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VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

THE COVID-19, ANTI-CORRUPTION, AND PROCUREMENT

MAINTAINING TRANSPARENCY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

28 May 2020 @ 11:00 am (Doha time)

Concept Note ▶

Event description

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Rule of Law & Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) will host a special Virtual Roundtable on the current priorities on anti-corruption and transparent procurement practices and will suggest priorities development actors can adopt to minimize the threat corruption poses to an effective response to the crisis.

The event will bring together international experts to discuss the relevant questions and next steps pertaining to anti-corruption and the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, and to exchange practical experiences from the current response to increasing fraud threats.

Background

Governments across the world are intensifying their efforts to combat the global spread of COVID-19 by enacting various measures to support public health systems, safeguard the economy and to ensure public order and safety.

Unfortunately, corruption finds fertile ground to thrive in times of crisis. Dramatic increases in the amounts and speed of spending, as well as distractions or breakdowns that interfere with oversight mechanisms, can allow powerful actors to take advantage of the crisis for their own benefit.

Identifying these corruption risks before they happen can help strengthen our global response to the pandemic, and therefore prevent further damage to societies, and maintained in existing investments.

Discussion objectives

Considering the current global health pandemic, and in the spirit of "leaving no one behind", this virtual roundtable aims to exchange information on how the current situation is affecting transparency and anti-corruption around the world and to provide answers to the following key questions:

- What would be the global pandemic's effect on procurement-related corruption?
- Which are the key implications for regulatory bodies and law enforcement?
- What would be the impact of this uncertain economic climate in corruption investigations?
- How to reduce the risks of mismanagement and corruption without compromising the speed and flexibility the crisis demands?

Target audience

The event is open to all and is targeting all anti-corruption stakeholders, with a particular focus on the following groups:

- Public sector officials;
- Representatives from the private sector and academia;
- Civil Society representatives.

Speakers

- Welcome remarks, Dr. Yasser Refaie - Director of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center
 - Dr. Reem Al Ansari - Director of Research and Studies, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center
 - Dr. Anwar Masadeh - Professor of Law, Ahmed Bin Mohamed Military College, Qatar
- Moderator, Mr. Alex Mejia - Division Director, UNITAR and Editor-in-Chief, UN Special Magazine

