Integrity and Ethical Issues in Public Service: Developing Anti-Corruption for Accountable Societies

National Workshop on Transparency, Accountability & Ethics in Public Institutions

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Introduction

- Corruption thrives under conditions where ethics infrastructure is weak and ineffective.

- Public Service requires commitment to inculcate a professional environment that is infused with values of accountability, efficiency, transparency and integrity.

- Public institutions are locus of service delivery.

- International Framework: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 16); United Nations General Assembly Special Session against Corruption, United Nations Convention against Corruption.

SDG 16 Targets

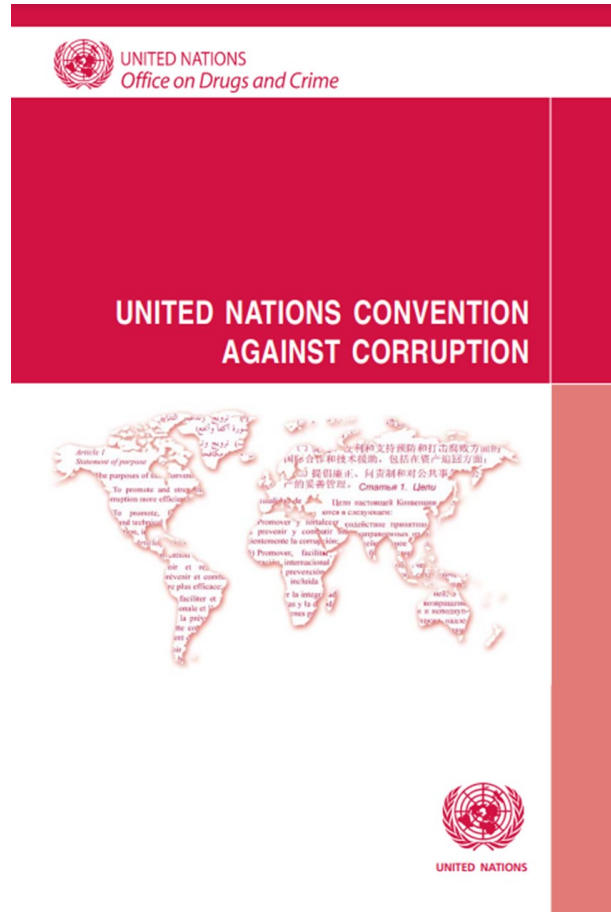- **16.6** Develop **effective**, **accountable** and **transparent** institutions at all levels

- **16.7** Ensure **responsive**, **inclusive**, **participatory** and **representative** decision-making at all levels

UNGASS Political Declaration

- "We commit to fostering a culture of **accountability**, **transparency**, legality, **integrity** and **fairness** in the public sector,

- "We will promote the development of **public ethics** and **integrity** and other related programmes for public bodies"

United Nations Convention Against Corruption: Chapter II Preventive measures

UNCAC provides key tools to foster accountability, integrity and transparency in the public sector

- Articles 5 and 6: Anti-corruption policies and bodies
- Article 7: Public sector: recruitment/retention of civil servants; rules relating to election of candidates; prevention of conflicts of interest
- Article 8: Codes of conduct for public officials; asset declarations; reporting of corruption
- Article 9: Public procurement: establishing a system based on transparency, competition and objective criteria
- Article 10: Public reporting: simplifying administrative procedures
- Article 11: Integrity of the judiciary and prosecution services

Key Principles of Preventive Measures

Transparency

Integrity

Fairness

Honesty

Responsibility

Accountability

Article 7 Public Sector

- Systems for the **recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion and retirement** of civil servants

- Criteria concerning **candidature for and election** to public office

- Transparency in the **funding of candidatures** for elected public office and, where applicable, the **funding of political parties**

- Promote **transparency and prevent conflicts of interest**

Article 8 Code of Conduct of Public Officials

- Promote integrity, honesty and responsibility
- **Codes or standards of conduct** for the correct, honourable and proper performance of public functions;
- Measures and systems to facilitate the **reporting by public officials** of acts of corruption
- **Declarations** of outside activities, employment, investments, assets and substantial gifts or benefits from which a conflict of interest may result
- **Disciplinary or other measures** against public officials who violate the codes or standards

Article 9 Public Procurement and Public Finances

- **Appropriate systems of procurement**, based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making.

- Transparency and accountability in the **management of public finances**.

- **Civil and administrative measures** to preserve the integrity of accounting books, records, financial statements or other documents related to public expenditure and revenue

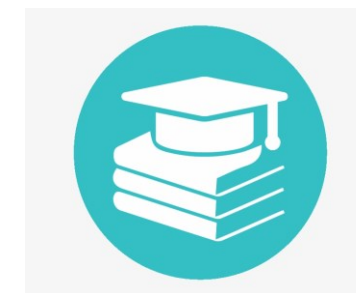# UNODC public service initiatives

Public Procurement

Prison

Judicial integrity

Public Sector Integrity

Police

Education

Public Procurement

UNODC support countries to strengthen their procurement systems and has developed tools to help them

- Guidebook on anti-corruption public procurement and management of public finances

- Use of e-procurement systems and open data to share information with other authorities

- Design and implement emergency procurement laws and regulations to address emerging and future crises

Education & Youth Empowerment

- Launched at the 9th Session of the COSP to UNCAC in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt in Dec 2021
- Mission is to create a culture of rejection of corruption among children and youth
- Strengthen the capacity of primary and secondary education institutions to teach anti-corruption, integrity and ethics
- https://grace.unodc.org

Global Judicial Integrity Network

- In 2018, UNODC launched the Global Judicial Integrity Network as a platform to provide assistance to judiciaries in strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in the justice system

- Several knowledge products, e.g., **Guide on how to develop the Codes for Judicial Conduct**

- https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/judicial-integrity.html

Conclusion

- Developing an ethical public service for an accountable society is an ongoing commitment expressed through actions and exemplary leadership.

- The commitment requires a whole society approach.

- The people of Malawi require to see ethics, transparency and accountability in all sectors of society including in the private sector.

- UNODC stand ready to work under the leadership of UNRC to partner with the Government of Malawi to realize this noble goal!

Thank you

For further information:
https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/thematic-areas.html

tumeleng.mongale@un.org