release, 2011

[...] The Multi-Sectoral Anti-Corruption Council (MSACC) officially kicked-off the Philippine review on 30 June 2011 with the adoption of the Guidelines for the Selection of UNCAC Governmental Experts. The MSACC is the consultative and coordinating body of the National Anti-Corruption Program of Action (NACPA) which has the UNCAC for its framework. On 17 August 2011, selected nominees, representing a multi-disciplinary team

of highly-respected officials from the executive, judiciary, constitutional bodies, academe, and business, were confirmed by the MSACC.

These experts were then trained, in October 2012, on the Review Mechanism and Self-Assessment Checklist by UNODC [...]. The session was opened by Ombudsman Morales who stated that the results of the review will inform the prioritization and sequencing of programmes and projects under the NACPA. A Stakeholders Consultation followed on 12 October 2011 with participants from government and civil society. The checklist accomplished at the training was presented for comment and additional inputs. To date, experts from Egypt and Bangladesh are finalizing the desk review of the checklist. This will be followed by a teleconference and a country visit.

#CHRAIGHANA @CHRAIGHANA · 13 Aug 2011  
Commencement of the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption #UNCAC By Ghana. The Review is being Conducted by Experts from South Sudan and Madagascar..@lexoo2020 @IACA\_Academy @uncaccoalition @ZamorInma @ARAP\_Ghana @CharlesAyamdo



UNODC ROPAN @UNODC\_ROPAN · 13 Aug 2011  
No a la corrupción dicen los niños desde el stand de #OneUNPanama en la @filpanama #UnitedAgainstCorruption



12:48 PM - 13 Aug 2019  
1 Retweet · 3 Likes

Italy UN New York @ItalyUN\_NY · 13 Aug 2011  
At the #UNGA Debate on #UNCAC, Prof. Vignano' Judge of Italy's Constitutional Court, highlighted the need for a new paradigm of #corruption measurement based on reliable indicators and for a holistic strategy combining the goals of #Palermo Convention on #organizedcrime and #UNCAC



Tarek Abdelhadi @TarekAbdelhadi · 8 Aug 2017  
#RegionalProgramme @UNDPArabStates holds 1day #civil #society #training in #Jordan to review & support the implementation of the #UNCAC



00:00 - 8. Aug. 2017

## Govt commits to implementing UN Convention

Botswana Daily News, May 03, 2018

Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, Mr Nonfo Molefhi says government is committed to the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which it ratified in June 2011. Speaking at a workshop on Botswana's second review cycle of the UNCAC in Gaborone on May 2, Mr Molefhi emphasised that strong political will on the part of government had led to development of robust measures against corruption. He pointed that the second review cycle, which followed the one conducted in 2013, would enable reviewers to assess measures taken by Botswana in the implementation of the Convention as well as the difficulties she was encountering. "The second review cycle offers us as a country the opportunity to be assessed on anti-corruption strategies that have been adopted [...]" said the minister. [...] Mr Molefhi further added that the Corruption and Economic Crime (CEC) Act was amended in 2013 to close critical gaps and make the instrument compliant to the Convention. "Introduction of a new offence of Trading in Influence came into play and it is now fully criminalised under the amended CEC Act," he said. DCEC director general, Mr Victor Paledi said government saw it fit to be signatory and party to the UNCAC as an all-inclusive instrument to developing a comprehensive response to the global problem of corruption. Mr Paledi said the second review cycle offered reviewers an opportunity to assess Botswana's anti-corruption and prevention strategies and would put Botswana in a better position to know how its standing in implementation of the Convention. [...] Reviewers from Sri Lanka and Guinea, DCEC senior management, executives from parastatals, private and civil society organisations as well as UN Office on Drugs and Crime secretariat attended the workshop.

**Victoria Nes** @Vicky\_Nes

First day of the @UNODC multi-stakeholder workshop in Belgrade. Governments, businesses and civil society together with the @UN commit to step up efforts to advance the implementation of #UNCAC and the #2030Agenda #SDGs in Southeast Europe.



**SFP México** @SFP\_mx

Inician los trabajos formales de la visita in situ de evaluación del Mecanismo de Examen de la #UNCAC



**جهاز الرقابة - عمان** @StateAudit\_Oman

جهاز الرقابة المالية والإدارية للدولة يستضيف الزيارة القطرية لاستعراض تنفيذ السلطنة للفصلين الثاني والخامس من اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لمكافحة الفساد.

لمزيد من التفاصيل: [sai.gov.om/News.aspx#News...](http://sai.gov.om/News.aspx#News...)



# UNCAC reviews Fiji

Fiji Ministry of Information, Press release, July 15 2011

A team of senior officials from Bangladesh, the United States of America and the United Nations Commission Against Corruption (UNCAC) were in the country since Monday to review Fiji's compliance with its obligations under UNCAC. Attorney General, Mr Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said Fiji ratified UNCAC in May 2007 and volunteered to undergo a peer review process whereby two state parties were selected to review Fiji's compliance with the provisions of UNCAC. "The UNCAC delegation has held various meetings this week with various government departments, NGO's and representatives from civil society," Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said. [...]

The Attorney General also announced that for the first time Fiji had been selected to review another country. Later, this year Fiji will be reviewing Timor Leste. "What it means is that we've also built internal capacities. Before we can actually go and review another country's compliance with UNCAC, certain personnel from Fiji will be sent for a training program as to how they can review," Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said. "As part of this process of the peer review program last year and this year, some people in Fiji now know how to respond, who fill out reports and who also become experts in the area of laws pertaining to corruption, abuse of office and the various international obligations that do exist and how we can co-operate with other countries.

"Systemic corruption is not necessarily confined to your own borders. You can have corruption that's instigated of bribes, instigated by foreign companies or by foreign nationals. It also does touch on the area of extradition. They are the sorts of areas that we want to develop local expertise in." Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said this review program was proof of Government's effort to eradicate systematic corruption in the country.

"What this review program also shows is that the Bainimarama Government is participating in this program to tell the international community that we are engaged not just in lip service but also in the practical input or application of good governance through the eradication of systemic corruption," the Attorney-General said.

# Convention des Nations unies contre la corruption : Le Mali évalué par des pairs et les experts de l'ONU

Maliactu.net, 20 April 2016

Dans le cadre du Mécanisme d'examen de l'application de la Convention des Nations unies contre la corruption, le Mali est soumis à une évaluation par ses pairs du Niger et de l'Afghanistan et des experts de l'Office des Nations unies contre la drogue et le crime (ONUDC). Du 19 au 23 avril 2016. La cérémonie d'ouverture de l'atelier d'évaluation, qui a eu lieu hier à Bamako, était présidée de la garde des Sceaux, ministre de la Justice et des Droits de l'Homme, Mme Sanogo Aminata Mallé [...]. [...] La mission d'évaluation du Mali sera dirigée par le Niger et l'Afghanistan, appuyés par les experts de l'ONUDC. Pour le garde des Sceaux, elle sera d'une grande importance pour

notre pays. "La présente évaluation offre à notre pays l'opportunité de faire l'état des efforts déployés dans le domaine de la lutte contre la corruption", a-t-elle précisé. Elle doit permettre également de tirer profit de l'expertise des délégués gouvernementaux et de l'ONUDC pour identifier les points à renforcer dans le dispositif institutionnel et normatif de notre pays. Le ministre de la Justice a profité de l'occasion pour rappeler aux participants que la lutte contre la corruption ne date pas d'aujourd'hui et indiqué que beaucoup a été fait dans ce sens. Elle a toutefois reconnu que beaucoup reste à faire dans le domaine. "Grâce à l'auto-évaluation effectuée en juillet 2015, nous savons d'ores et déjà que quelques réformes législatives sont nécessaires pour mettre la législation nationale en pleine conformité avec la Convention des Nations unies contre la corruption", a-t-elle dit.[...] Le rapport des 4 jours de travaux devra permettre de renforcer notre pays dans la lutte contre le fléau de la corruption.

**Belgium MFA** @BelgiumMFA

(1/2) #UnitedAgainstCorruption We are currently hosting our second national evaluation by the United Nations @UNODC @UNCAC on how we prevent and fight corruption & where to improve.



**John Hyde** @JohnHydePerth · 27 déc. 2017

Samoa's CSOs & private sector urge Govt to sign #UNCAC in TV campaign International Anti-Corruption Day. #UNPRAC @UNODC\_SEAP @undpsamoa @GOPAC\_Eng @MihaelaStoj @MariaAdomeit @lulakelzarn #DFAT @UNDP\_Pacific



**UN Office on Drugs & Crime** @UNODC

NGOs and G'vmt reps in training on implementing #UNCAC & review mechanism. #Corruption #CivilSocietyTeam - More at: [bit.ly/2CYOkma](http://bit.ly/2CYOkma)



**UN Office on Drugs & Crime** @UNODC

"Corruption is present in all countries, rich & poor, North & South. It is an assault on the values of the @UN." Read the message of UN Secretary-General @antonioгутerres on International Anti-Corruption Day online: [bit.ly/2RFeBjW](http://bit.ly/2RFeBjW) #UnitedAgainstCorruption #UNCAC15



**Rose Poreaux** @roseporeaux · 11. Dez. 2018

We need to use the #UNCAC to leverage our efforts: 27 CSOs from 9 ASEAN countries gather today in Bangkok to fast-track #UNCAC implementation in Southeast-Asia #accessoinformation #publicprocurement #businessintegrity #UnitedAgainstCorruption



**Miguel Ruiz Cabañas** @miguelcabanas

Hoy comienza visita in situ de Mecanismo de Examen de Aplicación de la Convención de la OANU contra la Corrupción, #ConvencióndeMérida #UNCAC



**Maria Adomeit** @MariaAdomeit · 14 mars 2018

Leading up to #UNCAC review country visit. #Nauru gov agencies and #CSOs gather to discuss #corruption & future priorities. Acting President and Min of Justice Hon Adeang say it is timely to plan for next steps to reduce corruption risks in the country. @UNODC\_SEAP @UNDP\_Pacific



**UNODC CST** @UNODCCST

@UNODC briefing for NGOs on the implementation review mechanism for #UNCAC taking place on the margins of the 8th session of the #IRG



**Transparency Jordan (UTC)** @gotransparency

@Natasark presented #UNCAC review mechanism & role of CSOs in phase II, during the @Arab\_ACINET regional meeting in #Jordan @uncaccoalition



06:46 · 12. Juli 2017

3 Retweets 11 „Gefällt mir“-Angaben

**Kingdom of Bahrain Ministry of Interior**

Thursday 03 October 2019

14 Feb 2019

UN teams' visit to review Bahrain's implementation of UN convention ends



**MOI:** The UN delegations on a visit to the General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic & Electronic Security as part of a regional tour to review Bahrain's implementation of the second and fifth chapters of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption have concluded their assignment. The visit was in coordination with the General Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The representatives from the directorate, the Saudi and Swedish delegations and the representatives from the ministries

# Nepal praised for anti-corruption efforts

The Himalayan Times December 09, 2016

On the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day, Nepal's development partners have congratulated the people and the Government of Nepal for their efforts in tackling corruption and promoting a culture of integrity. "We commend the government for undertaking its first review cycle of its obligations under the UN Convention Against Corruption. The review acknowledges some good practices and recommends expanding the scope of integrity rules, and strengthening capacity of anti-corruption institu-

tions. We support the government's efforts to revise its legislation in line with the UNCAC commitments and urge the government to also prioritise implementation and enforcement of the legislation and anti-corruption measures," read a joint statement issued by international development partners in Nepal. The next UNCAC review cycle, due to begin in 2017, will focus on prevention and will benefit from broader engagement of all stakeholders at national and sub-national levels, including civil society and private sector.

This will also increase ownership and enhance acceptability and effectiveness of the strategies that are being adopted. The statement said this year had seen some encouraging initiatives by a broad range of

Nepali stakeholders to promote the culture of transparency and integrity throughout the country. Efforts to boost integrity in the judiciary, among others, and contributions by civil society actors to address anti-corruption issues are commendable. "These initiatives remind us that success in anti-corruption requires every member of society to play their part. We hope they continue to be encouraged and supported," it read. "With the new constitution and progress under way towards a new state structure, now is a critical time for all stakeholders to show leadership in combatting corruption at all levels and in all forms. This period of transformation provides a unique opportunity to strengthen systems, attitudes, and practices of accountability and integrity, [...]" added the statement.

# Second Cycle Of Review Of UN Convention Against Corruption In Solomons

Solomon Star, September 26, 2017

The Solomon Islands has undergone the second cycle of review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption conducted by the Republic of Korea and Vietnam. Following an invitation by the Solomon Islands Government in June 2016 during the Implementation Review Group (IRG) deliberations in Vienna, Austria, Solomon Islands volunteered to be reviewed in the first year of the second review cycle, focusing on Chapters 2 and 5 of the Convention. Consequently, the Government of Solomon Islands invited the review team for a country visit from the 20th – 22nd September 2017. The purpose of the visit was to facilitate the review team's discussions with relevant stakeholders, and to collect additional information to assess Solomon Islands' compliance with the provisions of UNCAC pertaining to preventive measures and asset recovery. The second cycle review was officially opened by the Chairman of the Leadership Code Commission, Mr. Solomon Kalu. In his remarks, Mr. Kalu stated that; "apart from its undertakings pertaining to the implementation of its anti-corruption policy and frameworks, the Solomon Islands Government is committed to this important review on whether Solomon Islands as a country per its laws and policies have taken into account the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) pertaining to its Chapters on preventive measures and asset recovery". The Chairman also provided a brief overview of UNCAC and noted that; "The fight against corruption is not only a national undertaking because corruption crosses national and international boundaries. Therefore, the fight against corruption must also be on an international footing. There is a need for us to strengthen our domestic laws, taking into account the international nature of corruption". [...]



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