NETWORK OF CORRUPTION PREVENTION AUTHORITIES

Charter of the Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities



v.3 as of April 29, 2021

Preamble

The Anti-Corruption bodies, organizations and institutions,
Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity among its members and partners;
Conscious of the importance of strengthening international co-operation and exchange of information to prevent and counter corruption;
Emphasizing that corruption represents a major threat to the rule of law, democracy and human rights, fairness and social justice, hinders economic development and endangers the proper and fair functioning of market economies;
Recognizing the adverse financial consequences of corruption to individuals, companies and States, as well as international institutions;
Convinced of the importance for administrative cooperation to contribute to the fight against corruption; Recalling the statements made by the Ministers of Justice or their representatives at the High-Level Conference which took place in Šibenik, Croatia, on 15-16 October 2018;
Taking into account the role and activities of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) of the Council of Europe;
Having regard to Article 5.4 and 61.2 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as the relevant resolutions of the Conference of States Parties to the UNCAC; Having regard to Principle 20 of Resolution (97)24 on the Twenty Guiding Principles for the Fight Against Corruption of the Council of Europe;

Recognize that

1. Exchange of information between anti-corruption authorities has increasingly become valuable tool in preventing corruption
2. Cooperation between relevant national anti-corruption authorities increases the effectiveness of each national anti-corruption body preventive role and contributes to the global fight against corruption
3. The sensitive nature of disclosure of information requires the national anti-corruption authorities to protect the confidentiality of such disclosures, in line with the applicable data protection regulations
4. International organizations and monitoring mechanisms, such as GRECO, play an essential role in promoting compliance with relevant international standards, the exchange of best practices and are, together with relevant national authorities, important allies in the efforts aimed at preventing corruption

5. Public awareness, through communication, education and training, remains a critical function of Corruption Prevention Authorities for the furtherance of integrity

Resolve to:

- Unite their efforts to further improve the systematic collection, management and exchange of information among anti-corruption authorities, upon request and spontaneously, in accordance with national law of the Country concerned
- Exchange information on their respective experiences and good practices
- Support the members of the network in enhancing their capacities and promoting their operational independence
- Recognize and promote the existing international standards for the prevention of corruption

Rule 1

Membership in the Network

1. Membership is open to national authorities in charge of the prevention and fight against corruption of States that have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) or to one of the Council of Europe Conventions on the fight against corruption
2. Membership in the Network shall take effect on the day following receipt by the Secretariat of the signature of the Declaration for a Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities (open for signature in Šibenik, Croatia, on 16 October 2018).
3. Other possible ways to join the Network include a Letter of notification, with signature filed no later than 1 year after the letter of notification has been sent.
4. All members are encouraged to actively participate in and contribute to the work of the Network.
5. The Network also accepts observers and partners.

Rule 2

Composition of the Network

1. Each member shall appoint at least one delegate and one substitute delegate to the Network, specifying to the Secretariat of the Network the main contact person for the purpose of exchange of information.

2. The member shall indicate the name, address, email, telephone and working languages of the designated delegates
3. Members shall notify the Secretariat of the Network of any change in the composition of its delegation.

Rule 3

Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

1. The Network shall elect in plenary its Chair and up-to 3 Vice-Chairs from among its representatives The Chair and Vice-Chair(s) shall be elected by secret ballot by simple majority for a term of two years.
2. Any member may submit candidatures for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair(s).
3. Candidatures may be submitted either in writing to the Secretariat or orally during a meeting.

Rule 4

Functions of the Chair and Vice-Chair

1. The Chair shall perform ceremonial duties and represent the Network as needed
2. The Chair shall preside over the plenary and Steering Committee meetings of the Network. S/he shall direct the work of the Network, in the interest of the Network, building consensus among its members.
3. The Chair may delegate certain of his or her functions to the Vice-Chair
4. One of the Vice-Chairs shall take the place of the Chair if the latter is unable to carry out his or her duties

Rule 5

Composition of the Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee is composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair(s) and a minimum of 4 and a maximum of
12 other members, each representing a member of the Network, taking into account a gender and geographical balance, as well as multidisciplinary expertise.
2. The Steering Committee members shall be elected by secret ballot or in other manner on which 2/3 majority of members agrees in a plenary meeting of the Network from among candidates nominated by the members of the Network for a term of two years .

3. The initial election of 4 members shall be held within a period of one year following the launch of the Network. The election of additional members shall be held following the 30th accession to the Network.

Rule 6

Functions of the Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee shall ensure collegiality in the decision-making process, encourage more members to take an active part in the Network, allow a balanced representation of the members at the decision-making level (based on continents, legal systems, gender, etc.) and promote the Network.
2. The Steering Committee shall develop a draft of the (bi)annual programme of activities and coordinate its implementation.
3. The Chair shall prepare the draft agenda for the plenary meetings to be approved by the latter at the beginning of each meeting.
4. The Steering Committee shall advise the Chair and the Vice-Chair(s) in matters related to the operation of the Network
5. The Steering Committee shall carry out any other function assigned to it by the plenary
6. The Steering Committee shall exercise its functions under the general supervision of the plenary
7. Meetings of the Steering Committee shall be convened at regular intervals by the Chair
8. A member of the Steering Committee who is absent without justification from three consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Steering Committee

Rule 7

The Secretariat

1. The network shall establish a permanent secretariat with dedicated staff and premises, to ensure continuity, coordination and strategic support for all network activities.
2. The Secretariat provides strategic, administrative and other support to the structure and overall activities of the Network, including in the preparation and conduct of plenary meetings, of the Steering Committee meetings and other meetings as appropriate.
3. Meetings of the Network may take place in the Permanent Secretariat headquarters or in any country interested in hosting them at least once in a year.

Rule 8

Exchange of information

1. All members foster the widest possible co-operation and exchange of information among them.
2. The information exchanged cannot be disseminated or used for any other purpose than the one agreed by relevant members
3. All members commit themselves to adequately protect the confidentiality of the information, in line with the applicable data protection regulations.
4. The Network shall set up a dedicated electronic communication system, ensuring protection, reliability, efficiency and effectiveness of information exchange.
5. All members shall operate independently and autonomously without any undue influence or interference.
6. All members strive to ensure cost-effectiveness of the Network and for this purpose shall actively use all available resources and existing channels of communication.

Rule 9

Functioning of The Network

1. The Network will function permanently to exchange operational information and best practices among its members
2. The network representatives will meet twice a year in plenary meetings to ensure effective coordination among its members and adoption of decisions
3. The Network may set-up working groups to actively search for solutions to practical challenges

Rule 10

Decisions of the Network

4. The decisions of the Network shall be taken by a majority of votes cast. Each country shall have one vote.



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