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New York Recommendations on the Future of Corruption Measurement

Second Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Corruption Measurement

United Nations Headquarters
New York, 2–4 December 2025





Introduction

As emphasized by the UN General Assembly at its special session against corruption in 2021, corruption endangers the stability and security of societies, undermines the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values, and justice, and jeopardizes sustainable development and the rule of law. It is imperative to have a comprehensive, accurate picture of corruption and its impact across all levels of society to prevent and combat it effectively.

Yet, the international community continues to face significant challenges in capturing an accurate picture of the extent, incidence, and prevalence of corruption within countries, owing, inter alia, to the complexities of measurement, the different manifestations and hidden nature of corruption, limited resources or capacity, and a disconnect between national efforts in preventing and combating corruption and scores obtained in international indices.

Nonetheless, Member States, international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders have made significant strides toward closing these gaps and strengthening the evidence base for action. Some international statistical frameworks for assisting countries to measure corruption have already been developed and welcomed by the UN Statistical Commission, including the UNODC Statistical Framework to Measure Corruption . These frameworks could serve as starting points for guiding national statistical efforts to measure corruption and for informing the public on States's efforts against corruption.



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To reflect on achievements and challenges in measuring corruption, the Second Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Corruption Measurement was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 to 4 December 2025, bringing together over 500 participants from around the world.

The conference was convened by the United Nations Development Programme, the International Anti-Corruption Academy, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank, and with the participation of the African Integrity Indicator, Basel Institute on Governance, the Government Transparency Institute, IMD World Competitiveness Center, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, International Monetary Fund, INTOSAI Development Initiative, Transparency International, the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, the Open Contracting Partnership, the Open Ownership, the World Justice Project and the UN Global Compact, and brought together participants from academic institutions and civil society organizations, representatives of the private sector, and delegates from more than 100 Member States.

The participants and organizers expressed appreciation and gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Conference and shared their experiences and insights, to assist countries in developing more effective strategies to prevent and counter corruption, particularly the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (NAZAHA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for their financial contribution to organizing this Conference.

Building on the Vienna Principles Towards a Global Framework for the Measurement of Corruption, the outcome of the First Global Conference on Measuring Corruption held in 2023, and resolutions 8/10 and 10/4 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, this global conference took stock of progress and challenges in corruption measurement and further consolidated a shared commitment to developing actionable, methodologically robust approaches to corruption measurement to strengthen the foundations for evidence-based anti-corruption policy reforms.

While recognizing the limitations of different types of corruption measurement, the conference reaffirmed that many forms of corruption can and should be measured objectively, reliably, and credibly, and that robust data, verified by Member States, are essential for preventing and combating corruption, ensuring accountability, and fostering trust in institutions. The conference highlighted progress in developing methodologies and indicators, and in using diverse data sources, including global, regional, and national population and business surveys; criminal justice, procurement, and financial administrative records; and innovative data sources, that leverage artificial intelligence and machine learning, in accordance with domestic laws. The role of national statistical offices in generating data that are relevant to understand corruption was also highlighted.

Participants emphasized the need to go beyond the measurement of perception of corruption towards more experience-based data, while recognizing that perception remains important for understanding social behaviours in relation to corruption. Participants also highlighted challenges in measuring corruption and the need for capacity building and technical cooperation, considering also that corruption continues to evolve. Areas requiring further methodological development include data collection, analysis, and dissemination, to strengthen the evidence base to better identify corruption risks and trends, assess institutional effectiveness, and support more effective anti-corruption policies.

To ensure measurement tools are accessible, supporting States in building sustainable national capacity for corruption measurement is imperative. By assisting States in strengthening national data systems, leveraging innovative tools, and fostering inclusive participation, the Vienna Principles can be transformed into practice, enabling countries to generate reliable evidence, strengthen accountability, enhance prevention, and make anti-corruption strategies more effective. This is also relevant to ensure fair competition for private-sector entities to thrive, and to create a level playing field within business environments.

The need for domestic resources, complemented by international support where requested, was highlighted to support countries in overcoming resource constraints and challenges in measuring corruption. The focus should be on targeted technical cooperation and capacity building in methodological development and its implementation to ensure the sustainability of data collection, analysis, and the dissemination of high-quality data.

Way forward: New York Recommendations on the Future of Corruption Measurement

Building on the outcomes of the three-day discussion at the Second Global Conference, participating delegates and experts underscored the following key recommendations :



Recommendation 1: Strengthening National Data Systems to Produce Quality Data

National statistical offices and anti-corruption agencies need to collaborate closely to strengthen national data systems. This partnership can ensure the use of comparable national methodologies, integrating both traditional and innovative data sources. Additionally, adequate human, technical, technological, and financial resources should be allocated to strengthening national capacity to sustainably collect, compile, analyze, and disseminate quality data on corruption trends, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of anti-corruption and integrity measures and reforms, and to consider mobilizing support for such purposes.

Data from diverse national sources should be employed and interlinked using mixed-method approaches to measure various aspects of corruption and assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of anti-corruption and integrity measures and reforms. They should also integrate direct corruption measures, risk indicators, and data on policy implementation to inform evidence-based decision-making on policy reform, drive advocacy, and assist scientific research. Voluntary sharing of statistical data between countries, in accordance with domestic legal frameworks, should also be considered to measure transnational aspects of corruption.

To ensure that data is handled adequately and responsibly among all relevant institutions, steps should be taken to facilitate the prompt exchange of data between national institutions, removing possible obstacles, and ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to govern the collection, sharing, processing, and publication of data in a manner that is efficient, ethical, and in accordance with domestic laws.

National coordination mechanisms should be established to improve data availability and interoperability, and facilitate the collection, exchange, analysis, and dissemination of quality data within and between institutions, including through leveraging technology. Inclusion of all relevant government entities should be encouraged with a view to ensuring data availability and increasing ownership. This may include law enforcement authorities, criminal justice institutions, supreme audit and oversight institutions, tax authorities, and financial intelligence units. Furthermore, to expand the range of data sources and to further enhance the legitimacy and credibility of data and increase ownership, measurement efforts should consider involving academic institutions, civil society organizations, or the private sector, as appropriate.

Targeted training, financial support, and methodological guidance should be provided to countries developing or strengthening corruption measurement systems, including support for survey design, use of administrative data, data integration, use of digital sources, and robust data analytics methods and user-friendly dissemination. To foster mutual learning, it is also encouraged to share good practices and challenges through relevant international and regional fora, including through the Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Corruption Measurement.



Recommendation 2: Enhance Coordination Among Corruption Measurement Efforts

Measurement tools can be a valuable means of helping countries focus their efforts and inform domestic policy-making. Efforts should prioritize institutions, sectors, and regions where evidence indicates the most significant risks of corruption, including through multi-dimensional impact analyses. Efforts to enhance corruption measurement by relevant stakeholders should be coordinated, as appropriate, to avoid redundancy, increase cost-efficiency, and maximize reach and impact.

States should be supported in their efforts to develop, improve, pilot, and use statistical tools to measure corruption and assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of anti-corruption and integrity measures and reforms, taking into account the Vienna Principles.

Tools intended for voluntary use across multiple countries must remain flexible to account for differing political, legal, and institutional frameworks and different capacities to collect, produce, analyse, exchange, and disseminate data. Tool development should be nationally anchored, reflect national and sub-national needs, and be integrated into existing national frameworks to ensure alignment with national and/or local contexts.

Corruption measurement can adopt a phased approach, starting with a minimum set of indicators, which could be drawn from the UNODC Statistical Framework to Measure Corruption, and expanding gradually as national priorities and capacity permit.



Recommendation 3: Leveraging Technology

To strengthen the measurement of corruption and/or assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of anti-corruption and integrity measures and reforms, technology should be leveraged within available resources and in accordance with domestic law. This application can expand coverage, improve timeliness, enhance diagnostic value, and provide early warning signs of corruption risks. These tools should be deployed ethically and transparently, with safeguards to protect privacy, ensure accountability, and reinforce the quality and credibility of results. To fully optimize the use of these resources, all relevant institutions should conduct knowledge-building activities to make use of these tools.

If measurement and/or assessment results are voluntarily published or permission to publish them is granted, technology could be used to present the information in a user-friendly, interactive, and visualized manner, while also presenting the methodology used and any of its limitations.



Recommendation 4: Fostering International Cooperation

To advance global efforts in corruption measurement, experts and institutions engaged in anti-corruption activities and statistics are encouraged to collaborate with countries to reconvene and institutionalize the Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Corruption Measurement. The conference should be established as a recurring forum held every two years for coordination and monitoring, serving as a global peer-learning platform for sharing good practices and challenges from all regions. Global experts are also encouraged to share good practices and lessons learned through relevant fora such as the UNCAC Conference of States Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network).



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