Transparency Systems to Promote Social Accountability

Submitted by: UNODC
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Transparency and Accountability

- Assumption that increased transparency will allow for better oversight – internal and external
- Better oversight = accountability
Integrity in Public Procurement

UNCAC art 9: transparency, objectivity and competition
- Ensuring transparency and effective civic oversight and enforcement mechanisms are put in place
- Using electronic tools and portals to facilitate and simplify procurement procedures and to provide access to information and promote civic engagement

The trend: increasingly broad use of IT
- A number of States are moving from systems which passively provide information to systems which allow for interaction with users
  - establishing Internet procurement portals with templates of documents
  - fully integrated e-procurement solutions
• **Interesting examples:**

  • Use of ICT and internet portals to conduct public consultations on future procurement procedures
  • Use of ICT to manage the whole procurement process and to analyse the results of the procurement
  • Use of ICT for procurement fraud detection (identification of conflicts of interests and fraud patterns)
Transparency and Accountability in the Management of Public Finances

• Introducing measures for ensuring transparency and civic oversight of budgetary spending
• The importance of strong and effective systems of auditing public finances
• How to introduce effective risk management systems
Proactive Disclosure of Information

Many countries have established transparency portals to release information on:

• Government contracts
• Procurement contracts of infrastructure, schools, hospitals
• Government spending and audit reports
• Asset and interest disclosure systems
Reporting of Corruption

- Hotlines, website and mobile phone applications for reporting corruption
  - Benefit of having multiple options
  - Success depends on familiarity and trust

- Some allow for anonymous or confidential reporting

- Ex: Papua New Guinea’s Min of Finance – Phones against Corruption
Conclusions

• Transparency is not enough in itself to ensure accountability
• Heavy reliance on citizens and civil society to provide oversight is not always effective
  • Countries have raised awareness and provided training to civil society as to importance of role
• Need to have trust in the authorities to report corruption

➢ Where these exist, transparency can be powerful tool!
For more information:

www.unodc.org/corruption
www.track.unodc.org

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