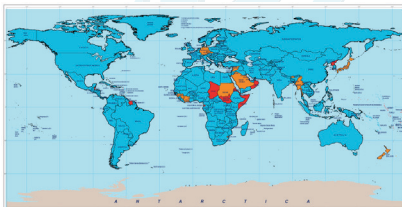




UPCOMING EVENTS

- Expert Group Meeting, Major Public Events (Vienna, 4-6 June 2012)
- Expert Group Meeting, Anti-Corruption Curricula (Vienna 7-8 June 2012)
- Third Session of the Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Vienna, 18-22 June 2012)
- Third Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Prevention (Vienna, 27-29 August 2012)
- Sixth Intersessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery (Vienna, 30-31 August 2012)

UNCAC STATUS



Announcements

Last Ratification:
Micronesia 21 March 2012

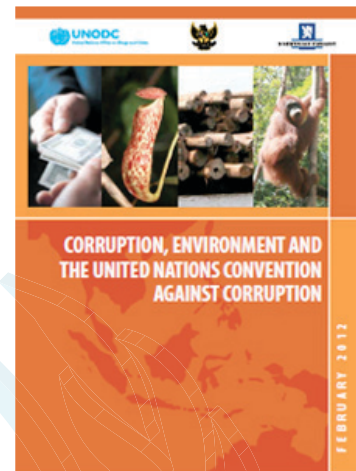


StAR Rolls Out New Training Tool in Asset Recovery

The joint World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative has provided assistance to Tunisia for several months, including advice on an asset recovery strategy; set up of bodies to promote domestic coordination; hands-on capacity building of practitioners and quiet diplomacy with third-party jurisdictions to facilitate international cooperation. In March, StAR rolled out an innovative new training tool to benefit investigators, prosecutors and judges working in the newly-created specialized asset recovery unit. This unit was established by the Tunisian Government in 2012 to boost anti-corruption and asset recovery efforts. The tool puts trainees in a “real life situation”, working on a real case, which has been adapted to the Tunisian context, contains two modules: one on the use of banking documentation and one on how to conduct a step-by-step case analysis. The first module asks trainees to trace funds and transactions to find evidence of money laundering. In the second, participants handle and develop a real-life corruption case. They are provided with a new set of documents each day and analyze them to determine next steps, including searches, freezing of assets, MLA and interviews. For the MLA component, trainees are provided with information on the MLA Request Writer Tool, developed by UNODC, and guided on how to include asset recovery specifications when drafting MLA requests. Participants welcomed the practical exercises as well as the writer tool, both of which will be used in future trainings. For more information, please contact Jean Pierre Brun (jbrun@worldbank.org) regarding the training tool, and Panagiotis Papadimitriou (panagiotis.papadimitriou@unodc.org) regarding the MLA Writer Tool.

New Publication Examines Corruption and the Environment

Indonesia remains heavily affected by criminal deforestation. It is estimated that the country loses 1.6-2.8 million hectares annually to illegal logging which, itself, relies on corruption, the cooperation of officials and the involvement of transnational organized criminal syndicates. UNODC's response to this problem involves working with government partners and law enforcement, conducting studies, facilitating discourse between parties and raising local and international awareness. All of these interventions are intended to draw attention to the links between official corruption and environmental destruction.



Available now in English and Bahasa Indonesia

In April, UNODC published 'Corruption, Environment and the United Nations Convention against Corruption'. Available in Bahasa Indonesia and English, the report compiles expert views presented at a UNODC-organized side-event, "Impact of Corruption on the Environment and UNCAC as a Tool to Address It", at the 4th Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in Marrakesh, Morocco, in October 2011. "This publication highlights the impact of corruption on the environment," said Mr. Ajit Joy, UNODC Indonesia Country Manager. "The writers, all specialists in their field, illustrate - often quite graphically - how corruption is a serious threat to the environment". The publication can be found at

http://www.unodc.org/documents/eastasiaandpacific/indonesia/publication/Corruption_Environment_and_the_UNCAC.pdf

Anti-corruption Training for Civil Society Organizations

Over 40 representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) from Africa and Asia participated in a training workshop from 20 to 23 March 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to develop their capacity to contribute to the implementation of the UNCAC and the work of its review mechanism. The training was organized jointly by UNODC and the UNCAC Coalition with support from the Austrian Development Agency.



The workshop sought to equip participants with in-depth knowledge of the provisions of the Convention and to experience the country review process. The exceptionally motivated participants, who had also prepared pre-workshop assignments, were particularly satisfied with the detailed explanation of the different stages of the review process, the practical exercises, the possibility of sharing experiences and the open space for questions and discussions. The sessions helped to prepare them to respond if invited by their Governments to participate in the preparation of self-assessment checklists and direct dialogue, and to plan their engagement in the field of anti-corruption.

Supreme Court Justices Unite for Judicial Integrity

Senior judges and legal experts from around the world met in January 2012 in Jakarta, Indonesia, to address challenges and practical ways to promote integrity-based reforms of South-East Asia judicial systems that uphold the rule of law and human rights. More than 130 senior judges, academics and legal practitioners from 16 countries examined ways to improve the institutions that are designed to provide accountability and oversight of the judiciary, including judicial commissions and anti-corruption bodies. The workshop offered participants a global platform to share experiences and challenges, review the current status of integrity-based judicial reforms in South-East Asia and discuss practical ways to promote judicial integrity. Discussions focused on codes of conduct, asset declarations, adequate salaries for judges, the need for more integrity assessments in the judiciary, the usefulness of integrated electronic case management systems, public access to decisions, the role of the media and civil society media in promoting judicial integrity and reforms, and the importance of public trust in the judiciary. "Judicial integrity is key to more effective justice delivery, public trust and credibility," said Chief Justice Harifin A. Tumpa, Supreme Court of Indonesia. He stressed that many countries in South-East Asia are in transition politically and economically, and that people expect governing institutions to live up to higher professional and ethical standards. The workshop represented the ongoing work of the Judicial Integrity Group (www.judicialintegritygroup.org). Participants agreed on a communiqué, available on the website, outlining concrete steps to promote judicial integrity. For more information, please contact Jason Reichelt (jason.reichelt@unodc.org) or Ajit Joy (ajit.joy@unodc.org)



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Workshop to Promote Transparency in Public Procurement Practices

As part of the project on 'Public - Private Partnership for Probity in Public Procurement', implemented under the Siemens Integrity Initiative, UNODC, in partnership with the Global Compact Network India (GCNI), organized a national consultation on "Transparency and Anti-Corruption Measures in Procurement in India" on 18 and 19 April in New Delhi. The consultation focused on challenges related to transparency in procurement procedures and explored opportunities to address corruption in procurement in India, in line with the UNCAC.

The consultation brought together stakeholders from the Central Vigilance Commission and the Comptroller & Auditor General's Office, India, public sector units, private companies, industry associations, procurement experts and civil society representatives. Participants discussed subjects such as public and private sector procurement guidelines, integrity pacts, and whistleblower protection mechanisms. The findings and recommendations of this consultation will feed into UNODC's ongoing project to support India's efforts to effectively implement Article 9 of the UNCAC. For more information, please contact Shannon Bullock (shannon.bullock@unodc.org).