

OSCE PRESENT POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES IN GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

The OSCE, as a forum for political and security dialogue, has a distinctive capacity to support co-operation among participating States to acquire models and mechanisms to combat and prevent corruption. Based on key Ministerial Council documents including the 2012 Dublin Declaration on *Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism*, the 2014 Basel Ministerial Decision on the *Prevention of Corruption*, and the 2016 Hamburg Ministerial Decision on *Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity*, the OSCE has been providing targeted and demand-driven assistance to its participating States in the form of tailor-made workshops, seminars, scoping missions and consultations.

Each year the OSCE organizes a number of national, regional and cross-regional seminars on effective anti-corruption policies and practices for government officials, private sector and civil society representatives. The OSCE also provides policy advice and facilitates the exchange of best practices in combating corruption, money-laundering and financing of terrorism.

In 2016 the OSCE has published, with the support of UNODC, OECD and other partners, the ***OSCE Handbook on Combatting Corruption***. This Handbook provides national policymakers and anti-corruption practitioners with a reference guide on available legal tools, the latest legislative and policy trends, and pertinent measures and practices to prevent and suppress corruption. It has been translated in several languages. This year the OSCE plans to finish the translation of the handbook into Russian language and to develop a set of targeted training modules based on specific chapters of the publication.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities has consensually mandated capacities to encourage participating States to deepen dialogue and use the good offices of the Secretariat and the OSCE Field Operations to conduct activities that produce tangible, measurable and sustainable results in the area of combating and preventing corruption. Political will is imperative to successfully eradicate corruption and educate corruption-free generations and the OSCE will continue to provide advice and assistance to all participating States on the implementation of commitments by implementing appropriate projects in areas where it can add additional value. The OSCE will continue to assist participating States, upon their request, in developing appropriate legislation and institutions. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will continue to prepare reports and proposals on good governance issues and submit these through the Economic and Environmental Committee to the Permanent Council for further discussion, decisions and actions.

In 2019 and beyond, the OSCE plans to conduct regional/cross-regional seminars and expert meetings on effective anti-corruption policies and practices for government officials, private sector and civil society representatives in Central Asia, Western Balkans and Eastern Europe, will provide tailored policy advice and will facilitate the exchange of best practices in corruption prevention to interested participating States. Also, the OSCE will continue to design and implement programmatic activities aimed at enhancing capacities of participating States to implement national and international commitments in the area of economic good governance that include efforts in the area of combating corruption.

OSCE COMMITMENTS IN GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

The promotion of good governance and transparency and the fight against corruption are integral to the OSCE's mandate to build and support a comprehensive approach to security. This mandate is defined in:

- *Chapter for European Security*

The 1999 Charter for European Security represents the first OSCE document to explicitly make reference to corruption as a threat to stability and as having a severe impact on security, economic and human issues. The Charter further presents the OSCE's programme of work to contribute to the international fight against corruption, namely by promoting better use of existing international anti-corruption instruments and international co-operation on the one hand, and the rule of law in co-operation with NGOs committed to the fight of corrupt practices on the other.

- ***OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Maastricht, 2003)***

The 2003 Maastricht OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension marks an important advancement in the Organization's efforts to promote good public and private sector governance and combat corruption. Making "the elimination of all forms of corruption a priority", the Strategy calls upon participating States to ratify and implement existing international anti-corruption instruments and to develop comprehensive long term anti-corruption strategies. In practice, the Strategy calls for corruption to be tackled through increased transparency and accountability. This, in turn, implies effective access to public information, free pluralistic media and active civil society participation. Furthermore, the management of public resources, including public procurement procedures which are particularly prone to corruption, is to be strengthened.

- ***Ministerial Council Decision on Combatting Corruption (Sofia, 2004)***

The 2004 Ministerial Council decision on combating corruption encourages OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the UNCAC as well as to fully implement the Convention. It also entails concrete provisions as regards the responsibilities of the OSCE Secretariat when it comes to fighting corruption. It tasks the OSCE Secretariat, upon the request of the OSCE participating States, to "provide support in mobilizing technical assistance, including necessary expertise and resources, from relevant competent international organizations, with due regard to their respective mandates, in the ratification or/and the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption."

- ***Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (Dublin, 2012)***

The Dublin Declaration communicates strong and wide political support for a comprehensive approach to securing good governance and transparency, and combating of corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism in the OSCE region. It acknowledges the multi-stakeholder roles of governments, civil society, the private sector and "the full and equal participation of women and men" in the development of good governance policies and activities. It reiterates the tasking to the OSCE Secretariat to provide support to interested participating States to join and fully implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It also gives the OSCE a new mandate "to support interested participating States in implementing their international asset recovery commitments". Furthermore, it strengthens the OSCE's mandate to support its participating States in implementing relevant regional and international instruments to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism and the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations.

- ***Ministerial Council Decision on the Prevention of Corruption (Basel, 2014).***

The 2014 Ministerial Council decision on prevention of corruption encourages the participating States to further develop and implement preventive anti-corruption legislation and policies; adopt, maintain and strengthen systems that prevent conflicts of interest in the public sector; foster the involvement of the private sector, civil society organizations, the media and academia in developing national anti-corruption strategies and policies; intensify individual national efforts to

provide sufficient protection for whistleblowers; take the necessary steps to establish or enhance appropriate systems of public procurement; and facilitate the recovery of stolen assets.

- ***The 2016 Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity***

The Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision tasks the OSCE executive structures to assist 57 participating States, upon their request, in formulating national policies, exchanging best practices and delivering capacity-building activities and projects in the area of preventing and suppressing corruption. Moreover, it tasks the OSCE to deepen co-operation with national, regional and international initiatives, such as UNODC, OECD, Council of Europe and others, in promoting the principles of transparency, citizen participation and accountability.