

# Anti-Corruption Ethics and Compliance Guidelines for Businesses

Based on “An Anti-Corruption  
Ethics  
and Compliance Programme  
for Business:  
A Practical Guide” by UNODC  
2013

UNITED  
AGAINST  
CORRUPTION



# Foreword

UNITED  
AGAINST  
CORRUPTION



**Corruption** is a true enemy to  
development.

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**TSAKHIAGIIN ELBEGDORJ**

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# CORRUPTION

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- Major threat to **rule of law** and **sustainable development**
- **Disproportionate, destructive** impact on **poor** and **most vulnerable**
- **Bad** for business



# CORRUPTION

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- Stifle **economic growth**
- Distort **competition**
- Present serious **legal** and **reputational** risks

# CORRUPTION

- Drive away **investors** by acting as hidden “**tax**” or *illegal overhead charge*
- Increasing **costs** for **companies** and **customers**
- **Detrimental** to all businesses — *large and small, multinational and local*



# PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY

- Companies **guard** against corruption
- **Protect** corporate image and interests of **investors, workers** and **customers**

# UN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC)

- World's **strongest** and most **comprehensive** legal instrument in fight against corruption
- **States Parties** pledged to take measures to **prevent corruption** involving private sector
- Enhance **accounting** and **auditing** standards
- Provide **penalties** for failure to comply

# UNCAC

- Recognize States **alone** cannot fight corruption
- **Companies** play critical role as **allies for change**



# GUIDELINES

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- **UNODC**
- Companies establish **effective** anticorruption ethics and compliance programme



# GUIDELINES

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- **Common elements** businesses address
- Particular emphasis on **challenges** and **opportunities** for **SMEs**
- Strengthen **collective efforts** to support **fair markets** and **stamp out corruption**

# Introduction

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# UNCAC

- Neither **governments** nor **companies** can fight corruption alone
- **Private** and **public** sectors **work together**
- **Private sector's engagement** essential to fight against corruption

# UNCAC

- Businesses responsibility to act as **good corporate citizens**
- **Fighting corruption** makes good **business sense**
- **Well-executed** anti-corruption ethics and compliance programme yields **greater value** over time

# EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Rapid development of rules of **corporate governance**
- Companies focus on **anti-corruption measures**
- Essential component of mechanisms to protect **reputation and interests of investors and shareholders**

# EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- **Increased costs** due to **corrupt payments**
- Unfavourable **dependencies** between supply and demand side of corrupt act (resulting in continuous extortion requests) or missed **business opportunities** in distorted markets

# EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Corruption **illegal**
- Companies face **serious consequences** for violating law
- Going beyond **legal penalties**
- Strong impact on **reputation**



# EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Countering corruption require more than **complying** with **domestic laws** and avoiding **negative consequences**
- Encouraged to **set themselves apart** from peers

# EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- November 2010 **G20** leaders
- **Anti-Corruption Action Plan**
- Closer “**public-private partnerships**” against corruption

# 2011

- **G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group**
- Acknowledged work by OECD World Bank and UNODC
- “... to bring together **existing guidelines and related material** on private sector anti-corruption compliance in one, easily accessible, location”.

# GUIDELINES

- Jointly **developed** by OECD, World Bank and UNODC
- **Consultations** held and **inputs** received from *International Bar Association (IBA), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), World Economic Forum Partnering against Corruption Initiative (PACI), Transparency International (TI), Basel Institute on Governance, and Business and Industry Advisory Committee to OECD (BIAC)*

# GUIDELINES

- **Practical considerations** for developing, implementing and continuously improving anti-corruption ethics and compliance programme
- Challenges and opportunities for **small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** emphasized

# GUIDELINES

- **Practical information** for companies of all sizes regarding public disclosure of anti-corruption endeavours
- Demonstrate **commitment** to fundamental values of **integrity, transparency** and **accountability**

**VANITY IS A PRINCIPLE OF  
CORRUPTION.**

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