



NETWORK OF CORRUPTION
PREVENTION AUTHORITIES

Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities

Virtual Plenary Meeting

27 May 2020

Minutes of the NCPA Sixth Meeting

▪ Item 1. Opening remarks by the NCPA President

The NCPA President opened the Network's virtual plenary meeting. He was pleased to realize that, despite the distance and the various time zones, NCPA members managed to get together, to be united, and to continue their collective work. He thanked the members for their commitment, and the colleagues from the Council of Europe for their support. He also took this opportunity to welcome the NCPA's new members from Brazil, Quebec, the Palestinian Authority, and the Balearic Islands.

The President observed that the COVID-19 pandemic had once again shown how crucial corruption prevention was, and how it could play a key role in ensuring integrity, transparency, and trust in such challenging times. Nevertheless, he noted that the current crisis has also shown how corruption prevention can be disregarded, and how other priorities related to the health emergency, or the economic recovery, could easily replace concerns about anti-corruption. In this context, the President stressed that the NCPA was more important than ever. He remarked that cooperation between agencies would help them to call attention to the need for preventive measures, and to improve their own capacities and practices.

▪ Item 2. Updates on new members, observers, and partners

The NCPA Presidency and Steering Committee shared updates on new members, observers, and partners, as well as information about prospective candidates for the Network. The NCPA members discussed about their views on outreach strategies and perspectives for potential partnerships.

Since the last plenary meeting in December 2019, four new corruption prevention authorities have joined the NCPA. It was underlined that the Network's geographic outreach had been considerably expanded as representatives from diverse regions of the world acceded to the group.

Moreover, the NCPA has undertaken a new strategy of building partnerships with a vast array of stakeholders, such as international and regional organizations, think tanks, universities, and civil society organizations, in order to promote integrity and corruption prevention. The objective of such strategy is to pool resources and experiences from different sectors, and strengthen working relations between public authorities and other actors with common interests.

In the first semester of 2020, the NCPA established partnerships with the Eastern Africa Association of Anti-Corruption ([EAAACA](#)) and the [Basel Institute on Governance](#). These two entities allow the NCPA to build a qualified institutional dialogue with additional agencies (from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) and sectors. Besides, the Basel Institute, an independent not-for-profit competence center, brings in a robust experience in collective action and peer-learning related to good governance and anti-corruption.

Other potential partnerships with international organizations and multilateral fora are currently being explored. Furthermore, a number of corruption prevention authorities from Europe, Eastern Africa, the MENA region, and South America have expressed interest in collaborating more closely with the NCPA. Some of them are likely to join the Network in the coming months. In particular, many Supreme Audit Institutions seemed keen to further engage with the NCPA's activities.

▪ **Item 3. Updates on communication and awareness-raising activities**

The NCPA Presidency and Steering Committee shared updates on recent communication and awareness-raising activities, in particular the publication of the NCPA statement on the role of corruption prevention in the global response to COVID-19. This statement, which was inspired and supported by the GRECO Secretariat, is also available in [French](#) and in [Arabic](#). Members pointed out that the statement was shared with local media. Many media outlets republished the text. However, they had some questions about the NCPA, in particular they asked for the Network's logo.

It was mentioned that, thanks to the colleagues from the Council of Europe, the [NCPA website](#) was regularly updated. All members were encouraged to consult this website and share it with their contacts. The Presidency stressed that the NCPA could serve as a platform to convey strong messages that can resonate at both the national and international levels, and to remind public and private organizations, as well as individuals, that preventing corruption matters.

The NCPA members discussed about ways to affirm their collective voice through the development of a communication strategy, which should be tailored to the Network's resources. It was agreed that each member would use their own communication tools, in particular their social media accounts, to promote the NCPA's activities and statements. Besides, the

Presidency would create a LinkedIn account for the NCPA. It was also suggested to set up a calendar of NCPA activities when possible.

▪ **Item 4. Results and latest developments of ongoing projects**

The NCPA members presented the results and latest developments of their ongoing projects.

➤ *Public Integrity*

Information was shared about a project on public integrity, implemented with the OECD. The project, which started with an integrity review, includes:

- The analysis of behavioral insights related to the causes and reasons of corruption;
- The monitoring of citizens' surveys;
- Corruption risk management through the development of a special software designed to identify and evaluate integrity risks;
- Awareness raising activities.

➤ *Perception of Corruption in relation to Prevention of Corruption*

A survey was carried out among NCPA members on the topic of "Perception of Corruption in relation to Prevention of Corruption". A draft discussion paper with specific recommendations was shared by e-mail. Following the members' inputs, a revised version of the paper will be prepared and further discussed during the next plenary meeting.

➤ *Global Mapping of Anti-Corruption Authorities*

The analysis report of the global mapping of anti-corruption authorities, which presented, illustrated and examined its findings, was published online. It was remarked that very positive feedback was received so far. In addition, other anti-corruption agencies and scholars have expressed interest in this project. A French version of the report should be prepared as soon as possible.

After this publication, the project coordinators are planning to look for potential partners who might be willing to help them with the establishment of an international directory of anti-corruption authorities. It was mentioned that the mapping needed to be updated in order to reflect institutional changes regarding one NCPA member.

➤ *Guidance on Small Facilitation Payments*

A member drew attention to a good practice of the EU Ombudsman, which has published a set of [practical recommendations](#) for public officials' interaction with lobbyists, composed of 10 things that officials should do when dealing with lobbyists and 10 things they should not. The

preparation of a similar leaflet, with practical guidance on how to respond to small facilitation payments, was proposed.

➤ *Transparency in the business sector*

A member shared information about this project, which aimed at producing practical guidelines or checklist for entrepreneurs. A short online questionnaire or assessment tool for entrepreneurs was concluded, which can be accessed online.

➤ *Transparency in the legislative process*

A member presented the various mechanisms implemented domestically to enhance transparency and to ensure access to information regarding public consultation. In particular, it was highlighted that systematic feedback was provided to CSOs following their proposals, and this contributed to strengthening overall trust in public consultation processes.

➤ *Asset declarations*

Two members, in partnership with the World Bank, are carrying out a project on asset declarations. In this context, they have identified challenges to the effective monitoring of asset declarations, such as issues related to outdated land registries. A document on the topic will be drafted soon.

➤ *Transparency in the business sector*

A member presented an overview of the various initiatives aimed at promoting transparency in the business sector in their country. In particular, they mentioned the improvement and simplification of regulations relating to companies, the review of authorizations, and the establishment of new structures such as: the High Investment Council, the National Investment Fund, and the Creation of the National Register of Companies. Moreover, the concerned member highlighted the establishment of an authority in charge of ensuring access to information and of a National Electronic System for online public procurement.

➤ *Using modern tools and technologies to prevent and detect corruption*

Different corruption prevention authorities and GRECO are involved in drafting chapters for this joint study. As this emerging topic is part of the anti-corruption agenda of numerous international organizations, and should be discussed in the Special session of the General Assembly against corruption, this project could offer valuable opportunities to elevate the NCPA's message in 2021.

➤ *Impacts of National Anti-Corruption Strategies and Corruption Risk Assessment Methodology*

A member expressed their commitment to:

- Introduce a study about the impacts of national AC strategies, mainly regarding setting up indicators to measure the impact of these strategies for citizens and companies. They would do it based on their own experience, but would be glad to extend it to other interested authorities;
- Following the paper related to “Corruption Risk Assessment Methodology”, they would like to share with other members their own experience made in order to assist national departments and SOEs to conduct such analysis, and thus improve understanding of corruption, especially at the sectoral level. The document is currently under translation to both English and French.

➤ *Whistleblowing*

A member shared information about a project for fighting corruption, economic crime, and organized crime, which they are conducting with the Council of Europe and the European Union. They reviewed their Law on Whistleblowing according to the EU Directive for Whistleblower Protection, and will propose amendments. Also, they are implementing a project on Transparency and Accountability, and developing new IT tools for reporting cases by whistleblowers.

▪ **Item 5. Proposals for new projects**

A member proposed a new project on corruption prevention training. The project aims to favor the exchange of good practices and concrete experiences on training activities that NCPA members have carried out, both in the public and private sectors. The member will share a concept note with NCPA members and invite them to join this project.

A member proposed to launch the NCPA working papers/handbooks, namely a series of publications by diverse anti-corruption specialists. These papers, reviewed by a panel of NCPA members, would be published online and would contribute to promoting quality research on the fight against corruption.

▪ **Item 6. Next steps and conclusion**

The NCPA Presidency proposed to organize the next plenary meeting in September after the sessions of GRECO plenary meeting, which should be held in the week of 21 to 25 September. This will be confirmed in due course. Furthermore, the NCPA’s annual conference should be held during the second semester of 2020.