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Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions

Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals

Webinar series on Effective Governance and the Quintet of Change for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

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UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

19 June 2024

“Corruption is criminal, immoral and the ultimate betrayal of public trust.”

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

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Structure of the Presentation

1. Why is **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16** of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development central to the achievement of all the SDGs and what are the **11 Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development**?

2. How **corruption puts the SDGs at risk** and where we stand with **SDG implementation**, especially in relation to corruption related indicators?

3. How does UN DESA provide **capacity development support** to Member States in the area of transparency, accountability and ethics?

4. Looking ahead: **Summit of the Future** and the **Pact of the Future**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Key principle: Leave No One Behind

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SDG 16 – focus on transparency, accountability and anti-corruption

- While transparency and accountability are crosscutting issues, SDG 16 specifically calls for **peace, justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**.

- Each SDG has a number of related targets and indicators. The targets and indicators below provide a useful source for planning of anti-corruption measures.

Target	Indicator
16.4 Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows
16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development

Effectiveness
- Competence
- Sound policymaking
- Collaboration

Accountability
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Independent oversight

Inclusiveness
- Leaving no one behind
- Non-discrimination
- Participation
- Subsidiarity
- Intergenerational equity

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Principles of effective governance for sustainable development

What are they for?
- Building strong institutions at all levels
- Serving as a reference point that brings together relevant standards and technical guidelines
- Informing public sector reform initiatives for the SDGs

Where do they come from?
- Developed by CEPA specifically for SDG implementation
- Endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council
- Based on United Nations agreements

How can countries benefit from them?
- As an analytical framework in policy formulation
- As a guide in assessing institutional capacities, processes and culture
- As a foundation of SDG awareness raising and training initiatives

CEPA » **Committee of Experts on Public Administration**

CEPA is an expert body of the United Nations that studies and makes recommendations to improve governance and public administration structures and processes for development.

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The principles are intended to:

Help interested countries, on a voluntary basis, build **effective, accountable and inclusive** institutions at all levels.

Support countries in operationalizing the institutional aspects of SDG 16 through **concrete strategies.**

Promote **mainstreaming of effective governance in SDG implementation** and development plans and programmes at all levels.

Bring together **proven standards and operational guidelines** in all areas of public sector institution-building relevant to SDG implementation.

Provide a **baseline for policymaking** while strengthening evidence-based and action-oriented implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

The principles are given depth and made operational through 62 **commonly used strategies and related practices,** which are an integral and evolving part of this work.

CEPA Strategy Guidance Notes

Sound Policy Making

CEPA strategy guidance note on strategic planning and foresight
CEPA strategy guidance note on regulatory impact assessment
CEPA strategy guidance note on promotion of coherent policymaking
CEPA strategy guidance note on strengthening of national statistical systems
CEPA strategy guidance note on monitoring and evaluation systems
CEPA strategy guidance note on science-policy interface
CEPA strategy guidance note on risk management frameworks
CEPA strategy guidance note on data sharing

Transparency

CEPA strategy guidance note on fiscal and budget transparency

Leaving no one behind

CEPA strategy guidance note on promotion of social equity
CEPA strategy guidance note on systematic follow-up and review
CEPA strategy guidance note on data disaggregation (forthcoming)

Non-discrimination

CEPA strategy guidance note on promotion of public sector workforce diversity

Participation

CEPA strategy guidance note on participatory budgeting

Subsidiarity

CEPA strategy guidance note on fiscal federalism and decentralization
CEPA strategy guidance note on strengthening urban governance
CEPA strategy guidance note on strengthening municipal finance and local finance systems
CEPA strategy guidance note on enhancement of local capacity for prevention, adaptation and mitigation of external shocks
CEPA strategy guidance note on multilevel governance

Intergenerational equity

CEPA strategy guidance note on impact assessment for sustainable development
CEPA strategy guidance note on long-term public debt management
CEPA strategy guidance note on long-term territorial planning and spatial development
CEPA strategy guidance note on ecosystem management

Available at: publicadministration.desa.un.org/intergovernmental-support/cepa/strategy-guidance-notes

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How does corruption put the SDGs at risk?

- Corruption represents a **major obstacle for achieving the SDGs.** It misdirects funds intended for health, education and climate action among others, hampers economic growth, increases poverty through growing income inequality and reduced access to services.
- Corruption can occur **at every stage of the public service delivery chain**, from policy design and budgetary allocations to procurement. It therefore undermines the quantity and quality of public services and restricts access to quality health, water and education services, with a disproportionate impact on the poor.
- At the **policy-making level**, corruption manifests itself in two major forms: grand corruption (abuse of high-level power that benefits few at the expense of many) and interest groups seeking undue influence for personal gain during the formulation of laws and regulations.
- At the **administrative level**, the management of organisational resources (personnel/hiring, goods, supplies and budgets) can be vulnerable to misappropriation and unethical practices such as patronage and nepotism.
- Corruption **erodes peoples trust in public institutions**, undermines the rule of law, democratic processes and justice.

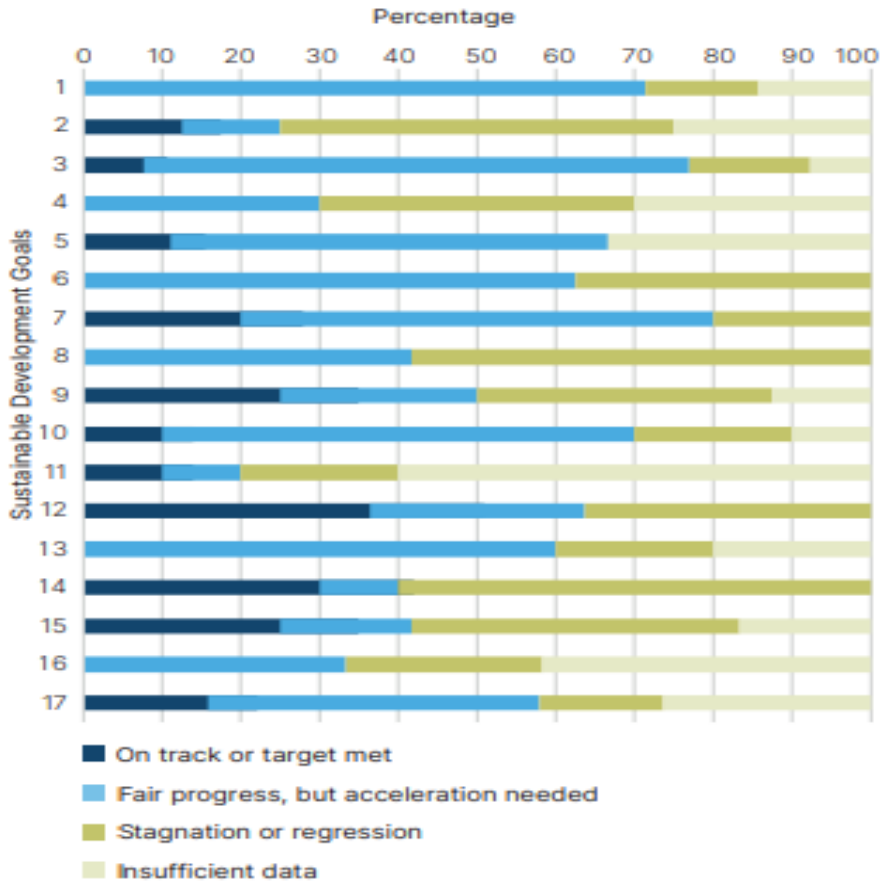
Corrupt practices are fundamentally in conflict with the principles of Integrity, Accountability and Leave No One Behind.

Appr. $5.4 - $6.4 trillion is needed annually to achieve the SDGs by 2030 globally. Appr. 5% of the world GDP or $2.6 trillion is lost to corruption annually.

Sources: UNCTAD 2023, World Economic Forum 2018

Where do we stand in implementing SDG 16?

Figure 3: Progress assessment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals based on the assessment of their targets, 2023 or latest available year



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023 (United Nations publication, 2023).

Globally, little or no progress towards SDG 16 has been made since 2015. Fair progress has been made in roughly one third of the targets under goal 16, while about one quarter have stagnated or regressed and more than 40 per cent of the targets still lack sufficient data for follow-up

Source: Global Progress Report on SDG 16 Indicators (UNODC, OHCHR, UNDP, 2023)

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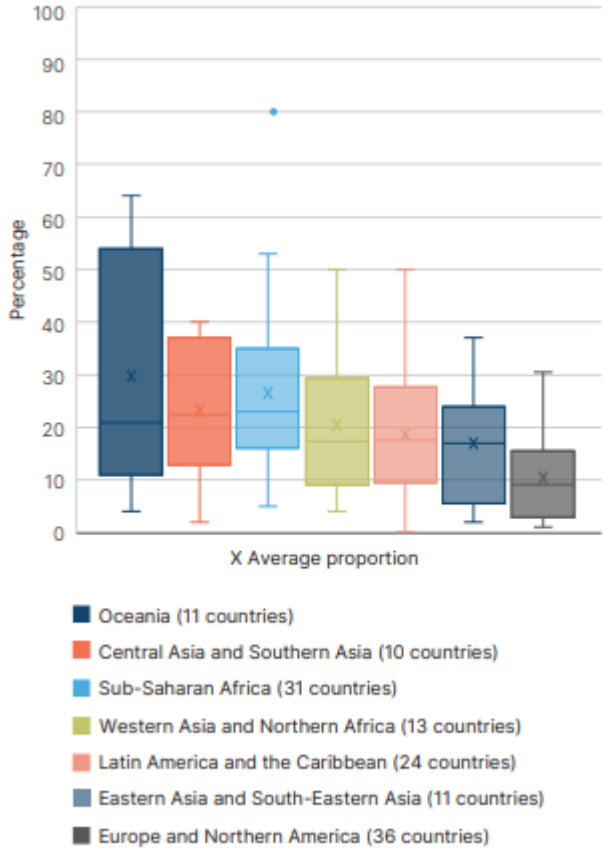
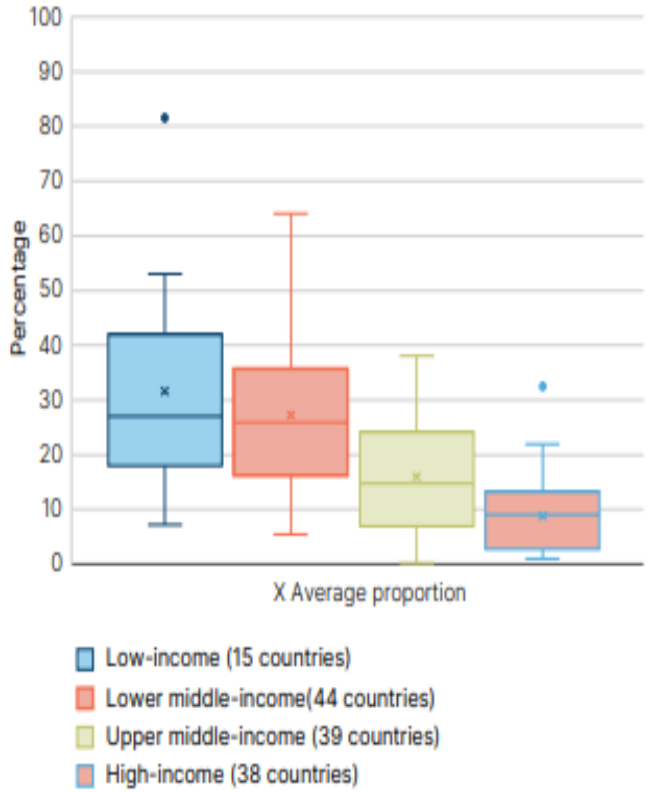
Where do we stand in implementing Target 16.5 on reducing corruption and bribery?

Figure 24: Proportion of individuals who experienced bribery, by region, 2021 or latest year since 2015



Source: United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) and Global Corruption Barometer.

Figure 25: Proportion of individuals who experienced bribery, by income level of countries, 2021 or latest year since 2015

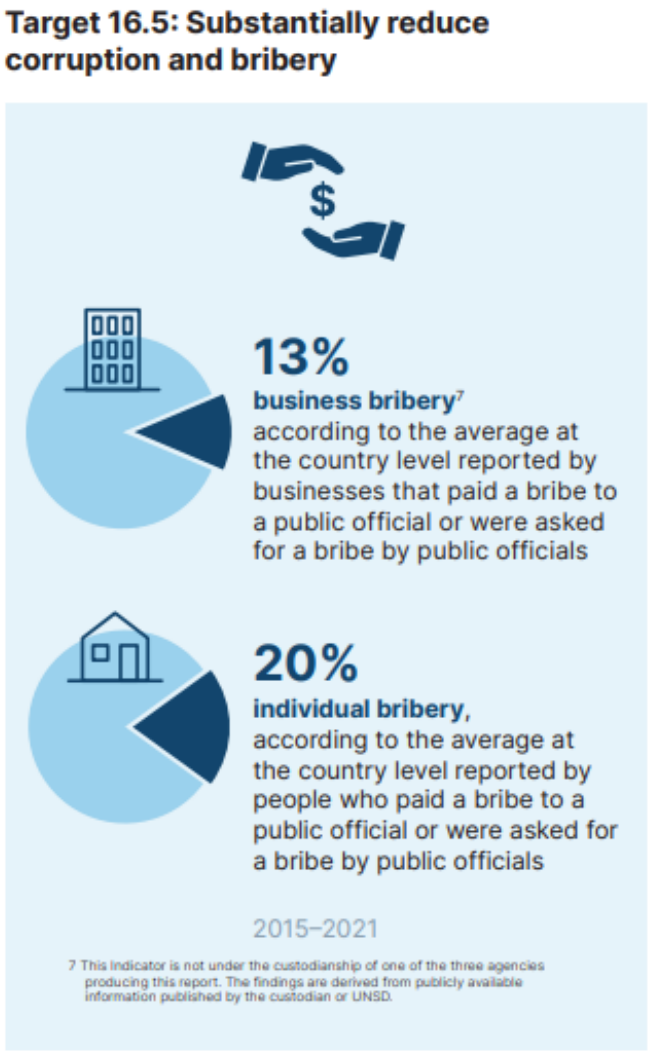


Source: United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS) and Global Corruption Barometer.

In countries in Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa, a respective annual average 29.7% and 26.6% of the population accessing public services had to pay or was asked to pay a bribe, while the figure was 10.4% in Europe and Northern America. However, in all regions there was great variability in the national prevalence of bribery experienced by individuals, most notably in Oceania.

Source: Global Progress Report on SDG 16 Indicators (UNODC, OHCHR, UNDP, 2023)

Where do we stand in implementing Target 16.5 on reducing corruption and bribery?



Based on data collected in 18 countries between 2010 and 2021, there is evidence to suggest that men are more likely than women to engage in bribery during their interactions with public officials. Data from 10 countries suggest that this gender difference is primarily influenced by different levels of interaction by women and men with sectors that are typically male dominated, such as the police, customs or the land registry

Source: Global Progress Report on SDG 16 Indicators (UNODC, OHCHR, UNDP, 2023)

What is the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs?

The Curriculum is composed of the following:

- A set of Training of Trainers Capacity Development Toolkits for 5-day face to face capacity development workshops. The trainings can be longer or shorter in duration, depending on countries' needs;
- Online Courses on key governance issues to implement the SDGs;
- Facilitated Online Training and Capacity Development Workshops;
- Customized Online and Offline Capacity Development Workshops upon request of Member States;
- Offering a Certificate of Attendance upon successful completion;
- Global Community of Practice on key governance issues;
- Hosted on UNPAN for networking and online exchange of knowledge.

Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs

CHANGING MINDSETS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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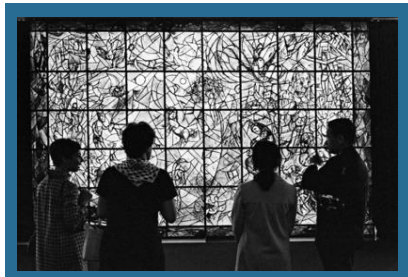
Training of Trainers I English



TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND ETHICS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

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INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES FOR POLICY COHERENCE

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EFFECTIVE NATIONAL TO LOCAL PUBLIC GOVERNANCE FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

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GOVERNMENT INNOVATION FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

UN DESA | DPIDG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers I English

RISK-INFORMED GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE

UN DESA | DPIDG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers I English

INNOVATION AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

UN DESA | DPIDG
Training of Trainers I English

E-GOVERNMENT FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

UN ESCAP & UN DESA | DPIDG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers I English

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The Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals is available at unpan.un.org

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Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals

The Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals aims to promote critical understanding of sustainable development issues, enhance governance capacity, and strengthen public servants' awareness of their active role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. It aims at developing the knowledge and capacities required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and support concrete outcomes and lasting impact. Read more ...

Training of Trainers Capacity Development Toolkits

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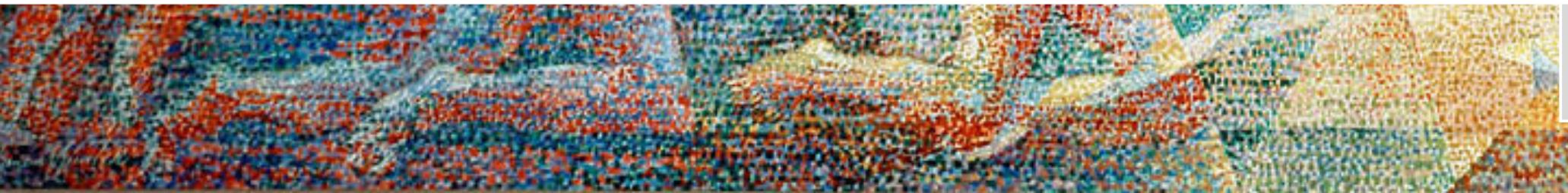
Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals

Toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions



UNPAN.UN.ORG

Toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions

Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions

Related SDGs: SDG 16

Keywords: Ethics, Accountability, Corruption, Transparency, Institutions, Mechanisms and Mindsets for Accountability, SDG16

Language: English

Objective:

The toolkit approaches integrity and effective anti-corruption in public institutions as the results of three interlinking factors: (1) Transparency of government, which enables citizens and civil society to hold governments to account, (2) Accountability, which can be enhanced by strengthening oversight institutions, and (3) Transforming mind-sets to adopt ethical standards for civil servants, who play an enabling role in upholding good governance and anti-corruption. The course intends to promote public servants' ethical awareness and transform mindsets for ethical behavior and decision-making, enabling them to become change agents and lead on integrity transformations.

Upon completion of the course, learners will:

- Undertake a values assessment vis a vis the SDGs and map capacity gaps and opportunities;
- Map and engage with key stakeholders in defining an ethics and integrity strategy;
- Understand concepts, and practical mechanisms for integrity and anti-corruption, focusing on international frameworks and standards, laws and institutions at the national level, organizational tools and processes, as well as behavioral insights to translate formal rules into desired behaviors;
- Develop a roadmap and an action plan to incorporate relevant knowledge into public servants' day-to-day work.

Training Toolkits at a Glance

Syllabus

The toolkit is comprised of the following modules and sessions that can be used to conduct a regional or national training:

Day 1: Fundamentals of Ethics and Public Integrity

- 1.1 Icebreaker exercise: How would a world without corruption look like?
- 1.2 Essentials of ethics and public integrity
- 1.3 Transparency and accountability
- 1.4 Understanding and assessing corruption

Day 2: Ethics and public integrity at the institutional and policy level

- 2.1 International frameworks for integrity and anti-corruption
- 2.2 Accountability institutions
- 2.3 Social accountability mechanisms
- 2.4 Integrity codes
- 2.5 Managing conflict of interest
- 2.6 Whistleblowing rules

Day 3: Organizational change for enhanced ethics and integrity

- 3.1 Staff management for integrity
- 3.2 Creating an organizational culture of ethics and integrity
- 3.3 Clean public procurement

Training Toolkits at a Glance

Day 4: Individual ethical behavior

4.1 Ethical leadership
4.2 Exercise: Assessing own values vis-à-vis values of organization
4.3 Behavioral insights
4.4 Exercise: How to promote desired behavioral change
4.5 Staff incentives
4.6 Capacity development, coaching and mentoring

Day 5: Exercise

5.1 Developing a strategy roadmap and action plan for enhanced ethics and public integrity

Online Training Course on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions

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Capacity Development

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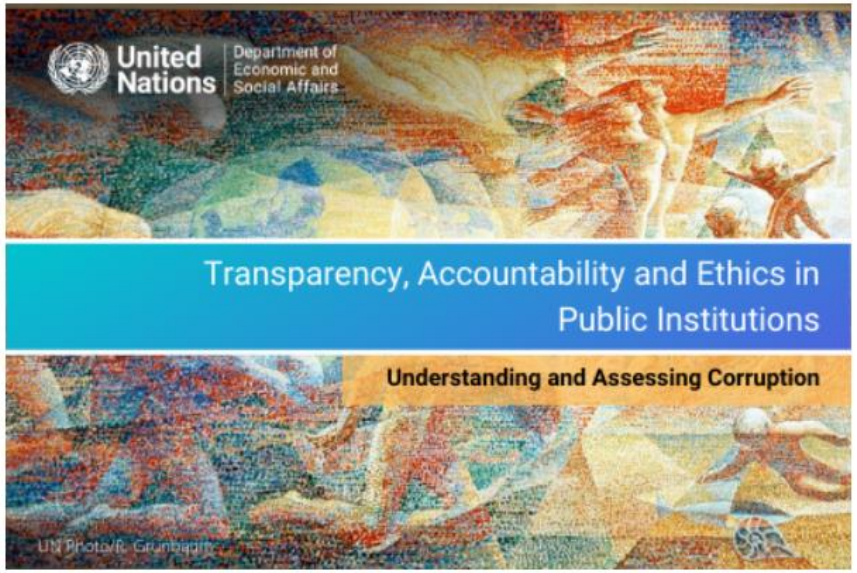
Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions



This course shows you what corruption is and who may become involved. We identify where there is a risk of corruption and what impact it has. The course also covers assessing, monitoring and a corruption risk assessment. Throughout the course you can go in-depth in chosen topics by referring to the accompanying Guide. This course is based on the Toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions that is part of the Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals, developed by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Author(s): DPIDG

Learning objective(s): You learn, what corruption is, what impact it has and how it is measured.

SDG(s): SDG16

Type: Self-paced course

Effort: Approx. 60min

Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Language(s): English

Certificate: Yes

Price: Free

Available at UN DESA Digital Learning Centre at capacity.desa.un.org

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Understanding and assessing corruption

Identifying where there is a risk of corruption

Being able to identify the context in which there is a risk of corruption is fundamental for targeting counter-measures.

Ten different types of activity are recognised as key areas where corruption can arise in the public sector. Here are the first five.

Decision-making procedures and leadership

Corruption can affect decisions within an organisation, whether with structural mechanisms or its personnel, and prevent it from functioning properly.

Controlling and regulating activities for the general public

Delivering public utility or services

Recruitment, selection and promotion

Contract administration

Source: Bàger, G (2011). Corruption Risks in Public Administration. Public Finance Quarterly, 56(1), 44-57

Select the **Next** button to continue.

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Understanding and assessing corruption

Anti-corruption indicators within SDG 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

SDG 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for peace, justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, includes a number of indicators associated with particular targets. The indicators provide a useful source of anti-corruption measures.

Each indicator on the right is useful for achieving one of the SDG targets below.

Match each indicator with the correct SDG target. Use page 3 of the Guide if you need help.

Target	Example indicator
16.4 Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	?
16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	?
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	?
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	?

- Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows
- Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information
- Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official
- Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

Confirm

Drag and drop the **correct options** into the **gaps** then select **Confirm**.

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Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions

Understanding and assessing corruption

Study Guide

You can use this Study Guide for additional information while taking the online training course on Understanding and Assessing Corruption. At the end you can find a comprehensive list of references.

1 The impact of corruption

1. **Loss of people trust**
   If basic public services are not delivered to people due to corruption, the state eventually loses its credibility and legitimacy. As a result, disappointed people might turn away from the state, retreat from political processes, migrate – or – stand up against what they perceive to be the corrupt political and economic elites.

2. **Reduced public sector performance**
   Corruption impacts service delivery, such as when police officers ask for bribes to perform routine services.

3. **Persisting inequality**
   Empirical studies have shown that the poor pay the highest percentage of their income in bribes. For example, in Paraguay, the poor pay 12.6% of their income to bribes while high-income households pay 6.4 percent.

4. **Slowed-down development**
   Corruption distorts market mechanisms, like fair competition and deters domestic and foreign investments, thus stifling growth and future business opportunities for all stakeholders. International Monetary Fund (IMF) research has shown that investment in corrupt countries is almost 5% less than

4

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Certificate

This is to certify that

Kelly Smith

has successfully completed the

Understanding and Assessing Corruption online training course

11/08/23

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Looking ahead: Summit of the Future

- The high-level **Summit of the Future** (22-23 September 2024, UNHQ, New York) brings world leaders together to forge a new international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future.

- We already have the "**what**" in the form of many existing agreements and commitments, starting with the UN Charter and including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development among others.

- The Summit of the Future will look at the "**how**" – how do we cooperate better to deliver on the above aspiration and goals? How do we better meet the needs of the present while also preparing for the challenges of the future?

- The aim of the Summit is twofold: accelerate efforts to meet our existing international commitments and take concrete steps to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities. This will be achieved through an action-oriented outcome document called the **Pact for the Future**.

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Draft Pact of the Future (Rev. 1, May 2024)

Uphold all human rights, including the right to development, and promote effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and build transparent, effective and accountable institutions.

Increase investment in sustainable development by strengthening ongoing efforts to prevent and combat illicit financial flows and address corruption, tax evasion and tax avoidance, and recover assets derived from illicit activities.

Strengthen transparency, accountability and oversight mechanisms for the use, development and deployment of data-driven technology, including artificial intelligence, to support the maintenance of international peace and security and to ensure that the use of these technologies complies with international law

Summit of the Future

Our Common Agenda

Follow the Summit of the Future live online at webtv.un.org 22-23 September 2024!

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Thank you!

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