



2022 G20 Bali Summit Final Compliance Report

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Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.
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5. Crime and Corruption: Bribery

“We will continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing our obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing our commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.”

G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada		0	
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia	-1		
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Türkiye		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.55 (78%)	

Background

According to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), corporate vehicles have been “misused for illicit purposes, including money laundering (ML), bribery and corruption, insider dealings, tax fraud, terrorist financing (TF) and other illegal activities.”⁵⁵⁷ However, making information regarding the legal and beneficial ownership, the origin of assets, and activities of corporate entities promptly accessible to relevant authorities could result in a considerable reduction in the misuse of these entities, so the FATF has established standards on transparency, to “deter and prevent the misuse of corporate vehicles.” To encourage financial rules that mitigate hazards and avert impending financial crises, the G20 has implemented the regulations of FATF regarding the identification of the real owner of assets.

At the 2008 Washington Summit, G20 members first emphasized the importance of promoting integrity in financial markets, calling on members to put in place both national and international actions to safeguard the global financial system against uncooperative and non-transparent jurisdictions that carry the danger of illegal financial activities and urging the Financial Action Task Force to “continue its important work against money laundering and terrorist financing.”⁵⁵⁸

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, the G20 members reiterated their commitment to sustain the progress made in addressing tax havens, money laundering, corruption-generated profits, financing of terrorism, and prudential regulations, welcomed the progress made by the FATF in the fight against money laundering

⁵⁵⁷ FATF Guidance on Transparency and Beneficial Ownership (Paris) October 2014. Access Date: 28 January 2023. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/Guidance-transparency-beneficial-ownership.pdf>

⁵⁵⁸ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 28 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

and terrorist financing, and called upon the FATF to “issue a public list of high-risk jurisdictions by February 2010.”⁵⁵⁹

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, the G20 members re-stated their goal of addressing countries that do not cooperate and are evaluated in terms of tax havens, combatting money laundering and terrorism financing, and compliance with prudential standards in a thorough, uniform, and clear manner, and reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the FATF and regional bodies that follow the FATF’s approach to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, along with frequent publication of a public inventory of regions with major shortcomings, encouraging the FATF to persist in overseeing and improving worldwide adherence to international regulations for preventing money laundering and financing of terrorism.⁵⁶⁰

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their dedication to preventing non-cooperative jurisdictions from posing threats to the stability of the global financial system. They also appreciated the continued efforts of the Financial Stability Board (FSB), Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information (Global Forum), and the FATF in conducting comprehensive, consistent, and transparent assessments.”⁵⁶¹

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 members supported the efforts made by the FATF of identifying and engaging jurisdictions that have deficiencies with their “Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT).” The G20 urged all states that were lacking in sufficient progress or compliance to strengthen their AML/CFT systems in alignment with the FATF. Furthermore, G20 members called for the implementation of the FATF standards for transparency in areas such as cross-border wires, beneficial ownership, customer due diligence, and due diligence.⁵⁶²

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 members declared their support for the renewal of the FATF mandate, ensuring the continuity of worldwide endeavors to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and welcomed the adoption of the new FATF standards and the advancements achieved by FATF in pinpointing and supervising high-risk regions that lack essential Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT) measures, utilizing AML/CFT tools to combat corruption, improving the transparency of business entities, and enhancing collaboration to combat tax-related offenses, dealing with the hazards posed by tax havens, as well as broadening the scope and the efficacy of AML/CFT measures, while also accounting for endeavors towards financial inclusion.⁵⁶³

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 members renewed their commitment to supporting the FATF’s efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, which also play a significant role in addressing additional offenses, including tax-related crimes, corruption, terrorism, and drug trafficking, encouraging all countries to “tackle the risks raised by opacity of legal persons and legal arrangements” and committing to implement actions to guarantee that we fulfill the FATF requirements regarding the recognition of the real owners of businesses and other legal structures, including trusts, which are also pertinent to taxation, promised to make this information promptly accessible to law enforcement, tax agencies, and other relevant entities, complying with the necessary privacy laws, such as through central databases or other suitable means.⁵⁶⁴

⁵⁵⁹ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 June 2009. Access Date: 28 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

⁵⁶⁰ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 28 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

⁵⁶¹ G20 Seoul Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 28 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2010seoul.html>

⁵⁶² Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannesdeclaration-111104-en.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannesdeclaration-111104-en.html)

⁵⁶³ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 28 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

⁵⁶⁴ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 28 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members endorsed the 2015-16 G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan that will support growth and resilience, and called for the “enhance mutual legal assistance, recovery of the proceeds of corruption and denial of safe haven to corrupt officials.”⁵⁶⁵

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 members continued their engagement by calling on the FATF to “report back to our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors by their first meeting in 2016 on the steps countries are taking to address the weaknesses identified to cut off terrorism-related financial flows.”⁵⁶⁶

The 2016 Hangzhou Summit called upon G20 members, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank Group to increase their assistance for developing nations to enhance their ability to meet international anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing, as well as prudential guidelines.⁵⁶⁷

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members committed to advance the effective implementation of the global standards of transparency and beneficial ownership of legal persons and arrangements to continue combating money laundering and terrorism financing.⁵⁶⁸

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 members committed to regulate crypto assets for anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing in a way that is aligned with the FATF’s standards.⁵⁶⁹

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment of the full, effective, and swift implementation of the amended FATF standards to virtual assets, such as crypto assets, as well as related providers for anti-money laundering and combating terrorist financing.⁵⁷⁰

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members affirmed their support of the AML/CFT policy that was outlined in the FATF’s report on COVID-19. G20 members reaffirmed their support for the FATF and the global standard it has set out to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing. G20 members also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen “the FATF’s Global Network of regional bodies, including by supporting their expertise in mutual evaluations, and call for the full, effective and swift implementation of the FATF standards worldwide” alongside their strong commitment “to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of these threats.”⁵⁷¹

At the 2021 Rome Summit, G20 members reasserted their “full support for the FATF and the Global Network,” noting “the relevance of the risk-based approach of the FATF recommendations with the aim to ensure legitimate cross-border payments and to promote financial inclusion” and encouraged the “strengthening the FATF recommendations to improve beneficial ownership transparency.”⁵⁷²

At the 2022 Bali Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment on achieving the strategic objectives of the FATF and its regional bodies that emulate its approach, to spearhead international endeavors aimed at combatting money laundering, terrorism financing, and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, indicated their support for the “ongoing work of the FATF to 17 enhance global efforts to seize criminal proceeds and return funds to victims and states in line with domestic frameworks,” and

⁵⁶⁵ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 29 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

⁵⁶⁶ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 29 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communication.html>

⁵⁶⁷ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 29 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

⁵⁶⁸ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 29 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁶⁹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 29 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁷⁰ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁷¹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 29 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵⁷² G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/211031-declaration.html>

encouraged all G20 members to “strengthen collaboration to adopt and effectively implement the FATF standards.”⁵⁷³

Commitment Features

At the 2022 Bali Summit, G20 leaders committed to “continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing their obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing their commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.”⁵⁷⁴

This commitment can be broken down into two components: 1) strengthening existing anti-corruption efforts, including through the use of legally binding instruments and 2) implementing new zero tolerance anti-corruption efforts. Both components must be fulfilled in order for G20 members to receive full compliance.

“Strengthen” is understood as making something stronger.⁵⁷⁵ In the context of this commitment, it refers to making the existing efforts stronger by working on international cooperation and legal frameworks through existing stakeholders, networks and initiatives to increase engagement and advance a culture of integrity. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to, academia, civil society, media and the private sector. Networks and initiatives include GlobE, the G20 Denial of Entry Experts Network and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Anti-Bribery Convention to combat economic crimes including corruption related to organized crime and money laundering on a voluntary basis.⁵⁷⁶

“Implement” is understood as taking steps forward, specifically in the near future, to give practical effect something by means of concrete measures.⁵⁷⁷ In the context of this commitment, it refers to taking active new measures to combat corruption. Although the commitment is part of a longer-term initiative with actions continued into the prolonged future, steps must be taken in the near future to be considered implementation. This should not, therefore, be interpreted to mean only prolonged or delayed action.⁵⁷⁸

“Obligation” is understood as “something one is bound to do.”⁵⁷⁹

“Commitment” is understood as “an agreement or pledge to do something in the future.”⁵⁸⁰

“Anti-corruption” is understood as “opposing, discouraging or punishing corruption.”⁵⁸¹ In the context of this commitment, it refers to compliance programs with the aim of preventing corruption practices and promoting anti-bribery principles and measures into the society.⁵⁸²

“Legally binding instruments” are understood as means by which an obligation is imposed in accordance with the law.⁵⁸³ In the context of this commitment, it refers to the creation of new efforts to hold both the public and private sector accountable by criminalizing corruption and promoting its prevention, combat, detection, investigation, prosecution and sanction. These measures must hold the G20 member accountable to their commitment, without allowing them to divert from their goals towards anti-bribery and anti-

⁵⁷³ G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2022. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

⁵⁷⁴ G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2022. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

⁵⁷⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2023. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵⁷⁶ G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2022. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

⁵⁷⁷ Implement, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/implement>

⁵⁷⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2023.

⁵⁷⁹ Obligation, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/obligation>

⁵⁸⁰ Commitment, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/commitment>

⁵⁸¹ Anti-corruption, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/anti-corruption>

⁵⁸² Anti-corruption, IGI Global. Access Date: 2 March 2023. <https://www.igi-global.com/dictionary/anti-corruption/69257>

⁵⁸³ Legally, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/legally>; Binding, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/binding>; Instrument, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/instrument>

corruption. These legally binding measures include, but are not limited to, denying safe haven to corruption offenders and their assets in accordance with domestic laws.⁵⁸⁴

“Zero tolerance” is understood as “complete lack of tolerance for something.”⁵⁸⁵ In the context of this commitment, it refers to the G20 leaders’ intentions to eliminate corruption entirely.

“Corruption” is understood as “active or passive misuse of the powers of public officials (appointed or elected) for private financial or other benefits.”⁵⁸⁶ In the context of this commitment, it refers to any form of corruption, but especially bribery. This includes the bribery of foreign public officials or officials of a public international organization, in line with Article 16 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.⁵⁸⁷

The depth component, or the strength of the action required for compliance with the commitment, can be divided into strong and weak actions. Examples of strong action include: domestic legal regulation, such as changes in the legislations, the constitution or new federal-sub federal jurisdictional agreements to address corruption or strengthen zero tolerance anti-corruption efforts; enforcement of anti-corruption policy or judicial action, such as the arrest of corrupt government officials; expansion or creations of programs that incentivize the criminalization of bribery, the effective prevention, combat, detection, investigation, prosecution and sanction of bribery; monetary or personnel allocation to domestic and international networks and initiatives such as GlobE and the G20 Denial of Entry Experts Network, change in fiscal or monetary policy, support for existing offices and departments that address corruption, or the creation of new ones; denial of safe haven to people found guilty of corruption, as well as the freezing of their assets. Examples of weak action include: verbal reference and reaffirmation to the commitment; promotion of active participation by stakeholders such as academia, civil society, media and the private sector; assignment of the responsibility for action to a specified national official for implementation; international information sharing of relevant information to combat money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing; international organization, or the participation in international efforts, such as the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention in line with the FATF priorities and its FATF Style Regional Bodies. If a G20 member does not utilize “legally binding instruments,” such as denial of safe haven to corruption offenders and their assets or drafting and passing of new laws against corruption, it will only be awarded partial compliance.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G20 members that take strong actions to address corruption AND strengthen zero tolerance anti-corruption efforts, including legally binding instruments.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G20 members that have taken some action to address corruption OR strengthen zero tolerance anti-corruption efforts.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned to G20 members that have NOT taken actions to address corruption NOR strengthen zero tolerance anti-corruption efforts.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member has NOT taken actions to address corruption NOR strengthen zero tolerance anti-corruption efforts
0	The G20 member has taken some action to address corruption OR strengthen zero tolerance anti-corruption efforts
+1	The G20 member has taken strong actions to address corruption AND strengthen zero tolerance anti-corruption efforts, including legally binding instruments

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⁵⁸⁴ G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2022. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2022/221116-declaration.html>

⁵⁸⁵ Zero tolerance, Oxford English Dictionary. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <https://www.oed.com/view/Entry/68792267>

⁵⁸⁶ Corruption, OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 31 January 2023. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4773>

⁵⁸⁷ United Nations Convention against Corruption, UN General Assembly (New York) 31 October 2003. Access Date: 31 January 2023. https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/tools_and_publications/UN-convention-against-corruption.html

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 26 December 2022, the Argentine government announced the launch of the Observatory of Public Works, aimed at promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in public works projects.⁵⁸⁸ The observatory will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the execution of public works projects across the country, with the goal of promoting efficiency and preventing corruption. It will also seek to foster public trust in government institutions and promote citizen participation in decision-making processes related to public works.

On 28 December 2022, the Cabinet Chief of Ministers Office signed a technical cooperation agreement with the National Audit Office to collaborate on the development of joint actions to strengthen transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption measures.⁵⁸⁹ The agreement aims to promote the exchange of information and experiences to improve public management and prevent and combat corruption. The agreement also seeks to establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the progress made in implementing anti-corruption initiatives.

On 17 January 2023, Argentina participated in the XVII Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean.⁵⁹⁰ The country's delegation stressed the need to promote transparency and accountability in public management, highlighting the importance of combating corruption and implementing affective anti-corruption measures. The conference discussed various topics related to economic and social development, including policies to strengthen public institutions to improve governance and combat corruption. Argentina's participation in this conference shows its commitment to regional efforts to address corruption and promote good governance.

On 23 January 2023, the Ministry of Infrastructure of Argentina launched the "Integrity in Action" project, aimed at promoting transparency and public trust in the country's public infrastructure projects.⁵⁹¹ The project is focused on improving accountability and ethical behavior in public procurement processes by providing training for public officials and contractors on anti-corruption measures and good governance practices. The goal is to increase public confidence in government institutions and improve the quality and effectiveness of public infrastructure projects. By promoting transparency and integrity in public infrastructure projects, the government hopes to reduce the risk of corruption and ensure that public funds are used efficiently and effectively.

On 3 March 2023, the Ministry of Interior Affairs signed an agreement with Santa Fe's governor to enable the Security Forces of the province to use the Secure Identification System along with financing to municipalities for the acquisition of 600 state-of-the-art surveillance cameras with facial recognition for the city of Rosario and surrounding areas, to provide support to the security policy in the province.⁵⁹² The main

⁵⁸⁸ Observatorio de la Obra Pública: Confianza Ciudadana y Políticas de Transparencia, Ministry of Public Works (Buenos Aires) 26 December 2022. Access date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/observatorio-de-la-obra-publica-confianza-ciudadana-y-politicas-de-transparencia>

⁵⁸⁹ La Jefatura de Gabinete firmó un convenio de cooperación técnica con la Sindicatura General de la Nación, Cabinet Chief of Ministers Office (Buenos Aires) 28 December 2022. Access date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-jefatura-de-gabinete-firmo-un-convenio-de-cooperacion-tecnica-con-la-sindicatura-0>

⁵⁹⁰ Participación argentina en la XVII Conferencia de Ministros y Jefes de Planificación de América Latina y el Caribe organizada por la CEPAL, Cabinet Chief of Ministers Office (Santiago de Chile) 17 January 2023. Access Date: 28 April 2023.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participacion-argentina-en-la-xvii-conferencia-de-ministros-y-jefes-de-planificacion-de>
⁵⁹¹ 'Integridad en Acción', un proyecto para la transparencia y confianza ciudadana en la obra pública, Ministry of Public Works (Buenos Aires) 23 January 2023. Access date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/integridad-en-accion-un-proyecto-para-la-transparencia-y-confianza-ciudadana-en-la-obra>

⁵⁹² Wado de Pedro: "Con la seguridad no se especula; combatir al crimen organizado requiere de políticas de Estado y del esfuerzo de todos los sectores", Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 03 March 2023. Access date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/wado-de-pedro-con-la-seguridad-no-se-especula-combatir-al-crimen-organizado-requiere-de>

purpose of these actions is coordination with other government agencies with focus on identifying and prosecuting individuals and organizations involved in money laundering and terrorism financing activities.

On 6 March 2023, the Ministry of Public Works launched a new website called GeoMOP, aimed at providing citizens and government officials with access to detailed geographic information about public works projects throughout the country.⁵⁹³ The website features interactive maps and other tools that allow users to view information about projects, including their location, status, and budget. This initiative promotes transparency and accountability in public works projects, making it easier for citizens to track the progress of projects and hold government officials accountable for their use of public funds.

On 14 March 2023, the Anti-Corruption Office (OA) participated in the Special Session on Corruption and Gender at the Organization of American States.⁵⁹⁴ The national director of Public Ethics of the Transparency Policies Planning Directorate of the OA, Natalia Torres, presented the paper “The path towards sustainable integrity: the incorporation of the gender perspective in preventive policy.” She mentioned the various policies that the OA incorporates a human rights perspective, including the National Integrity and Transparency Registry for Companies and Entities (RITE). RITE I addressed integrity as anti-corruption since January, but RITE II intends to expand the understanding of integrity by incorporating the human rights perspective. Representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe, the Summits Secretariat of the Americas, the OAS Inter-American Women’s Convention, the “Women and Corruption” initiative of the European Union Cooperation Program, Poder Ciudadano (the Argentine Chapter of Transparency International, as well as representatives of various MESICIC member states such as Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the United States, Mexico, Panama and Peru participated in this session.

On 16 March 2023, the Network of Integrity and Transparency Areas held its first meeting of the year, attended by representatives from different areas of the Argentine government.⁵⁹⁵ The objective of the meeting was to discuss strategies to promote transparency, accountability, and ethical behavior within the public sector. Participants shared best practices, experiences, and challenges related to the implementation of integrity policies and procedures and discussed ways to strengthen institutional frameworks and prevent corruption. The meeting highlights the government’s commitment to combat corruption and promote transparency in its operations.

On 17 March 2023, Minister of Public Works Gabriel Katopodis, participated in the first plenary meeting of the Observatory of Public Works, created by Decree 128/2023 aimed at promoting transparency and fighting corruption in public works projects.⁵⁹⁶ The Observatory will monitor and evaluate the development of public works projects, identify and report any irregularities or malpractices, and promote best practices and standards in public procurement. The creation of this Observatory reflects the government’s commitment to transparency and accountability in the management of public resources and efforts to prevent corruption in public works projects.

On 30 March 2023, the Cabinet Chief’s Office published an article regarding Agustín Rossi’s, the Argentine Minister of Defense, statements regarding the need to strengthen politics to prevent it from being subordinate to corporate power.⁵⁹⁷ Rossi highlighted the importance of transparency and ethics in

⁵⁹³ El Ministerio de Obras Públicas lanzó GEOMOP, un sitio web para el Análisis Territorial, Ministry of Public Works (Buenos Aires) 06 March 2023. Access date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-obras-publicas-lanzo-geomop-un-sitio-web-para-el-analisis-territorial>

⁵⁹⁴ La Oficina Anticorrupción participó de la Sesión Especial sobre Corrupción y Género en la OEA, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 March 2023.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-oficina-anticorrupcion-participo-de-la-sesion-especial-sobre-corrupcion-y-genero-en-la>

⁵⁹⁵ Se realizó la primera reunión del año de la Red de Áreas de Integridad y Transparencia de la Obra Pública, Ministry of Public Works (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2023. Access date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-la-1deg-reunion-del-ano-de-la-red-de-areas-de-integridad-y-transparencia-de-la>

⁵⁹⁶ Katopodis participó de la primera reunión plenaria del Observatorio de la Obra Pública, Ministry of Public works (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2023. Access date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/katopodis-participo-de-la-primera-reunion-plenaria-del-observatorio-de-la-obra-publica>

⁵⁹⁷ Rossi: “Fortalecer la política para que no sea subordinada al poder corporativo”, Cabinet Chief of Ministers Office (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/rossi-fortalecer-la-politica-para-que-no-sea-subordinada-al-poder-corporativo>

government and stated that Argentina is committed to combating corruption and promoting democracy. He emphasized the need for greater accountability, public control, and citizen participation in government, as well as the importance of protecting human rights and promoting social justice. The article suggests that Rossi's comments reflect a broader effort by the Argentine government to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance.

On 31 March 2023, the first training meeting for directors and subdirectors of military high schools in Argentina took place. The encounter was aimed at strengthening the ethics and transparency of educational institutions.⁵⁹⁸ The training focused on promoting a culture of integrity and good governance, and provided guidance on anti-corruption policies and practices that can be implemented within the educational system. The initiative demonstrates a commitment to promoting ethical standards and combating corruption in the education sector.

On 11 April 2023, Cabinet Chief's office in Chaco, Argentina, launched the federal training and education program.⁵⁹⁹ The focus on the program is to promote good governance practices and ethical behavior among public officials. It aims to improve the professional and technical skills of public servants and to promote greater transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness in the public sector.

On 18 April 2023, the Ministry of Interior Affairs created a new integrity program through resolution 64/2023, aimed at increasing access to information and promoting transparency in government activities: "Programa de Integridad para Ampliar el Acceso" (Integrity Program to Expand Access).⁶⁰⁰ The program is designed to help prevent corruption by improving accountability, creating channels for reporting potential wrongdoing, and promoting ethical behavior within the government. The goal is to strengthen public trust in government institutions and improve the effectiveness of public services.

On 3 May 2023, the XXIV Meeting of the Transparency and Access to Information Network was held in Argentina.⁶⁰¹ It included the participation of government officials, representatives of civil society organizations, and international guests. The focus of the meeting was on promoting transparency, accountability, and access to information in government activities, to prevent corruption and ensure good governance. Discussions were held on various topics related to transparency, such as the implementation of the Open Government Partnership and the use of technology to improve access to information. The meeting highlighted the importance of transparency as a key tool in the fight against corruption and to promote citizen participation in decision-making processes.

On 7 June 2023, the Anticorruption Office met with a Honduran delegation to exchange integrity experiences and strategies, promoting cooperating between both countries.⁶⁰² Honduras is in the initial stages of developing a national anti-corruption strategy of its own.

On 12 June 2023, the Anticorruption Office participated in the 14th Period of Sessions of the Review Group of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption.⁶⁰³ The group discussed the

⁵⁹⁸ Se realizó el primer Encuentro de Capacitación para directores y subdirectores de Liceos Militares y Escuelas de las FF. AA, Ministry of Defense (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2023. Access date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-el-primero-encuentro-de-capacitacion-para-directores-y-subdirectores-de-liceos>

⁵⁹⁹ La jefatura de gobierno puso en marcha en chaco el plan federal de formación y capacitación, Cabinet Chief of Ministers Office (Chaco) 11 April 2023. Access Date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-jefatura-de-gabinete-puso-en-marcha-en-chaco-el-plan-federal-de-formacion-y-capacitacion>

⁶⁰⁰ El ministerio del Interior creó el Programa de Integridad para ampliar el acceso a información pública y seguir creciendo en transparencia, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 18 April 2023. Access date: 28 April 2023.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-del-interior-creo-el-programa-de-integridad-para-ampliar-el-acceso>

⁶⁰¹ Se realizó la apertura del XXIV Encuentro de la Red de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información de los países de América Latina, Ministry of Public Works (Buenos Aires) 03 April 2023. Access date: 28 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-la-apertura-del-xxiv-encuentro-de-la-red-de-transparencia-y-acceso-la>

⁶⁰² La OA recibió a autoridades de la República de Honduras, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 08 June 2023. Access date: 24 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-oa-recibio-autoridades-de-la-republica-de-honduras>

⁶⁰³ Reuniones de los grupos de trabajo de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la Corrupción, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 16 June 2023. Access date: 24 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/reuniones-de-los-grupos-de-trabajo-de-la-convencion-de-las-naciones-unidas-contra-la-3>

increase in synergies between multilateral organization fighting against corruption, status of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, problems and good practices on the detection, investigation and criminal prosecution of corruption crimes, good practices and initiatives to prevent corruption, efficiency and effectiveness of anti-corruption policies and strengthening of business integrity.

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Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. Although they have established new control mechanisms for corruption, they have not specified procedures for sanctions or have established clear extraditing procedures.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Cecilia Padilla

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 7 November 2022, the Australian Government commenced consultation on the design features for the first phase of a publicly available beneficial ownership register.⁶⁰⁶ The Government committed to introducing the register as part of its commitment to ensuring multinationals pay their fair share of tax.

On 30 November 2022, the Australian Parliament passed the National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022 in order to create a transparent and independent National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)⁶⁰⁷ The NACC will be an independent agency that will prevent, detect, investigate and report on serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector.⁶⁰⁸ It will also educate the public service, and the public, about corruption risks and prevention. The NACC will be able to investigate any person, if they have potentially done something that has or could adversely affect a public official's honesty or impartiality in the way they carry out their official duties. On 6 March 2023, Rio Tinto plc was charged by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, assisted by the Australian Securities & Investments

⁶⁰⁴ La OA recibió a autoridades de la República de Honduras, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 08 June 2023. Access date: 24 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-oa-recibio-autoridades-de-la-republica-de-honduras>

⁶⁰⁵ Reuniones de los grupos de trabajo de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la Corrupción, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 16 June 2023. Access date: 24 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/reuniones-de-los-grupos-de-trabajo-de-la-convencion-de-las-naciones-unidas-contra-la-3>

⁶⁰⁶ Multinational tax integrity: Public Beneficial Ownership Register, The Treasury (Canberra) 7 November 2022. Access Date: 24 August 2023. <https://treasury.gov.au/consultation/c2022-322265>

⁶⁰⁷ National Anti-Corruption Commission Bill passes House of Representatives, The Australian (Surry Hills) 30 November 2022. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/breaking-news/national-anticorruption-commission-bill-passes-house-of-representatives/news-story/d1a318d1fcd80119b58452f8987507b9>

⁶⁰⁸ National Anti-Corruption Commission, Attorney-General's Department (Canberra) n.d. <https://www.ag.gov.au/integrity/national-anti-corruption-commission>

Commission and the Australian Federal Police, for violating the American Foreign Corrupt Practices Act due to bribery control failures. The imposition of a USD15 million civil penalty on the company highlights the significance of having dedicated managers and robust controls to combat corruption and reinforce a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption.⁶⁰⁹

On 5 April 2023, the Australian Government announced the membership of Australia's refreshed Open Government Forum. Australia's Third National Action Plan will be co-designed by Forum members and will seek a greater level of ambition for open government, transparency and accountability.⁶¹⁰

On 20 April 2023 the Australian Government commenced public consultation on major reforms to Australia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regime.⁶¹¹ Proposed reforms include simplifying and modernising aspects of the regime, as well as extending the regime to certain high-risk professions, including lawyers, accountants, trusts and company service providers, real estate agents and dealers in precious metals and stones.

On 24 May 2023, the Federal Treasury referred a corruption case concerning an employee of the Australian affiliate of PwC using confidential information gained as a consultant advising the federal government on multinational tax policy to assist PwC's national and international clients in circumventing those very laws to the Australian federal police.⁶¹² However, the Australian public is critical of why the NACC has not yet opened an investigation into the matter, as Australia's leading super funds halt future contracts with PwC as a result of this alleged corruption.

On 22 June 2023, the Australian Government has introduced into Parliament the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Combatting Foreign Bribery) Bill 2023 which aims to strengthen the legal framework for prosecuting foreign bribery.⁶¹³ The Bill creates the new offence for corporations that fail to prevent foreign bribery. This demonstrates the Government's commitment to combatting foreign bribery and ensuring Australia's laws are effective in detecting, investigating and prosecuting foreign bribery.

On 1 July 2023, the NACC became operational and received 44 referrals from the public on its first day.⁶¹⁴

On 6 August 2023, the Australian federal government announced new regulatory framework and harsher penalties for corporate tax schemes in response to the PwC Australia corruption scandal.⁶¹⁵ The legislation set to be introduced this year will raise the maximum penalty for promoting tax exploitation schemes to AUD780 million, change the scope of secrecy laws, expand whistleblower protections and allow more time for tax regulators to investigate cases of corruption. The law will not be applied retroactively and, therefore, PwC Australia will not be fined under the existing rules.

⁶⁰⁹ SEC Charges Rio Tinto plc with Bribery Controls Failures, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (Washington DC) 6 March 2023. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2023-46>

⁶¹⁰ Appointment of Open Government Forum Members, Attorney-General's Portfolio (Canberra) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 2 September 2023. <https://ministers.ag.gov.au/media-centre/appointment-open-government-forum-members-05-04-2023>

⁶¹¹ Consultation on major reform of Australia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws, Attorney-General's Department (Canberra) 20 April 2023. Access Date: 24 April 2023. <https://ministers.ag.gov.au/media-centre/consultation-major-reform-australias-anti-money-laundering-and-counter-terrorism-financing-laws-20-04-2023>

⁶¹² PwC Australia scandal: what actually happened and will it be fatal for the advisory firm, The Guardian (London), 31 May 2023. Access Date: 3 June 2023. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/may/31/pwc-australia-scandal-what-actually-happened-and-will-it-be-fatal-for-the-advisory-firm>

⁶¹³ Combatting Foreign Bribery, Attorney-General's Portfolio (Canberra) 22 June 2023. Access Date: 2 September 2023. <https://ministers.ag.gov.au/media-centre/combating-foreign-bribery-22-06-2023>

⁶¹⁴ Australia's national anti-corruption commission receives 44 referrals on first day of operations, The Guardian (Surry Hills) 3 July 2023. Access Date: 14 August 2023. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jul/03/australia-national-anti-corruption-commission-nacc-icac-first-day>

⁶¹⁵ Australia announces tax adviser crackdown after PwC leak scandal, Reuters (Sydney) 6 August 2023. Access Date: 14 August 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/business/australia-announces-tax-adviser-crackdown-after-pwc-tax-leak-scandal-2023-08-06/>

On 21 August 2023, Australian news agencies reported that the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese had allegedly used his government connection to the consultancy firm PwC Australia to secure an internship position for his son.⁶¹⁶

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to addressing corruption and strengthening zero-tolerance anti-corruption efforts. The passing of the NACC Bill establishes a national anti-corruption commission and is proof of Australia addressing corruption through legislation. The federal authority's collaboration with the SEC to file charges for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and consequently imposing a fine on Rio Tinto plc demonstrates the government's commitment to enforcing anti-corruption legislation throughout the business sector. Moreover, the ICACs numerous investigations into government representatives from the municipal to federal level proves the government's commitment to holding people in positions of power accountable for their actions. Overall, Australia's commitment to addressing corruption is reflected in these recent events, and it is important to continue strengthening anti-corruption efforts to maintain public trust and integrity in government institutions.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analysts: James (Xiaolong) Wang and Daria Temirkaeva

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 17 November 2022, the Federal Police investigated corruption allegations against the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) for allegations of fraud and corruption.⁶¹⁷ An internationally renowned think tank, the FGV was accused of being part of a scheme involving federal and state agencies where they were hired to dispense bidding. Several executives were also found to have offshore companies in several countries, including Switzerland, the Virgin Islands and the Bahamas, opening the organization up for possible charges of money laundering, tax evasions and several other tax offences.

On 8 February 2023, the Federal Police, in collaboration with the Coordination of Social Security Intelligence of the Ministry of Social Security, carried out "Operation Treda," which targeted a public servant of the Brazilian Social Security Institute (INSS) suspected of practicing acts of corruption and providing insured data and access passwords to embezzlers.⁶¹⁸ The public servant was removed from her public function position as an alternative measure to her preventive detention ordered by the Federal Court. There is no material damage identified, so far, against the federal authority.

On 16 February 2023, the Union's General Controllership (CGU) held a coordination meeting on the Anti-Bribery Convention of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with the objective to discuss Brazil's evaluation process in the fourth phase of monitoring the implementation and effective application of the terms of the convention and other related instruments.⁶¹⁹ The process involved several government bodies and institutions, the private sector, academia and civil society. After the visit, the evaluators will prepare a draft evaluation report for the Working Group on Bribery to approve. This

⁶¹⁶ Australian prime minister Anthony Albanese arranged PwC internship for his son, Financial Times (New South Wales) 21 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.ft.com/content/ee94feb7-b8e9-46be-9841-9abf7a22bd68>

⁶¹⁷ Brazil Federal Police raid FGV think tank amid fraud, graft probe, Reuters (Rio de Janeiro) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazil-federal-police-raid-fgv-think-tank-amid-fraud-graft-probe-2022-11-17/>

⁶¹⁸ Servidora do INSS é alvo de operação em São Paulo, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 08 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/previdencia/pt-br/noticias-e-conteudos/2023/fevereiro/servidora-do-inss-e-alvo-de-operacao-em-sao-paulo>

⁶¹⁹ CGU coordena discussões sobre avaliação do Brasil no âmbito da Convenção Antissuborno da OCDE, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 16 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/02/cgu-coordena-discussoes-sobre-avaliacao-do-brasil-no-ambito-da-convencao-antissuborno-da-ocde>

final report will contain the new recommendations for Brazil, which will be monitored by the working group, with the CGU in charge of monitoring the degree of implementation by the country.

On 27 February 2023, the National Mining Agency (ANM) approved the regulation of new rules to prevent and combat money laundering for the gem, gold and other precious metals sector as the result of an Action discussed in 2022 in the National Strategy to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering (ENCCLA).⁶²⁰ The purpose of the norm is to bring new legal instruments that allow the ANM and other supervisory bodies to exercise effective control in combating the laundering of precious stones and metals.

On 28 February 2023, the Federal Police launched “Operation Grand Canyon II,” which aims to comply with nine search and seizure warrants against three servants of the ANM, a mining company and its two partners.⁶²¹ The public servants are accused of taking actions that gave the mining company an undue advantage. The public servants were removed from public functions as a result of the alleged practice of crimes of criminal association, passive corruption, active corruption and administrative advocacy.

On 1 March 2023, the CGU met with representatives of civil society, members of the Forum on the Right of Access to Public Information and the Integrity and Transparency Working Group of the Advocacy Network Collaborative.⁶²² The objective was to resume dialogue with society and reinforce the government’s commitment to transparency and integrity. The dialogue of social participation and the application of the Law on Access to Information were discussed as CGU’s institutional priorities. Some participants of this meeting include: Transparência Brasil, the Ethos Institute, the Brazil IO public data repository; Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration, the Institute of Political and Socio-environmental Observatory, the Forum on the Right of Access to Public Information, the non-governmental human rights organization Article 19, the consulting firm Pulso Público and the Institute I do not accept corruption.

On 2 March 2023, the CGU Directorate for Studies and Development of Public Integrity received a visit from associate professor of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford Anna Petherick, a researcher specializing in gender relations, corruption, trust and integrity.⁶²³ The objective was to share insights from the academy on studies and ways to promote public integrity to improve the reliability of public institutions and go beyond the concepts of compliance.

On 2 March 2023, the Federal Police, with the support of the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the CGU, launched “Operation Festa no Terreiro” with the aim of combating the targeting scheme bidding processes, diversion of resources, corruption and money laundering.⁶²⁴ The damage to the public coffers is estimated to be BRL8 million. The crimes investigated are frustration of the competitive nature of bidding, breach of secrecy in bidding, removal of bidders, fraud in bidding or contract, embezzlement, passive corruption and active corruption.

On 2 March 2023, the Federal Police launched “Operation Sepsis” with the objective of combating the diversion of public resources in the health area operated by a social organization during the Covid-19

⁶²⁰ Enccla auxilia na regulamentação contra lavagem de dinheiro no setor de mineração e metais preciosos, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 28 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/enccla-auxilia-na-regulamentacao-contra-lavagem-de-dinheiro-no-setor-de-mineracao-e-metais-preciosos>

⁶²¹ PF apura ação de servidores públicos para favorecer empresa em processos minerários, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 28 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/02/pf-apura-acao-de-servidores-publicos-para-favorecer-empresa-em-processos-minerarios>

⁶²² CGU retoma diálogo com organizações e representantes da sociedade civil, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 02 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/cgu-retoma-dialogo-com-organizacoes-e-representantes-da-sociedade-civil>

⁶²³ Diretoria de Estudos da Integridade Pública recebe visita de professora de Oxford, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 09 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/diretoria-de-estudos-da-integridade-publica-recebe-visita-de-professora-de-oxford>

⁶²⁴ PF e Gaeco combatem fraudes em licitações, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 02 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/pf-e-gaeco-combatem-fraud-es-em-licitacoes>

pandemic.⁶²⁵ The investigation revealed that the partners of private companies hired to provide services to the investigated social organization transferred part of the amounts received back to other shell companies led by the social organization managers. Those investigated face charges of embezzlement, active corruption, money laundering and criminal association. The criminals could be sentenced up to 37 years of imprisonment.

On 2 March 2023, the Federal Police launched “Operation Cama de Gato” with the objective to comply with 21 search and seizure warrants against individuals and legal entities, including political agents, public servants, family members and third parties, as members of a criminal organization that acts by committing crimes of fraud in the bidding, embezzlement of resources, active and passive corruption, and money laundering.⁶²⁶ The fraud took place during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, where public resources were diverted through the hiring of fictitious or front companies. The damage to the municipality exceeds BRL10 million in fraudulent hiring.

On 3 March 2023, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva announced he will dismiss the Minister of Communications, Juscelino Filho, if he does not prove his innocence after corruption allegations came to light.⁶²⁷ In an interview with the Band News radio station, President da Silva stated that Filho “cannot remain an Executive if he cannot prove his innocence.”

On 7 March 2023, the Federal Court ordered the blocking of bank accounts of 13 people involved in death pensions fraud.⁶²⁸ Four employees of the National Institute of Social Security were involved. The action complied with 23 search and seizure warrants in the states of Maranhão and Piauí. According to the General Coordination of Social Security Intelligence of the Ministry of Social Security, the damage initially pointed out is BRL81 million, but it could be as high as BRL119 million. Those investigated will respond for the crimes of criminal association, insertion of false data, passive corruption, ideological falsehood and active corruption.

On 7 March 2023, Minister of the CGU Vinícius Marques de Carvalho, participated in the first plenary meeting of the OECD’s Working Group on Bribery in Paris.⁶²⁹ The event ran until 10 March. Minister Marques also visited the Brazilian Embassy, the Brazilian Delegation to the International Economic Organizations, the High Authority for the Transparency of Public Life of France and the French Anti-Corruption Agency.

On 7 March 2023, the Federal Police launched “Operation Bárbaros” with the purpose of repressing crimes of invasion of union lands, corruption, administrative law, influence peddling, false documents and fraud involving Councillor, Parliamentary Advisors and former Alderman of the City Council of Ponta Porã.⁶³⁰ Investigations were triggered after an inspection carried out by the Superintendence of Heritage of the Union of MS, under the Ministry of Economy. A total of six search and seizure warrants were carried out.

⁶²⁵ PF combate crime contra a administração pública, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 02 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/pf-combate-crime-contra-a-administracao-publica>

⁶²⁶ Polícia Federal mira organização por fraudes em licitações, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 02 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/policia-federal-mira-organizacao-por-fraudes-em-licitacoes>

⁶²⁷ Brazil: Lula da Silva could dismiss his communications minister for corruption, The Rio Times (Rio de Janeiro) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/brazil/brazil-lula-da-silva-could-dismiss-his-communications-minister-for-corruption/>

⁶²⁸ Operação Balaio descobre fraude em 397 pensões por morte no Maranhão e Piauí, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 07 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/previdencia/pt-br/noticias-e-conteudos/2023/marco/operacao-balaio-descobre-fraude-em-397-pensoes-por-morte-no-maranhao-e-piau>

⁶²⁹ Ministro da CGU participa da primeira reunião plenária do Grupo de Trabalho sobre Suborno Transnacional da OCDE, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 08 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/ministro-da-cgu-participa-da-primeira-reuniao-plenaria-do-grupo-de-trabalho-sobre-suborno-transnacional-da-ocde>

⁶³⁰ Polícia Federal deflagra operação Bárbaros em Mato Grosso do Sul, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 07 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/policia-federal-deflagra-operacao-barbaros-em-mato-grosso-do-sul>

On 7 March 2023, the Federal Police launched “Operation Balaio” in partnership with Coordination of Social Security Intelligence, with the aim of dismantling criminal associations that specialize in obtaining illicit advantages resulting from fraud.⁶³¹ The total loss to the INSS is calculated to be more than BRL81 million and up to BRL120 million. The four public servants of the INSS may respond for the crimes of criminal association, insertion of false data, passive corruption, ideological falsehood and active corruption.

On 7 March 2023, the Federal Police launched “Operation Broken Heart,” aimed at investigating crimes of active corruption, passive corruption, money laundering, fraudulent misrepresentation and improper dismissal of bids in the city hall of Canguaretama.⁶³² Investigations revealed irregularities in the prefecture of Canguaretama’s hiring of a company to provide services to on-duty workers in the fight against Covid-19, costing BRL640,000 of resources from the Unified Health System. Those investigated face charges for active corruption, passive corruption, ideological falsehood, undue waiver of bidding and money laundering, as well as sentences of more than nine years in prison.

On 8 March 2023, the Government announced measures supporting women and their rights.⁶³³ As well as promoting equal pay on International Women’s Day, the government also promoted other plans relating to the improvement of treatment of women; including fighting gender violence, establishing maternity leave for Athlete Aid, distributing free sanitary pads, resuming structural work at 1,189 day care centres, and ratifying the International Labor Organization’s Convention 190, “the first global treaty to recognize the right of all people to work that is free from violence and harassment, including gender violence.”

On 8 March 2023, the Federal Police launched “Operation Third Station” in collaboration with the Federal Public Ministry, the CGU and the Special Action Group Against Organized Crime of the Public Ministry of the State of Paraíba.⁶³⁴ “Operation Third Station” investigates the practice of crimes related to fraud in hiring, misuse of public resources, corruption and money laundering in the acquisition of school furniture by the Secretary of Education of the State of Paraíba. The estimated loss is greater than BRL2 million and the criminals face up to 39 years in prison.

On 9 March 2023, the Federal Revenue Service, Federal Police and CGU triggered the third phase of “Operation Ptolomeu,” which aims to dismantle a criminal organization responsible for crimes against public administration, embezzlement of public resources and money laundering.⁶³⁵ The group, made up of businessmen and public agents linked to the executive branch of the state of Acre, set up the government structure to commit crimes of corruption and money laundering, diverting public resources and hiding their destination. The Superior Court of Justice ordered 85 search and seizure warrants to be served in the states of Acre, Piauí, Goiás, Paraná, Amazonas, Rondônia and the Federal District. Other precautionary measures were also taken, such as the removal of public agents from their public functions, the prohibition of contact between those investigated, the prohibition of leaving the country with the obligation to hand over the passport, the suspension of the exercise of economic activity of some companies with the prohibition of contracting with the public power, bank account blocking and seize of aircraft, vehicles and properties

⁶³¹ Polícia Federal combate crimes previdenciários, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 07 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/policia-federal-combate-crimes-previdenciarios>

⁶³² PF combate crimes de corrupção e lavagem de dinheiro em prefeitura, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 07 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/pf-combate-crimes-de-corrupcao-e-lavagem-de-dinheiro-em-prefeitura>

⁶³³ Laws, decrees, initiatives and events: Brazil’s federal government is taking broad action on International Women’s Day, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 09 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/planalto/en/latest-news/laws-decrees-initiatives-and-events-brazil2019s-federal-government-is-taking-broad-action-on-international-women2019s-day>

⁶³⁴ PF deflagra operação contra desvio de recursos públicos, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 08 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/pf-deflagra-operacao-contra-desvio-de-recursos-publicos>

⁶³⁵ Receita Federal, Polícia Federal e CGU deflagram a terceira fase da OPERAÇÃO PTOLOMEU, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 09 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/receitafederal/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/marco/receita-federal-deflagra-a-terceira-fase-da-operacao-ptolomeu>

acquired with funds diverted from the government. The criminal group faces charges of embezzlement, passive corruption, active corruption, fraud in bidding and money laundering, as well as tax fraud.

On 13 March 2023 to 16 March 2023, the Executive Secretary of the CGU, Vânia Vieira, participated in the 39th plenary meeting of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption in Washington DC.⁶³⁶ The meeting served to monitor the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. Comptroller General Vieira shared the measures implemented by Brazil to rescue the transparency policy and warned of the need to protect the anti-corruption fight against political instrumentalization. She also reaffirmed Brazil's support for countries promoting important advances in the adoption of the recommended measures and to implement anti-corruption measures.

On 13 March 2023, the Advocacy General of the Union obtained the conviction for administrative improbity of three public agents who fraudulently granted benefits assistance to non-residents, costing the INSS a loss of BRL1 million.⁶³⁷

On 14 March 2023, the Federal Police, in partnership with the CGU, launched "Operation Omnipresent" with the aim to uncover the activities of a criminal organization that has signed contracts with 74 city halls in the state of Espírito Santo and in seven other states of the federation.⁶³⁸ The investigation revealed that several legal entities belonging to the criminal business group used their predominance in the area of developing computer programs, supplying internet providers, as well as consulting and systems advisory, to direct and defraud bidding procedures. Utilizing restrictive clauses, simulation of competition and rotation of contracted companies, the group received BRL136 million partly funded by federal and municipal resources intended for education and social assistance. The criminal hierarchy made up of businessmen, intermediaries, financial operators and leaders of the criminal scheme face charges for money laundering, active and passive corruption, as well as the creation of a criminal organization.

On 15 March 2023, the Federal Revenue Service, the Federal Police and the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office launched Operation Baragnose in Nova Friburgo, with the aim of dismantling the alleged crime of frustrating the competitive nature of bids and illegal direct hiring of meals to the health unit in the municipality.⁶³⁹ The investigations also involve crimes of passive corruption of public servants and political agents, active corruption, criminal association and embezzlement. Authorities issued eighteen search and seizure warrants at the addresses of the individuals being investigated and at companies allegedly linked to the scheme.

On 20 March 2023, the CGU made the decision to maintain the sanctions it imposed against six companies for unlawful acts against the Public Administration, totalling almost BRL9.7 million.⁶⁴⁰ The sanctions are a

⁶³⁶ Secretária-Executiva da CGU participa de reunião para acompanhamento da implementação da Convenção Interamericana contra a Corrupção, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 13 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/agu/pt-br/comunicacao/noticias/agu-obtem-condenacao-de-responsaveis-por-fraude-milionaria-ao-inss>

⁶³⁷ AGU obtém condenação de responsáveis por fraude milionária ao INSS, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 17 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/secretaria-executiva-da-cgu-participa-de-reuniao-para-acompanhamento-da-implementacao-da-convencao-interamericana-contra-a-corrupcao>

⁶³⁸ PF e CGU investigam fraudes licitatórias, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 14 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/pf-e-cgu-investigam-fraudes-licitatorias>

⁶³⁹ OPERAÇÃO BARAGNOSE - Receita Federal, Polícia Federal e Ministério Público Federal cumprem mandados de busca e apreensão visando à apuração de supostos crimes de corrupção e associação criminosa em contratos ligados à área da saúde do município de Nova Friburgo-RJ, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 15 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/receitafederal/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/marco/receita-federal-policia-federal-e-ministerio-publico-deflagram-operacao-baragnose-com-o-objetivo-de-combater-a-corrupcao-na-area-de-saude-em-nova-friburgo-rj>

⁶⁴⁰ CGU aplica e mantém sanções anticorrupção junto a seis empresas por atos ilícitos contra a Administração Pública, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 20 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/cgu-aplica-e-mantem-sancoes-anticorrupcao-junto-a-seis-empresas-por-atos-ilicitos-contra-a-administracao-publica>

result of Administrative Accountability Proceedings filed under Law No. 12,846/2013 (Anti-Corruption Law), reaffirming CGU's commitment to promoting public integrity.

On 21 March 2023, the CGU clarified that combating corruption continues to be treated as one of the core elements of its work in response to an article entitled "Lula's CGU dilutes the anti-corruption sector and says it prioritizes prevention" published by Folha de S. Paulo.⁶⁴¹ However, the CGU acknowledges that tackling the problem is not limited to the policy of repression, but also requires the adoption of transparency measures, access to information, participation and social control, as well as the promotion of a culture of integrity in the public and private sectors. The CGU intends to prioritize prevention over the fight against corruption, and all of its activities are, directly or indirectly, aimed at combating corruption.

On 23 March 2023, President Lula, the Minister of Culture Margareth Menezes and the Advocate General of the Union Jorge Messias, signed a decree that regulates cultural promotion in the country.⁶⁴² The Advocacy-General of the Union participated directly in improving the technical-legal design of the act, where one of the provisions of the decree focuses on accountability in full compliance with the objective of effective delivery of the cultural product to the population. The previous accountability model was unable to avoid irregularities in the use of funds and created obstacles for public managers to apply the instruments of existing incentives, especially in states and municipalities. This change is also based on Recommendation No. 80 of the ENCCLA, which deals with the relationship between the State, organizations in society and civic partners. Federal, state and municipal public managers now have a clearer set of legal tools to make development work feasible.

On 29 March 2023, the Federal Comptroller General made several changes in its fight against corruption, based "on a technical diagnosis to provide greater organicity, strategy and effectiveness."⁶⁴³ This was done after finding flaws in policies and information processes used to prevent new cases fraud from happening.

On 30 March 2023, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security held a qualification and training course to combat corruption and money laundering.⁶⁴⁴ This course was created to "promote the professional improvement of public agents of the state and other operators of law who act in the prevention and fight against money laundering and corruption." This course is also part of the National Qualification and Training Program to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering, who hope this would increase the use of public resources and the attempts to reduce and fight corruption and money laundering within the country.

On 31 March 2023, the Federal Revenue Service (FRB) established the mandatory use of the Electronic Invoice for Gold.⁶⁴⁵ This was done to improve integration between tax administrations, as well as to promote the fight against tax evasion by facilitating access to information on operations. The Electronic Invoice for Gold was one of the recommendations made by the ENCCLA Action, which aimed to prove the standardization, traceability mechanisms and inspections of the gold production chain, as well as to integrate actions of intervening bodies and mitigating risks of using the trade for money laundering.

⁶⁴¹ Combate à corrupção continua sendo tratado como um dos elementos centrais da atuação da CGU, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 21 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/03/combate-a-corrupcao-continua-sendo-tratado-como-um-dos-elementos-centrais-da-atuacao-da-controladoria>

⁶⁴² Elaborado com auxílio da AGU, decreto de fomento à cultura nacional é assinado nesta quinta (23), Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 23 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/agu/pt-br/comunicacao/noticias/elaborado-com-auxilio-da-agu-decreto-de-fomento-a-cultura-nacional-e-assinado-nesta-quinta-23>

⁶⁴³ Federal Comptroller General continues its mission in the fight against corruption, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 29 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/secom/pt-br/fatos/brasil-contra-fake/noticias/2023/3/controladoria-geral-da-uniao-continua-sua-missao-no-combate-a-corrupcao>

⁶⁴⁴ MJSP and TO Civil Police hold a course in the National Qualification and Training Program to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasilia) 30 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mjsp-e-policia-civil-do-to-realizam-curso-do-programa-nacional-de-capacitacao-e-treinamento-para-o-combate-a-corrupcao-e-a-lavagem-de-dinheiro>

⁶⁴⁵ Electronic gold invoice, discussed by Enccla, is instituted by the Federal Revenue Service, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasilia) 31 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/nota-fiscal-eletronica-do-ouro-discutida-pela-enccla-e-instituida-pela-receita-federal>

On 4 April 2023, several members of Brazil's Public Ministry met with six Portuguese-speaking countries for three days to speak about their experiences on combatting corruption, human trafficking, drugs and environmental law.⁶⁴⁶ With this conference came five days of training for prosecutors from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Timor-Leste, and São Tomé and Príncipe, as well as 26 prosecutors from Brazil. This training included lectures and debates tables on challenges to topics like money laundering, as well as workshops on international legal cooperation.

On 5 April 2023, Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro testified at the federal police headquarters to testify about gifts and given to him and his wife by the king of Saudi Arabia back in 2021.⁶⁴⁷ Some of the gifts in question were obtained by customs officials in a government aid's bag when they returned from Saudi Arabia. Mr. Bolsonaro claimed he did nothing wrong when receiving the gifts, but critics claim the gifts belong to the presidential collection and accused him of "trying to evade customs duties by having them smuggled into Brazil," with some of his officials attempting to recover some of the jewellery from customs at Sao Paulo's Guarulhos international airport.

On 10 April 2023, the CGU publicized the Rendering of Accounts of the President of the Republic for the 2022 financial year.⁶⁴⁸ This is done to produce the main results of management in the previous year and aids the Federal Court of Accounts to appraise and issue a Report and Prior Opinion on the Presidential Accounts.

On 11 April 2023, Brazil launched the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship Integrity Program, aimed at promoting human rights, diversity, equity and inclusion.⁶⁴⁹ This program aimed to mitigate vulnerabilities that threaten the institution's image, the public interest and the promotion of respect for human rights.

On 11 April 2023, the Federal Police launched Operation Amerimnia to fight against money laundering.⁶⁵⁰ This operation got started following Operation Nepsis in 2018, "which uncovered a structured cigarette smuggling scheme throughout practically the entire state of Mato Grosso do Sul." Operation Amerimnia focused more on financial managers of the criminal organization who had been previously convicted of smuggling, criminal organization and corruption, who had continued operating through transport companies, gasoline and conveniences, with the help of family members and third parties.

On 17 April 2023, the CGU published in the Official Gazette that sanctions would be made against the companies Tecnosolo Engenharia S/A and Proquimil Produtos Químicos Ltda for being involved in illegal acts relating to public administration.⁶⁵¹ The sanctions "reaffirm CGU's commitment to promoting public integrity, consolidating the understanding that private companies must refrain from adopting practices contrary to those provided for in the regulations that govern the conduct of public agents."

⁶⁴⁶ Seminar will promote exchange of experiences between Public Ministries of Portuguese-speaking countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 04 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/abc/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/seminario-vai-promover-troca-de-experiencias-entre-ministerios-publicos-dos-paises-de-lingua-portuguesa>

⁶⁴⁷ Brazil's Bolsonaro testifies in scandal over Saudi jewelry gift, Reuters (Brasilia) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazils-bolsonaro-testifies-scandal-over-saudi-jewelry-gift-2023-04-05/>

⁶⁴⁸ CGU publishes Accountability of the President of the Republic for 2022, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 10 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/04/cgu-divulga-prestacao-de-contas-do-presidente-da-republica-de-2022>

⁶⁴⁹ MDHC Integrity Program is launched based on the promotion of Human Rights, diversity, equity and inclusion, Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship (Brasilia) 3 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/abril/201cintegra-mdhc-servira-como-exemplo-para-o-brasil201d-afirma-silvio-almeida>

⁶⁵⁰ Federal Police launch operation against money laundering, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasilia) 11 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/04/policia-federal-deflagra-operacao-contra-lavagem-de-capitais>

⁶⁵¹ CGU applies anti-corruption sanctions to two companies involved in illegal acts in Public Administration, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 19 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/04/cgu-aplica-sancoes-anticorruptao-a-duas-empresas-envolidas-em-atos-ilicitos-na-administracao-publica>

On 19 April 2023, Brazil's Intelligence Agency articulated a plan to fight money laundering.⁶⁵² This plan was created to identify types of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation of weapons of mass destructions. Objectives of the initiative include increasing the effectiveness of the money laundering prevention system; allow the creation of new financial intelligence warning signs; and collaborate to improve the normative and regulatory provisions of the sectors involved.

On 20 April 2023, Brazil's Federal Police launched the fourth phase of Operation Curare.⁶⁵³ This operation after information of a business group aiding the Municipal Health Department of the Municipality of Cuiabá/MT paid undue advantages to remain at the forefront of public services. Actions that took place during the operation included taking investigative steps and identification and asset constriction, done because of acts of money laundering and corruption.

On 24 April 2023, the CGU investigated crimes in the execution of road works in the north of Minas Gerais, looking into cases of fraud related to the projects.⁶⁵⁴ There were signs of undue payment of advantages and favouritism of servants to one of the contracted companies. Actions taken in the investigation include fulfilling several search and seizure warrants, lifting tax secrecy for 22 natural/legal persons and the lifting of bank secrecy for 23 natural/legal persons.

On 24 April 2023, the Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services (MGI) launched a program dedicated to promoting ethics and diversity.⁶⁵⁵ This program was created with the intent of implementing practices and institutional mechanisms to prevent, detect and correct actions that offend diversity, ethical deviations, irregularities, fraud and corruption.

On 26 April 2023, the National Nuclear Energy Commission established its Integrity Management Committee, which aims to promote the adoption of institutional measures and actions aimed at preventing, detecting, punishing and remediating fraud and acts of corruption.⁶⁵⁶ This committee has guided and trained public servants, as well as promote awareness-raising actions on topics relevant to integrity.

On 29 April 2023, the Governance, Integrity, Risks and Controls Network held a debate on integrity and public policies.⁶⁵⁷ The secretary for the Transformation of the State of the MGI, Francisco Gaetani, took part in the debate as a panelist, highlighting "the participation of society and transparency as pillars of Public Administration."

On 3 May 2023, Brazil's Federal Police launched operation to investigate insertion of false vaccination data in Health systems.⁶⁵⁸ Operation Venire was launched to investigate a criminal association committing crimes of inserting false data against Covid-19 into the SI-PNI and RNDS systems of the Ministry of Health. This

⁶⁵² Articulation to combat money laundering is coordinated by ABIN, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 19 April 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/abin/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/articulacao-de-combate-a-lavagem-de-dinheiro-e-coordenada-pela-abin>

⁶⁵³ PF launches operation against embezzlement of public funds, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasilia) 20 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/04/pf-deflagra-operacao-contrad-desvio-de-recursos-publicos>

⁶⁵⁴ CGU investigates crimes in the execution of road works in the north of Minas Gerais, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 24 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/04/cgu-apura-crimes-na-execucao-de-obras-rodoviaras-no-norte-de-minas-gerais>

⁶⁵⁵ Ministry of Management to launch ethics and diversity promotion program, Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services (Brasilia) 24 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/gestao/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/abril/ministerio-da-gestao-lancara-programa-de-etica-e-promocao-da-diversidade>

⁶⁵⁶ CGI releases CNEN's new Integrity Plan, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Brasilia), 26 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/cnen/pt-br/assunto/ultimas-noticias/cgi-divulga-novo-plano-de-integridade-da-cnen>

⁶⁵⁷ GIRC Network holds debate on integrity and public policies, Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services (Brasilia) 29 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/gestao/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/abril/rede-girc-realiza-debate-sobre-integridade-e-politicas-publicas>

⁶⁵⁸ PF launches operation to investigate insertion of false vaccination data in Health systems, Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Brasilia) 3 May 2023. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/05/pf-deflagra-operacao-para-investigar-insercao-de-dados-falsos-de-vacinacao-nos-sistemas-da-saude>

operation carried out 16 search and seizure warrants and six arrest warrants that were served in Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia.

On 4 May 2023, Brazil established the National Program for Primary Prevention of Corruption.⁶⁵⁹ This program includes several pillars, such as national communication campaigning that aims to encourage the reflection of fighting corruption, a Bank of Proposals for preventing corruption, and a collaborative network made of companies, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and universities aimed at expanding, supporting and strengthening proposals for preventing corruption.

On 4 May 2023, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Management and the National School of Public Administration (ENAP) began promoting a course that would train civil servants to reduce risks of corruption when transferring federal funds.⁶⁶⁰ This course maps the risks in work processes and at aims at making said risks known when on the job. Rodrigo Fontenelle, the ministry's special internal control advisor, stated that "risk management is a collective construction, and every employee is responsible, to some extent, for internal control."

On 10 May 2023, Brazil charged 16 soccer officials with match fixing and illegal betting.⁶⁶¹ Prosecutors allege that a criminal gang paid players to commit infractions and win bets based on these outcomes. Prosecutors also reported that these offenses took place in 13 matches that took place during the Brazilian Championship.

On 11 May 2023, Brazil blocked money from alleged financiers of January riots to pay for damages.⁶⁶² This comes after an operation was launched in mid-January to determine who took part in the raids, both directly and indirectly, where supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro "invaded and ransacked Congress, the presidential palace and the Supreme Court."

On 31 May 2023, Brazil's top court sentences ex-President Fernando Collor de Mello to prison for corruption.⁶⁶³ Collor was accused of receiving bribes from a subsidiary from a state-run oil company. He faces eight years, 10 months in prison for corruption and money laundering charges. Since making sports betting legal in 2018, Brazil has been preparing laws to tax and regulate the sector.

On 30 June 2023, Brazil's federal electoral court ruled that former President Jair Bolsonaro would be barred from public office until 2030.⁶⁶⁴ The justices ruled in favour of barring Bolsonaro due to "abuse of power and misuse of the media over his actions in July 2022, ahead of the election, when he summoned ambassadors to vent unfounded claims about Brazil's electronic voting system." The majority's opinion in the 5-2 ruling stated that he utilizing meeting these ambassadors to "spread doubts and incite conspiracy theories".

⁶⁵⁹ National Program for Primary Prevention of Corruption, Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services (Brasilia) 4 May 2023. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/plataformamaisbrasil/pt-br/noticias-e-eventos/noticias/2017/programa-nacional-de-prevencao-primaria-a-corrupcao>

⁶⁶⁰ Planning trains civil servants to reduce corruption risks in the transfer of federal funds, Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services (Brasilia) 4 May 2023. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.br/plataformamaisbrasil/pt-br/noticias-e-eventos/noticias/2016/planejamento-treina-servidores-para-diminuir-riscos-de-corrupcao-na-transferencia-de-recursos-federais>

⁶⁶¹ Brazil prosecutors charge 16 in alleged soccer match-fixing scheme, Reuters (London) 10 May 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/brazil-prosecutors-charge-16-alleged-soccer-match-fixing-scheme-2023-05-10/>

⁶⁶² Brazil blocks \$8 mln from alleged financiers of January riots to pay for damages, Reuters (London) 11 May 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazil-blocks-8-mln-alleged-financiers-january-riots-pay-damages-2023-05-11/>

⁶⁶³ Brazil's top court sentences ex-President Collor to prison for corruption, Reuters (London) 31 May 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/brazils-top-court-sentences-ex-president-collor-prison-corruption-2023-05-31/>

⁶⁶⁴ Bolsonaro barred from holding public office in Brazil until 2030, Reuters (Brasilia) 20 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/political-career-brazils-bolsonaro-dangles-by-thread-electoral-trial-nears-end-2023-06-30/>

On 18 August 2023, Brazil's federal police arrested several senior military police officers for their involvement in attacks on government buildings that took place on 8 January.⁶⁶⁵ The attacks in questions were done in an attempt, by pro-Bolsonaro supporters, to reinstate the former President following his loss to President da Silva. Evidence obtained from electronic devices indicated these officers not only knew of the intentions of the attackers but failed to prevent the attacks.

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. Brazil has taken action to address corruption among government officials and organizations, condemning and promising to improve and protect democracy following events of coup-mongering violence. Brazil has also created legally binding instruments to ensure the rights of everyone and has recognized the right to be free of violence and harassment.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nejat Ahmed

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 19 November 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to the 2022 Leaders' Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), at the APEC summit in Bangkok, Thailand.⁶⁶⁶ As part of this declaration, Prime Minister Trudeau and all other APEC member states committed to "taking practical actions and a united approach, to jointly fight cross-border corruption and deny safe haven to corruption offenders and their illicit assets."

On 20 November 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau addressed the Francophonie Summit in Djerba, Tunisia.⁶⁶⁷ At this summit, Prime Minister Trudeau announced CAD5 million in funding to a joint anti-corruption capacity-building initiative for the government of Haiti, operated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Organization for American States. Additionally, Prime Minister Trudeau committed CAD3.5 million to Lawyers Without Borders Canada, a non-profit organization working to address impunity, fight corruption and strengthen access to justice in Haiti.

On 25 November 2022, Commissioner of Lobbying Nancy Belanger proposed a renewed Lobbyists' Code of Conduct to House of Commons' Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics.⁶⁶⁸ The new code is designed with more succinct and descriptive language to aid lobbyists in understanding their responsibilities. Additionally, the new code contains specific delineations of the code's objectives and to whom the code applies, for further clarity.

On 3 February 2023, Commissioner of Lobbying Belanger proposed restrictions on lobbying activity to the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics.⁶⁶⁹ In her opening

⁶⁶⁵ Brazil arrests 7 senior military police officers over Jan. 8 riots, AP News (Brasilia) 18 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://apnews.com/article/brazil-riots-bolsonaro-military-police-arrests-a852eefdd7b7dfd5764bda686b612d0c>

⁶⁶⁶ 2022 Leaders' Declaration, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 19 November 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2022/11/19/2022-leaders-declaration>

⁶⁶⁷ Prime Minister announces significant supports at the Francophonie Summit in Tunisia, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 20 November 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2022/11/20/prime-minister-announces-significant-supports-francophonie-summit>

⁶⁶⁸ Renewing the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct, Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada (Ottawa), 25 November 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/en/rules/the-lobbyists-code-of-conduct/renewing-the-lobbyists-code-of-conduct/>

⁶⁶⁹ ETHI Committee Meeting Evidence Friday, February 3, 2023, House of Commons (Ottawa), 3 February 2023. Access date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/ETHI/meeting-55/evidence>

statement, Commissioner Belanger proposed the institution of a CAD40 limit on food and drinks that lobbyists offer to government officials with a CAD80 annual limit.

On 14 February 2023, the House of Commons passed the first reading of Bill C-315, otherwise known as An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Act.⁶⁷⁰ This act of the legislature would ban the Canada Pension Plan's Investment Board from investing or holding investments in any entity that "ordered, controlled or otherwise directed acts of corruption," as defined under Canadian law.

On 14 March 2023, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) arrested Donovan Sired, an employee of the Manitoba Finance Special Investigations Unit, with bribery of officers on account of his alleged facilitation of an inter-provincial drug trafficking operation.⁶⁷¹ Mr. Sired is suspected to have provided Hue Ha, the alleged orchestrator of this operation, with confidential information about police enforcement plans.

On 29 March 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau announced CAD50 million in new funding for overseas democratic institution-building and anti-corruption initiatives at the second Summit for Democracy.⁶⁷² Commitments include CAD3.75 million for the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institution's Development Initiative as well as CAD5 million for Lawyers without Borders Canada activities in Honduras.

On 30 March 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with President of the Dominican Republic Luis Abinader, stressing the need to hold accountable those who cultivate violence, corruption and instability in Haiti.⁶⁷³

On 16 May 2023, the Superior Court of Quebec released the details of an approved remediation agreement to stay criminal charges against Ultra Electronics Forensic Technology Inc. (UEFTI), a company accused of bribery.⁶⁷⁴ Representatives of the company allegedly bribed foreign officials from the Republic of the Philippines and defrauded the Filipino government. As per the four-year remediation agreement, UEFTI must pay a total of CAD10,548,905 in penalties, surcharges and forfeitures, retain and follow a strict anti-corruption program at the company's expense, cooperate with any further investigations and prosecutions in the matter and report upon the implementation of the agreement to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada.

On 20 May 2023, Prime Minister Trudeau committed to the 2023 Leaders' Communiqué of the Group of Seven (G7), at the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan.⁶⁷⁵ As part of this statement, Prime Minister Trudeau and fellow G7 leaders committed to fight corruption and called upon other countries to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. Alongside the other G7 leaders, Prime Minister Trudeau further committed to strengthening bilateral, regional and multilateral support for good governance and anti-corruption in public services worldwide.

On 29 May 2023, the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying announced the publishing of the new Lobbyists' Code of Conduct in the Canada Gazette.⁶⁷⁶ The new Code of Conduct introduces a CAD40 value limit on individual gifts given by lobbyists to public office holders, up to a cumulative maximum total

⁶⁷⁰ Bill C-315, House of Commons (Ottawa), 14 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023.

<https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-315/first-reading>

⁶⁷¹ RCMP seize guns, guns, and lay bribery and breach of trust charges in Project Dawgpound, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Manitoba (Winnipeg), 14 March 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2023/rcmp-seize-drugs-guns-and-lay-bribery-and-breach-trust-charges-project-dawgpound>

⁶⁷² Backgrounder: Canada announces over \$50 million in funding during second Summit for Democracy, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 29 March 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2023/03/29/backgrounder-canada-announces-over-50-million-funding-during-second>

⁶⁷³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with President of the Dominican Republic Luis Abinader, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 30 March 2023. Access Date: 5 May 2023. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2023/03/30/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-dominican-republic-luis>

⁶⁷⁴ Superior Court of Quebec Publishes Remediation Agreement For UEFTI, Public Prosecution Service of Canada (Ottawa) 17 May 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. https://www.ppsc-sppc.gc.ca/eng/nws-nvs/2023/17_05_23.html

⁶⁷⁵ G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communique.html>

⁶⁷⁶ Lobbyists' Code of Conduct published in the Canada Gazette, takes effect July 1, 2023, Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada (Ottawa) 29 May 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/en/news/Lobbyists-Code-of-Conduct-published-in-the-Canada-Gazette-takes-effect-July-1-2023>

of CAD200 in gifts that a lobbyist can offer a public office holder in a year. Additionally, prospective lobbyists who held a political role that involved defined interaction with the office they now wish to lobby must wait either 12 or 24 months as a cooling-off period, depending on the importance of the lobbyist's former position. The new Code of Conduct will enter into force on 1 July 2023.

On 10 August 2023, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly announced the imposition of sanctions on three Lebanese officials determined to have engaged in “acts of significant corruption.”⁶⁷⁷ The three individuals who have been added to the Schedule of the Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Regulations are Riad Toufic Salameh, Raja Salameh and Marianne Hoayek, and their addition to the Schedule means a complete legal prohibition on dealings with Canadians both within Canada and abroad, as well as a ban on admission to Canada.

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. The Canadian government has demonstrated a strong commitment to anti-corruption measures as part of foreign policy, exemplified by the large monetary investments in anti-corruption capacity-building abroad, including in developing countries. Domestically, the Commissioner of Lobbying has actively promoted anti-corruption efforts through non-legally binding actions, such as developing a revised Lobbyists' Code of Conduct and proposing restrictions on lobbying expenditures. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has investigated and prosecuted public officials who solicit and receive bribes. However, to this point in the cycle, Canada has taken little action to either implement new legally binding instruments, or to strengthen or further implement the provisions of existing anti-corruption laws.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Luca Rampersad

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 18 November 2022, the Ministry of Finance released a new General Financial Accounting System to deepen the reform of the budget management system and government accounting.⁶⁷⁸ The new system improves the financial management function of general accounting on an accrual basis while consolidating the budget management function of general accounting with a cash basis as its foundation, allowing for a more thorough and accurate reflection of the government's financial standing.

On 20 November 2022, China made progress in addressing some of the technical compliance deficiencies identified in its 32016 Mutual Evaluation report, including targeted financial sanctions related to proliferation and transparency and beneficial ownership of legal persons, to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing.⁶⁷⁹

On 1 December 1 2022, the Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation of the Ministry of Finance held a workshop and invited Hamid Sharif, Managing Director of the Complaints-resolution, Evaluation and Integrity Unit of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), to deliver a

⁶⁷⁷ Canada imposes new sanctions against Lebanese nationals, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 10 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/08/canada-imposes-new-sanctions-against-lebanese-nationals0.html>

⁶⁷⁸ 10 Laws That May Affect Your China Business from Jan 1, 2023, China Briefing News (Hong Kong) 03 January 3 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2023. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/10-new-laws-that-may-affect-your-business-in-china-starting-january-1-2023/>

⁶⁷⁹ China's Progress in Strengthening Measures to Tackle Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, The Financial Action Task Force (Paris) 29 November 2022. Access Date: 16 March 2023. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Mutualevaluations/Fur-china-2022.html>

lecture on the anti-corruption policies and practices of multilateral development banks, via video link.⁶⁸⁰ Anti-corruption policies of multilateral development banks were introduced and international anti-corruption cooperation between China and the AIIB has been strengthened.

On 15 December 2022, Ambassador Zhang Jun at the United Nations Security Council Briefing on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts made remarks such as “we should further consolidate the political will on counter-terrorism cooperation for maximized synergy,” “we should further optimize resource allocation with a greater focus on the regions of the highest priority and the most pressing issues in counter-terrorism cooperation” and “we should continue to address both the symptoms and root causes of terrorism and striving to eradicate terrorism at its source. Military means alone can hardly achieve this.”⁶⁸¹

On 5 January 2023, President Xi Jinping announced strict arrangements to govern the party in the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China report in order to win the “protracted battle against corruption.”⁶⁸² This includes anti-corruption efforts in the financial sector, the state-owned enterprise sector, transportation, water conservancy, colleges and universities, among others. The report also discussed disciplinary inspection and supervision agencies at all levels and localities to keep a close eye on departments, industries and fields where power is concentrated, capital-intensive and resource rich. “Severe punishment” is cited as the consequence of breaking the anti-corruption efforts.

On 7 January 2023, the Central Conference for Judicial, Procuratorial and Public Security Work was held in Beijing, where the below highlights of China’s plan were drawn: pushing rule-based government administration, law enforcement; offering sound lawmaking, legislation advice for emerging sectors; tackling prominent public security issues; and improving urban and rural community governance system.⁶⁸³

On 30 January 2023, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the National Supervisory Commission issued the “Opinions on Deepening the Special Rectification of Corruption in the Field of Grain Purchase and Sales.”⁶⁸⁴ The agency emphasizes the need to continue to increase the punishment for corruption in the field of grain purchases and sales and carry out a clear-cut “review” of “shadow” shareholders and companies carrying out transactions, extortion of funds, transfer of benefits and other corrupt actions. They must be severely punished to maintain zero tolerance for corruption and deterrence unchanged.

On February of 2023, President Xi introduced a major reform involving the entire capital market, promoting a registration-based system for the entire market and various public issuance of stocks, which is beneficial for better allocation of resources according to market mechanisms.⁶⁸⁵ Xi emphasized on different occasions that, on one hand, China must deepen the reform of state-owned assets and enterprises, and on the other hand, it should continue to improve the business environment for the private sector.

On 16 February 2023, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the State Supervision Commission issued the “Opinions on Carrying out Special Rectification of Unhealthy Practices and

⁶⁸⁰ MOF holds workshop on anti-corruption policies and practices of multilateral development banks, Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 01 December 2022. Access Date: 17 March 2023.

http://gjs.mof.gov.cn/ywwz_14975/news/rd/202301/t20230104_3862028.htm

⁶⁸¹ Remarks by Chinese Ambassador to the UN Zhang Jun at the UN Security Council Briefing on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 15 December 2022. Access Date: Mar 15 2023.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zwjg_665342/zwbdt_665378/202212/t20221216_10991233.html

⁶⁸² 坚决打赢反腐败斗争攻坚战持久战——全面从严治党启新程之“反腐惩恶篇”, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 05 January 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2023-01/05/content_5735650.htm

⁶⁸³ Highlights of China’s Judicial, Procuratorial, Public Security Work Plan for 2023, Ministry of Justice of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 10 January 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2023. http://en.moj.gov.cn/2023-01/10/c_846789.htm

⁶⁸⁴ 中央纪委国家监委印发意见 持续深化粮食购销领域腐败问题专项整治, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 30 January 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2023-01/30/content_5739209.htm

⁶⁸⁵ Profile: With Popular Mandate, Xi Jinping Spearheads New Drive to Modernize China, Ministry of Justice of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 18 March 2023. http://en.moj.gov.cn/2023-03/15/c_869211.htm

Corruption in the Field of Rural Revitalization.”⁶⁸⁶ The opinion stated the need for discipline, inspection and supervision in agencies at all levels. The agencies must adhere to the strict measures to rectify unhealthy practices and corruption in the field of rural revitalization. Efforts should focus on the “five revitalizations” of industry, talent, culture, ecology, and organization. Inspection of key projects, major funds and important links should be strengthened, and efforts should be made to rectify fraudulent fraud, interception and misappropriation of subsidies for farmers, black-box operations in project construction, power-for-money transactions, among other issues to promote the improvement of rural collective asset supervision system. The opinion emphasizes punishment if violations of discipline and law are found.

On 15 March 2023, President Xi urged a crackdown on corruption that involves both political and economic issues at the plenary session of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.⁶⁸⁷ He emphasized the need to prevent leading cadres from becoming spokespersons or agents of interest groups and power cliques. He led the establishment of the National Commission of Supervision, a powerful anti-corruption agency to oversee every single person in public office.

On 16 March 2023, the Chinese government created the Central Financial Commission, a financial watchdog run by the Communist Party as part of a broad reorganization of governing bodies set to give the ruling party direct control and supervision over financial affairs.⁶⁸⁸ This watchdog will be responsible for the top-level design, development and supervision of the financial sector, strengthening “unified leadership on financial work.”

On 18 March 2023, Chinese government fired the director of the National Religious Affairs Administration Cui Maohu and placed him under investigation for corruption, days after the new cabinet started its new term.⁶⁸⁹ Two former senior officials in the financial sector – Wang Jianhong, former party boss and head of the Bank of China’s Beijing branch, and Wang Weijun, former Henan branch head at China Development Bank – are also being investigated on suspicion of graft.

On 16 March 2023, it was announced that the retired deputy chairman of Chongqing municipal people’s congress, Zheng Hong, was under investigation for corruption.⁶⁹⁰

On 17 March 2023, it emerged that the former deputy party chief of Ningxia Hui autonomous region, Jiang Zhigang, was under investigation for corruption.⁶⁹¹

On 27 March 2023, China’s top anti-corruption agency has launched a new round of inspections into some of the nation’s leading financial institutions.⁶⁹² The disciplinary campaign could exert more pressure on financial institutions already haunted by bad assets and a slowing economy.

On 1 April 2023, Premier Li Qiang called for efforts to improve Party conduct and law-based clean governance. He stated work should be done to ensure officials do not dare, are not able and do not want to be corrupt. He added corruption will be punished strictly.⁶⁹³

⁶⁸⁶ 中央纪委印发意见 坚决整治乡村振兴领域不正之风和腐败问题, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 16 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2023. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2023-02/16/content_5741812.htm

⁶⁸⁷ Profile: With Popular Mandate, Xi Jinping Spearheads New Drive to Modernize China, Ministry of Justice of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023. http://en.moj.gov.cn/2023-03/15/c_869211.htm

⁶⁸⁸ China to create powerful financial watchdog run by Communist Party, Reuters (London) 16 March 2023. Access Date: 27 August 2023. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3214024/chinas-religious-affairs-chief-cui-maohu-under-investigation-corruption>

⁶⁸⁹ China’s Religious Affairs Chief Cui Maohu under Investigation for Corruption, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 18 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3214024/chinas-religious-affairs-chief-cui-maohu-under-investigation-corruption>

⁶⁹⁰ China’s Religious Affairs Chief Cui Maohu under Investigation for Corruption, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

⁶⁹¹ China’s Religious Affairs Chief Cui Maohu under Investigation for Corruption, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)

⁶⁹² Why Has China Launched an Anti-Corruption Probe into Its Finance Industry, and How Will It Defuse Risk? South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 9 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3216331/why-has-china-launched-anti-corruption-probe-its-finance-industry-and-how-will-it-defuse-risk>.

⁶⁹³ Chinese premier stresses need to improve Party conduct, build clean government, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 1 April 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/202304/01/content_WS64276f56c6d03ffcca6ebef1.html

On 12 April 2023, the Government put Supreme Court judge Meng Xiang in jail for 12 years for corruption.⁶⁹⁴ The former director of the court's enforcement bureau admitted to taking the equivalent of USD3.3 million in bribes over almost 20 years. This was a part of a graft-busting campaign targeting the judicial system and law enforcement.

On 13 April 2023, President Xi formed a new security clique, entrusting several members of the CPC's new security faction with the task of ensuring the anti-corruption campaign is strictly implemented.⁶⁹⁵

On 24 April 2023, the Government put five incumbent or former highly ranked executives from five state-owned companies under investigation, as China's top anti-corruption watchdog is stepping up anti-graft efforts.⁶⁹⁶

On 24 April 2023, the Government put Liu Zhangjun, an ex-official who was once in charge of combating illegal fundraising for China's former banking regulator has been placed under investigation by the country's top anti-corruption watchdog.⁶⁹⁷

On 27 April 2023, Government intensified its top antigraft's grip over corruption, targeting bankers and making an example of a few prominent figures along the way.⁶⁹⁸ Liu Ti, a former deputy general manager of the Shanghai Stock Exchange, is under investigation for suspicion of duty-related violations of law. Li Xiaopeng, a former party secretary and chairman of China Everbright Group, a giant state-owned financial firm, is under review for alleged violations of discipline and law. Huang Xianhui, a former party secretary and general manager of Beijing Branch of China Huarong Asset Management, is under investigation for suspicion of duty-related violations of law. Liu Liange, a former party secretary and president of the Bank of China, is under investigation by the country's top anti-corruption watchdogs. etc.

On 27 April 2023, Government accused Zhou Jiangyong, former Party chief of Hangzhou in East China's Zhejiang Province of taking advantage of his position to receive bribes.⁶⁹⁹

On 2 May 2023, the Government put two more high-profile officials under investigation for suspected unspecified illegal activities.⁷⁰⁰ This includes ex-football association vice-president Li Yuyi and former chairman of the CSL Ma Chengquan.

On 10 May 2023, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the State Supervisory Commission has punished over 110,000 officials in anti-corruption drive, according to official statistics.⁷⁰¹

⁶⁹⁴ Chinese Supreme Court Judge Jailed for 12 Years for Corruption, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong). 12 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3216812/chinese-supreme-court-judge-jailed-12-years-corruption>.

⁶⁹⁵ CHINA: Xi Jinping Forms New Security Clique to Stamp out Corruption with Iron Fist, Intelligence Online (Beijing). 13 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.intelligenceonline.com/government-intelligence/2023/04/13/xi-jinping-forms-new-security-clique-to-stamp-out-corruption-with-iron-fist,109934797-art>.

⁶⁹⁶ Five Incumbent or Former Highly Ranked Executives from Five State-Owned Companies under Investigation, Global Times (Beijing) 24 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289673.shtml>.

⁶⁹⁷ China's Graft Investigators Probe Ex-Official Who Once Fought Illegal Fundraising, Caixin Global (Beijing) 24 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2023-04-24/chinas-graft-investigators-probe-ex-official-who-once-fought-illegal-fundraising-102031580.html>.

⁶⁹⁸ China Is Cracking down on Bankers. Here Are Some of the Targets, the New York Times (New York). 27 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/27/business/china-banker-crackdown.html>.

⁶⁹⁹ Former Party Chief of Hangzhou Accused of Accepting Bribes Totaling \$28 Million, Global Times (Beijing) 27 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289930.shtml>.

⁷⁰⁰ Chinese Football Corruption: 2 More High-Profile Officials under Investigation, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong). 2 May 2023. Access Date: 5 June 2023. <https://www.scmp.com/sport/china/article/3219161/chinese-football-corruption-investigation-2-more-high-profile-officials-under-investigation>.

⁷⁰¹ CCP Punishes over 110,000 Officials in Anti-Corruption Drive, ANI News (New Delhi) 10 May 2023. Access Date: 5 June 2023. <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/ccp-punishes-over-110000-officials-in-anti-corruption-drive20230510233357/>.

On 25 May 2023, Chinese Government held the 9th Anti-Bribery & Anti-Corruption Compliance China Summit 2023 at JW Marriott Beijing Hotel.⁷⁰² The two-day event featured three online presenters from US, Europe & APAC regulators and many leading domestic corporate speakers coming on-site for case studies.

On 9 June 2023, China's anti-corruption body expelled ex-central bank deputy Fan Yifei from Communist Party for 'serious violations.'⁷⁰³ He is the most senior central banker sacked as part of Beijing's anti-corruption campaign in the financial sector over the past two years.

On 13 July 2023, the Chinese government investigated Dong Yunhu, a senior legislator in Shanghai and first minister-level official to be suspected of severe violations of Party disciplines and laws this year.⁷⁰⁴ This highlights China's resolution in cracking down on corruption over the long run, and that the Party will take a tougher stance and measures in combating corruption to better fulfill the mission of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

On 21 July, the National Health Commission published a report about a meeting held with the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), the party's corruption watchdog, which vowed to "resolutely punish corruption" in the medical sector "with a zero-tolerance attitude."⁷⁰⁵ At least 177 hospital bosses and Chinese Communist party (CCP) secretaries have been placed under investigation this year.

On 25 July 2023, The Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress reviewed a draft amendment to the Criminal Law during the fourth session, with the primary focus to refine the stipulations regarding the crime of offering bribes and corruption by individuals from private firms.⁷⁰⁶ The new amendment aims to better fight against corruption and further protect the rights of private enterprises in accordance with the law.

On 26 July 2023, the Chinese government proposed an amendment to the country's Criminal Law introduced by China's top legislative body.⁷⁰⁷ This would intensify a crackdown on internal corruption in private enterprises by imposing heavier penalties on such individuals, as a part of Beijing's attempts to implement a more comprehensive approach to fighting corruption – shifting the focus from people receiving bribes to those paying them.

On 27 July 2023, the Chinese government expelled former finance official tasked with overseeing investments from the country's private sector from the Communist Party, and dismissed from office for "serious violations of discipline and law."⁷⁰⁸

On 30 July 2023, Xi Jinping unleashed a new campaign to enforce party discipline and root out corruption in the military.⁷⁰⁹ The renewed campaign to enforce party discipline comes as several top officers of the

⁷⁰² 9th Anti-Bribery & Anti-Corruption Compliance China Summit 2023, Commercial Dispute Resolution Magazine (London) 25 May 2023. Access Date: 7 June 2023. <https://www.cdr-news.com/>.

⁷⁰³ China's Anti-Corruption Body Expels Ex-Central Bank Deputy Fan Yifei from Communist Party for 'Serious...', South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 9 June 2023. Access Date 10 June 2023. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3223572/chinas-anti-corruption-body-expels-ex-central-bank-deputy-fan-yifei-communist-party-serious>.

⁷⁰⁴ Senior Shanghai legislator investigated for violation of disciplines, Global Times (Beijing) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1294343.shtml>.

⁷⁰⁵ China renews crackdown on corruption in healthcare, The Guardian (London) 17 August 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/17/china-renews-crackdown-on-corruption-in-healthcare>

⁷⁰⁶ China's Criminal Law draft amendment strengthens anti-corruption measures, promotes legal protection for private firms, Global Times (Beijing) 26 July 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1295062.shtml>.

⁷⁰⁷ China's fight against corruption to zero in on bribers with severe penalties, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 26 July 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3228970/chinas-fight-against-corruption-zero-bribers-severe-penalties>

⁷⁰⁸ China's anti-corruption body expels former finance official from Communist Party for magnifying hidden-debt risks, trashing ecosystem, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 28 July 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3229273/chinas-anti-corruption-body-expels-former-finance-official-communist-party-magnifying-hidden-debt>

⁷⁰⁹ Absolute loyalty: Xi Jinping turns anti-corruption focus to China's military, Financial Times (London) 30 July 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.ft.com/content/279a90a3-c550-40a2-9484-8a6eebca628b>

People's Liberation Army's Rocket Force, which oversees the country's nuclear and conventional missile arsenals, have disappeared from public view — often a signal of an investigation.

On 15 August 2023, the National Health Commission (NHC) launched a one-year campaign to crack down on corruption in the healthcare sector across the country, focusing on “key few” and key positions in the pharmaceutical industry to ensure high-quality development of the medical and healthcare sector.⁷¹⁰

On 15 August 2023, China's top medical regulator pledged to crack down on corruption with a focus on the country's health insurance scheme.⁷¹¹ This is to target misuse of funds, rent-seeking by management, bribery in pharmaceutical sales and ethics of medical personnel and the announcement comes amid a year-long anti-graft investigation into healthcare sector.

On 18 August 2023, the Chinese government arrested five people from a leading international immigration and investment services agency based in Shanghai for allegedly conducting illegal foreign exchange trading activities involving more than one hundred million yuan.⁷¹² They allegedly been providing forex trading services for others by accepting yuan in China and dispensing foreign currencies abroad for others since 2016.

China has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. It has made progress investigating corrupt officials, reformed financial systems, and emphasized their determination to achieve zero-corruption through official speeches.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Meverest Lin

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 22 November 2022, the Third Ministerial Conference of the Moldova Support Platform took place in Paris and was co-hosted by Romania, Germany and France.⁷¹³ The Conference was attended by Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives of 36 partner States, as well as heads or representatives of 15 key international organizations. The focus of the conference was on identifying operational solutions to address Moldova's most pressing needs, including the fight against corruption, economic assistance, the humanitarian situation of refugees, public administration reform and public finance management, effective border management and energy challenges.

On 30 November 2022, President of the Tribunal Judiciaire of Paris Stéphane Noël approved the EUR15.9 million settlement in the Judicial Public Interest Agreement (CJIP) between Airbus SE and the National Financial Prosecutor's Office (PNF).⁷¹⁴ The settlement aimed to resolve the bribery allegations linked to Airbus SE and the governments of Kazakhstan and Libya in the sale of commercial aircraft, helicopters,

⁷¹⁰ China's health authority launches one-year anti-corruption campaign, Global Times (Beijing) 15 August 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202308/1296319.shtml>

⁷¹¹ China pledges crackdown on corruption in health insurance scheme, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 15 August 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3231194/china-pledges-crackdown-corruption-health-insurance-scheme>

⁷¹² China Detains Chief of Top Immigration Consultancy for Illegal Forex Trading, Caixing Global (Beijing) 18 August 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.caixinglobal.com/2023-08-18/china-detains-chief-of-top-immigration-consultancy-for-illegal-forex-trading-102094577.html>

⁷¹³ Joint statement by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and Romania, Hosts of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Moldova Support Platform, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin). 22 November 2022. Access Date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2564636>

⁷¹⁴ Communiqué de Presse du Procureur de la République Financier. Ministère de la Justice (Paris). 30 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.tribunal-de-paris.justice.fr/sites/default/files/2022-11/221130_CP%20Airbus%20SE.pdf

and satellites between 2006 and 2011. This settlement succeeds the first CJIP settlement in January of 2020 where Airbus SE was charged a public interest fine of EUR2.083 billion whilst participating in a 3-year compliance program under the supervision of the French Anti-Corruption Agency.

On 3 December 2022, French prosecutors opened a corruption investigation into top central banker Sylvie Goulard, who simultaneously stepped down from the Bank of France.⁷¹⁵ The investigation looks into suspicions of accepting bribes, influence peddling, illegal conflicts of interest and breach of trust.

On 14 December 2022, France participated in the 15th Experience-sharing workshop in the Fight Against Corruption, held in Brussels, Belgium. Chanez Mensous represented France through the lens of non-governmental organizations, while presenting various perspectives from other countries and their approaches to reduce corruption. In addition to the countries that participated, the United Nations Office from Drugs and Crime and the Council of Europe's Group of States Against Corruption were also present in this workshop.⁷¹⁶

On 16 January 2023, the National Financial Prosecutor (PNF) issued updated guidelines on prosecution agreements in the Judicial Convention of Public Interest (CJIP). The revisions aim to make the CJIP more transparent and readable for government officials and citizens alike. The new guidelines ensure protections to companies and their public interest, whilst also providing sound consequences when needed.⁷¹⁷

On 14 February 2023, the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Guidance Council published an updated version of their National Risk Assessment (NRA) in accordance with the insights of the Financial Action Task Force. The revised edition includes further identification and specification of potential threats with regards to money laundering and terrorist financing to ensure established understandings between national authorities. While the main risks of money laundering and terrorist financing have remained consistent since 2019, the modifications of the NRA ensure proper means of mitigation are taken by France when faced with such risks.⁷¹⁸

On 14 March 2023, practices for conducting anti-corruption investigations of companies in France were published by the French Anti-Corruption Agency and the PNF. The published practices provide companies with general guidelines for investigations in-line with mandatory French-style compliance programs. The final guide was critiqued by over 350 French practitioners and received feedback on rooms for improvement by French authorities.⁷¹⁹

On 28 March 2023, the National Financial Prosecutor's Office conducted simultaneous investigations to look into five major financial institutions in France, namely France's Société Générale, BNP Paribas, Exane, Natixis, and the British HSBC.⁷²⁰ The investigation was conducted to look into the suspected counts of aggravated money laundering and aggravated tax fraud ensued by the companies. This investigation involved 160 investigators from the French finance ministry, 16 magistrates assigned to different locations, and six German magistrates under a mutual legal assistance agreement between France and Germany. The proceedings stemmed from the 2018 financial scandal dubbed "CumCum" which resulted in a significant

⁷¹⁵ Top French central banker in corruption probe, The Local Europe AB (Stockholm). 3 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20221203/top-french-central-banker-in-corruption-probe>

⁷¹⁶ "Future of the fight against corruption": DG HOME workshop on the fight against corruption, European Commission (Brussels). 16 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/future-fight-against-corruption-dg-home-workshop-fight-against-corruption-2022-12-16_en

⁷¹⁷ Publication of the new PNF guidelines on the implementation of the CJIP, Court of Paris (Paris). N.D. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.tribunal-de-paris.justice.fr/75/actualites-mensuelles-parquet-national-financier>

⁷¹⁸ Le COLB a approuvé l'analyse nationale des risques (ANR) de blanchiment de capitaux et de financement du terrorisme en France, Ministère de L'économie, des Finances et de la Souveraineté Industrielle et Numérique (Paris). 14 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/Articles/2023/02/14/le-corb-a-approuve-l-analyse-nationale-des-risques-anr-de-blanchiment-de-capitaux-et-de-financement-du-terrorisme-en-france>

⁷¹⁹ French Authorities Issue a Guide on Internal Investigations, Clifford Change (London). 3 April 2023. Access Date: 28 April 2023. <https://www.cliffordchance.com/briefings/2023/04/french-authorities-issue-a-guide-on-internal-investigations.html>

⁷²⁰ BNP Paribas, Société Générale, Exane, Natixis and HSBC offices searched as part of tax fraud scandal. Le Monde (Paris). 28 March 2023. Access Date: 14 June 2023. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/les-decodeurs/article/2023/03/28/bnp-paribas-societe-generale-exane-natixis-and-hsbc-offices-searched-as-part-of-tax-fraud-scandal_6020972_8.html

loss in tax revenue for France. “CumCum” is a practice amongst financial institutions in France to evade taxes due on dividends by shareholders of listed companies.

On 14 April 2023, the Criminal Court of Paris found 11 Turkish Kurds who were alleged accomplices of the terrorist Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) guilty on the grounds of terror financing, extortion, and terrorist criminal association.⁷²¹ The Paris court noticed a significant decrease in the funds which were acquired through threats that were described as “exclusion from the community,” and it is suspected that EUR2 million is collected by the group in southeastern France annually. Upon deliberation, the Turkish nationals were given sentences ranging from three years of suspension to five years in prison. The defendants were not banned from French territory since the majority of them have French refugee status.

On 2 May 2023, Public Accounts Minister Gabriel Attal declared that a total of EUR2.5 billion in taxes has yet to be settled.⁷²² This net cost includes penalties for tax evasion along with reassessed amounts of unpaid taxes, which specifically targets financial institutions amidst the “CumCum” financial scandal.

On 3 May 2023, the Anti-Narcotics Office was appointed leader to better coordinate actions against trafficking and dismantling criminal organizations.⁷²³ As part of this objective, it aims to strengthen actions against the corruption of public and private officials.

On 9 May 2023, Public Accounts Minister Gabriel Attal presented a plan to increase tax fraud checks by 25 per cent on the highest earners in the nation.⁷²⁴ Following Public Accounts Minister Attal’s declaration on the total amount of pending tax settlements, France seeks to further enforce taxation controls and fortify penalties on wealthy individuals and multinationals. In addition to this, the 100 largest companies on the stock market will be subject to a tax audit every two years. Although this ensures more tracking of tax claims, the plan does not attempt to mitigate the root cause of the problem and looks at a select population instead of looking at the nation holistically.

On 20 June 2023, the National Financial Prosecutor’s Office (PNF) conducted an investigation into the Paris 2024 Olympics Organizing Committee (COJOP) and SOLIDEO, the public establishment responsible with Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure.⁷²⁵ These investigations went underway as a result of allegations concerning corruption and the embezzlement of public funds. Following preliminary investigations in 2017 concerning irregularities in the contracts of groups involved in the Summer Olympics, the PNF aims to keep counts of favouritism, concealment of favouritism and misappropriation of public funds to a minimum.

France has fully complied with its commitment to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts. This is seen through the substantial efforts to strengthen pre-existing agreements, draft new legislations, and settle counts of corruption and bribery. France displays consistent effort to establish specific grounds for corruption and bribery whilst reducing wrongdoings within the community

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

⁷²¹ French Court Convicts 11 Turkish Kurds of PKK Terror Financing. Voice of America (Washington). 14 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.voanews.com/a/french-court-convicts-11-turkish-kurds-of-pkk-terror-financing/7051348.html>

⁷²² Tax Fraud: France seeks to recoup more than EUR2.5 billion from banks. Le Monde (Paris). 16 May 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/france/article/2023/05/16/tax-fraud-france-seeks-to-recoup-more-than-2-5-billion-from-banks_6026882_7.html

⁷²³ Global action against drug trafficking, Government of France (Paris). 3 May 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/politiques-prioritaires/renforcer-l-ordre-republicain-et-encourager-l-engagement/une-action-globale-contre-les-trafics-de-stupefiants>

⁷²⁴ Public Accounts Minister Attal: 'All tax fraud is serious, but that by the most powerful is unforgivable'. Le Monde (Paris). 8 May 2023. Access Date: 14 June 2023. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/politics/article/2023/05/08/public-accounts-minister-attal-all-tax-fraud-is-serious-but-that-by-the-most-powerful-is-unforgivable_6025950_5.html

⁷²⁵ Paris 2024: French police raid Olympics HQ in suspected corruption probe. Le Monde (Paris). 20 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/les-decodeurs/article/2023/06/20/paris-2024-french-police-raid-olympics-hq-in-suspected-corruption-probe_6034395_8.html

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 22 November 2022, the Third Ministerial Conference of the Moldova Support Platform took place in Paris and was co-hosted by Romania, Germany and France.⁷²⁶ The Conference was attended by Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives of 36 partner States, as well as heads or representatives of 15 key international organizations. The focus of the conference was on identifying operational solutions to address Moldova's most pressing needs, including the fight against corruption, economic assistance, the humanitarian situation of refugees, public administration reform and public finance management, effective border management and energy challenges.

On 16 December 2022, the Bundestag passed the Whistleblower Protection Act.⁷²⁷ As corruption is covert, whistleblowers are instrumental in uncovering and reporting corruption and illegal activities. This act ensures that reprisals against whistleblowers are forbidden. Furthermore, these new rules will apply to both private- and public-sector companies as well as the government.⁷²⁸ However, on 2 February 2023, the conservative party of the German Bundesrat has halted the proposed Whistleblower Protection Act.⁷²⁹

On 1 January 2023, the Sanctions Enforcement Act II came into effect in Germany.⁷³⁰ This new legislation, drafted by the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, restructures the way that sanctions are implemented and enforced in Germany. Moreover, this act seeks to strengthen measures against money laundering. Indeed, amendments were made to the German Anti-Money Laundering Act and more specifically to the Transparency register.⁷³¹ For instance, newly registered companies must now disclose personal information about beneficial owners to ensure that they are not fictitious. In addition, foreign associations with real estate properties in Germany need to be registered and real estate transactions through cash are now prohibited. Thus, Germany is furthering its efforts to limit money laundering and enforce sanctions through the Sanctions Enforcement Act II.

On 21 February 2023, Germany submitted a bid to host the European Union's new Anti-Money Laundering Authority in Frankfurt which shows their determination to strengthen anti-corruption efforts.⁷³² Germany argues that, since Frankfurt is the "most important financial centre in continental Europe," it would be a suitable environment for this new authority.

⁷²⁶ Joint statement by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and Romania, Hosts of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Moldova Support Platform, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin). 22 November 2022. Access Date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2564636>

⁷²⁷ Endlich Schutz für Hinweisgebende: Bundestag beschließt Gesetz, Transparency International Deutschland e.V. (Berlin). 16 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 March 2023.

<https://www.transparency.de/aktuelles/detail/article/default-a0dbf32ed3aa4d4c4ce96d3b6e85682b>

⁷²⁸ Bundestag passes Whistleblower Protection Act, NOERR. 16 December 2022. Access Date: 15 March 2023.

<https://www.noerr.com/en/insights/bundestag-beschliesst-hinweisgeberschutzgesetz>

⁷²⁹ German Bundesrat shoots down whistleblower protection law, Deutsche Welle (Germany). 2 February 2023. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.dw.com/en/german-bundesrat-shoots-down-whistleblower-protection-law/a-64669939>

⁷³⁰ Sanctions Enforcement Act II: making sure sanctions work, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). 26 October 2022. Access Date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Priority-Issues/Financial-Crime/sanctions-enforcement-act-II.html>

⁷³¹ Zweites Gesetz zur effektiveren Durchsetzung von Sanktionen (Sanktionsdurchsetzungsgesetz II), Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). 27 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 March 2023.

https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Gesetzestexte/Gesetze_Gesetzesvorhaben/Abteilungen/Abteilung_I_V/20_Legislaturperiode/2022-12-27-Sanktionsdurchsetzungsg-II/O-Gesetz.html

⁷³² Germany bids to host the new Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA), Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). 21 February 2023. Access Date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Priority-Issues/Financial-Crime/germany-bids-to-host-the-new-anti-money-laundering-authority.html>

On 21 February 2023, the Federal Ministry of Finance published its monthly report on federal budgetary and financial data.⁷³³ By publishing this report, Germany promotes transparency in its finances.

On 28 March 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development published a press release in which they declare that Germany supports the Ugandan government in its objective of increasing transparency and revenue while limiting corruption.⁷³⁴ Therefore, the Government is financially helping developing countries in their fight against corruption and is aiming to spread accountability and transparency.

On 3 May 2023, the Police searched dozens of homes, offices, and stores and arrested over 30 suspects from the Italian 'Ndrangheta mafia.⁷³⁵ These suspects have been charged with money laundering, tax evasion, fraud, and drug trafficking. Michael Ebling, the state interior minister of the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate stated "Today sends out a very clear signal: There is no place for organized crime in Europe."⁷³⁶ Therefore, through police investigations, Germany is continuing its efforts to reduce money laundering and organized crime.

On 3 May 2023, Federal Finance Minister Christian Lindner put forward a new strategy to fight money laundering through increased customs regulation.⁷³⁷ Lindner has commissioned the General Customs Directorate to reinforce financial investigations in customs, create regional organized crime investigation centers, and establish an innovation center to strengthen technological resources. These measures testify to Germany's commitment to implement new anti-money laundering and initiatives.

On 12 May 2023, the Federal Council passed the amended Whistleblower Protection Act which had been halted in February 2023.⁷³⁸ Companies in Germany with a minimum of 50 employees will have to establish internal reporting offices with the goal of protecting employees from repercussions of speaking up. Disrespecting the rules set out in the Act can lead to fines of up to 50,000 EUR.⁷³⁹ Thus, this act aims to reduce corruption, encourage reporting of illegal activities such as fraud and compliance violations.

On 16 May 2023, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze addressed the Atlantic Council and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.⁷⁴⁰ Schulze discussed the importance of structural reforms of multilateral organizations to ensure transparency and to lower fraud and inefficiency. Moreover, Germany and the United States will be cooperating on the World Bank reform and stabilization of states who are economically and democratically threatened. For instance, Schulze referred to African

⁷³³ Overview of federal budgetary and financial data up to and including January 2023, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). 21 February 2023. Access Date: 17 March 2023.

https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press_Room/Publications/Monthly_Report/Key_Figures/2023/2023-02-federal-budget.html

⁷³⁴ More transparency and accountability, more revenue, less corruption, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn). 28 March 2023. Access date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.bmz.de/en/countries/uganda/core-area-good-governance-civil-society-displaced-persons-153756>

⁷³⁵ Germany, Italy clamp down on Italian mob with raids, arrests, AP News (New York) 3 May 2023. Access Date: 3 May 2023. <https://apnews.com/article/germany-europe-italy-raids-ndrangheta-96ef8b70d669ddc726dd0acaa426dbc6>

⁷³⁶ More than 100 arrested in European anti-mafia raids, Deutsche Welle (Germany) 3 May 2023. Access date: 3 May 2023. <https://www.dw.com/en/more-than-100-arrested-in-european-anti-mafia-raids/a-65497944>

⁷³⁷ Bundesfinanzminister Christian Lindner stellt die neue Strategie zur Bekämpfung der Organisierten Kriminalität und Geldwäsche durch den Zoll vor, Bundesministerium der Finanzen (Berlin) 3 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 May 2023.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Pressemitteilungen/Finanzpolitik/2023/05/2023-05-03-zoll-strategie-bekaempfung-organisierte-kriminalitaet-geldwaesche.html>

⁷³⁸ Germany: Final Update On The German Whistleblower Protection Act, Mondaq (London). 13 June 2023. Access date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.mondaq.com/germany/whistleblowing/1328780/final-update-on-the-german-whistleblower-protection-act>

⁷³⁹ German Whistleblower Protection Act Brings New Obligations for Companies, Gibson Dunn (Los Angeles). 17 May 2023. Access date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.gibsondunn.com/german-whistleblower-protection-act-brings-new-obligations-for-companies/>

⁷⁴⁰ Towards a renewed multilateralism, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn). 16 May 2023. Access date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/speeches-and-contributions/minister-svenja-schulze/230516-speech-atlantic-council-154986>

countries who will receive German support to increase living conditions, reduce corruption, and counter terrorism.

On 25 May 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) published its data and documents on development cooperation to increase transparency.⁷⁴¹ Indeed, by sharing its development funding and financial flows, Germany sets out its actions more clearly and lowers the risk of corruption through increased communication. Moreover, the BMZ adheres to international transparency standards.

On 2 July 2023, the Whistleblower Protection Act came into effect to shield whistleblowers from repercussions.⁷⁴² All companies with at least 50 employees must now set up an internal reporting system. Furthermore, the Act instructs that the obstacles to reporting should be minimized. For instance, the reporting system should be available during most times and cannot be fully automated. Although it does not oblige it, the Whistleblower Protection Act strongly recommends that anonymous reports should be accepted. German ministries have already set up their internal reporting channel in according to the Act. For example, the Federal Ministry of Finance appointed the specialist Dr. Eggers to manage the internal reporting office.⁷⁴³ He has created “user-friendly” reporting portals and developed an application in order to make the process as smooth as possible. Moreover, the Federal Ministry of Finance has diligently communicated all contact information about internal reporting on their website to reduce obstacles and promote accessibility.

On 24 July 2023, the news agency Reuters announced, after viewing a draft of the law, that the Federal Ministry of Finance will establish a new body to combat money laundering, the Federal Bureau of Financial Intelligence.⁷⁴⁴ Set to be headquartered in Dresden and Cologne, this Bureau will compile monitoring and analysis of money laundering in order to centralize control. Under this new Bureau, new procedures will be implemented for investigations regarding “suspicious assets of high value”. Therefore, by creating this regulatory new body, Germany is taking concrete steps to fight financial crime and to do so more efficiently.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. By enacting legislation and outline clear frameworks, Germany has demonstrated its commitment to anti-corruption efforts.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Julie Souchet

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 15 December 2022, a Supreme Court Constitution bench ruled that courts can infer demand and acceptance of bribes by a public servant on the basis of circumstantial proof in the absence of direct evidence under Section

⁷⁴¹ More transparency, greater impact, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Boon). 25 May 2023. Access date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.bmz.de/en/ministry/facts-figures/project-and-organisation-data>

⁷⁴² Compliance & Investigations: German Whistleblower Protection Act – 12 Frequently Asked Questions, Gleiss Lutz (Stuttgart). 2 July 2023. Access date: 20 August 2023. https://www.gleisslutz.com/en/German_Whistleblower_Protection_Act.html

⁷⁴³ Hinweisgeberschutzgesetz – Interne Meldestelle im BMF, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). 4 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 August 2023. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Standardartikel/Service/Hinweisgeberschutz-im-BMF/hinweisgeberschutz-interne-meldestelle-bmf.html>

⁷⁴⁴ Germany to set up a new body to combat money laundering, Reuters (London). 24 July 2023. Access date: 20 August 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-set-up-new-body-combat-money-laundering-2023-07-24>

7 and 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.⁷⁴⁵ The trial does not abate nor does it result in acquittal of the accused public servant in case the complainant turns hostile, dies or is unavailable to let in evidence during the trial.

On 27 December 2022, the Central Bureau of Investigation reopened its corruption case against Rashtriya Janata Dal party chief and former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad Yadav.⁷⁴⁶ Investigations into Lalu, his wife Rabri and 14 others in an alleged land-for-jobs scam were stalled last year due lack of sufficient evidence. Lalu allegedly received a south Delhi property as bribe from real estate major DLF Group, which was interested in rail land lease projects in Mumbai's Bandra and the New Delhi railway station.

On 11 January 2023, the Indian federal police launched an investigation into the Food Corporation of India on the grounds of "possible corruption" in the purchase and supply of grains. The Central Bureau of Investigation implemented searches in over 50 locations of the state-run corporation, including in Punjab and Haryana states, and in Delhi.⁷⁴⁷

On 9 February 2023, the State Anti-corruption Bureau arrested a deputy engineer of the State Water Resources Department for accepting IND70,000 to sanction the bills to supply pipes for the rural water supply project in Bhore Tehsil under the Prevention of Corruption Act.⁷⁴⁸

On 14 February 2023, the Special Court sentenced former minister and Haveri Bharatiya Janata Party member of the Legislative Assembly Nehru C. Olekar, his two sons and five serving and retired officials were sentenced to two years imprisonment and imposed a fine of INR2,000 each on charges of issuing of false certificate, criminal breach of trust, and cheating and dishonesty under the Prevention of Corruption Act.⁷⁴⁹

On 1 March 2023, India called upon G20 members during the First Anti-Corruption working group meeting to adopt multilateral action for faster extradition of fugitive economic offenders and recovery of assets both abroad and domestically.⁷⁵⁰ Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh informed the media that the Enforcement Directorate has transferred assets worth USD180 billion to public sector banks that suffered losses to the tune of around USD272 billion due to frauds committed by high-net-worth individuals. He also elaborated on the impact of corruption on Gender and on Poverty reduction programmes.

On 1 March 2023, the First G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting held a Side Event on the theme "Leveraging ICT for combating corruption in Public Sector."⁷⁵¹ The role of information and communications technology (ICT) has been recognized for fighting corruption by increasing efficiency, promoting transparency, unmasking government data to public analysis, automating government processes, restricting discretion of officials and restraining the need to interact with the officials to access key services.

⁷⁴⁵ Public servants can be convicted in corruption case based on circumstantial evidence: SC, The New Indian Express (New Delhi) 15 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/dec/15/public-servants-can-be-convicted-in-corruption-case-based-on-circumstantial-evidence-sc-2528437.html>

⁷⁴⁶ CBI reopens corruption case against Lalu Prasad Yadav, The New Indian Express (New Delhi) 27 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/dec/27/cbi-reopens-corruption-case-against-laluprasad-yadav-2532030.html>

⁷⁴⁷ India investigates Food Corporation officials for possible corruption, Reuters (New Delhi) 11 January 2023. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-investigates-focod-corporation-officials-possible-corruption-source-2023-01-11/>

⁷⁴⁸ Maharashtra govt official held in bribery case, The Times of India (New Delhi) 27 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/dec/27/cbi-reopens-corruption-case-against-laluprasad-yadav-2532030.html>

⁷⁴⁹ Court sentences MLA Olekar, sons, officials in corruption case, The New Indian Express (Mumbai) 9 February 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/maharashtra-govt-official-held-in-bribery-case/articleshow/97751308.cms?from=mdr>

⁷⁵⁰ India calls upon G-20 Nations to adopt multilateral action for faster extradition of fugitive economic offenders and recovery of assets during the 1st Anti-Corruption working group meeting of G-20 nations held in Gurugram, Haryana today, Press Information Bureau (New Delhi), 1 March 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1903393>

⁷⁵¹ Side Event on leveraging ICT for Combating Corruption in Public Sector, Press Information Bureau (New Delhi), 1 March 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1903409>

Prime Minister Modi stressed the power of digitization and bridging the digital divide to promote transparency, flow of information and communication to curb corruption at all levels of society.

On 4 March 2023, the corruption ombudsman Lokayukta arrested a Bharatiya Janata Party lawmaker Madal Virupakshappa in relation to an INR 40 lakhs bribe that was accepted by his son. The lawmaker, who is also the chairperson of state-run Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited, was arrested in a series of raids and arrests that was orchestrated by the Lokayukta's police wing.⁷⁵²

On 11 March 2023, the Central Bureau of Investigation summoned Tejashwi Yadav, the deputy chief minister from a ruling coalition party in Bihar, in relation to allegations of potential bribery.⁷⁵³

On 13 March 2023, the Federal police launched an investigation into possible "corruption and financial irregularities" within the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS). The Central Bureau of Investigation initiated an inquiry into the IRCS, following allegations against branches in the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka as well as the union territories of Andaman and Nicobar in the state of Assam.⁷⁵⁴

On 20 June 2023, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested an employee of the Employees Provident Fund Organization, as well as a middleman, for allegedly accepting a bribe of INR700,00.⁷⁵⁵ In a separate incident, the ACB arrested a junior engineer of the Sohna Municipal Corporation for accepting a bribe of INR150,000.

On 22 June 2023, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Prime Minister Modi affirmed the importance of collective and collaborative efforts to build resilience in our supply chains, harness transformations in clean energy, and accelerate progress of our economies through anti-corruption efforts.⁷⁵⁶ Both leaders welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework Supply Chain Agreement, and India was invited to attend the APEC Summit in San Francisco in November 2023.

India has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. While the Indian government has made efforts to enforce anti-corruption policies and initiated judicial action against corrupt government officials, they have not initiated any new policies relating to the prevention, combat, detection, investigation, prosecution or sanction of corruption. Likewise, while the government has facilitated collaborative efforts to combat corruption, it has not implemented new legislation or strong measures to combat corruption.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Kiara Senanayake

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

⁷⁵² Karnataka: BJP MLA and his son booked in bribery case, Telegraph India (New Delhi), 10 March 2023. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/bjp-mla-of-karnataka-booked-in-bribery-case/cid/1920288>

⁷⁵³ Federal Police Summons India Minister in Bribery Probe, PTI Saya, Bloomberg (New York City), March 11 2023. Access Date: April 30 2023. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-11/federal-police-summons-india-minister-in-bribery-probe-pti-saya#xj4y7vzkg>

⁷⁵⁴ India investigating corruption allegations against Red Cross branches, Reuters (New Delhi), 13 March 2023. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-investigating-corruption-allegations-against-red-cross-branches-govt-2023-03-13/>

⁷⁵⁵ Gurugram: EPFO Employee Among 2 Held For Taking Bribe Of Rs 7 Lakh, Outlook (New Delhi), 20 June 2023. Access Date: 24 June 2023. <https://www.outlookindia.com/national/gurugram-epfo-employee-among-2-held-for-taking-bribe-of-rs-7-lakh-news-296514>

⁷⁵⁶ Joint Statement from the United States and India, The White House (Washington, D.C.), 22 June 2023. Access Date: 24 June 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/06/22/joint-statement-from-the-united-states-and-india/>

On 18 November 2022, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) held an Anti-Corruption Education Lecturer Workshop for Higher Education for Lecturers and Prospective Lecturers in collaboration with all higher education service institutions, state universities and state Indonesian religious colleges.⁷⁵⁷

On 24 November 2022, the Attorney General's Office confiscated assets with affiliated with corruption in the financial management and investment funds of PT Asuransi Jiwasraya for the 2008-2018 period.⁷⁵⁸

On 24 November 2022, Indonesia affirmed its commitment to support transnational corruption eradication in the ASEAN-PAC Forum.⁷⁵⁹

On 25 November 2022, the KPK held a Public Service Mall festival encouraging government transparency. The festival was one of a series of activities for the 2022 Road to World Anti-Corruption Day.⁷⁶⁰

On 30 November 2022, the KPK officially launched 10 anti-corruption villages from 10 provinces in Indonesia.⁷⁶¹ These pilot villages have high anti-corruption scores. The aim is for all provinces to have at least one anti-corruption pilot village.

On 5 December 2022, the KPK held the 2022 Anti-Corruption Film Festival Awar Night commemorating World Anti-Corruption Day.⁷⁶² The KPK wants to use film culture as a method to grow the spirit of anti-corruption.

On 9 December 2022, the KPK detains Supreme Court Judge Gazaba Sale as a suspect in a bribery case in the handling of cases in the Supreme Court.⁷⁶³ A total of 13 suspects have been charged by the KPK in this case.

On 13 December 2022, the KPK accelerated the development of the integration of electronic-based planning and budgeting, which will be integrated into the National Strategy for Prevention of Corruption and aims to create an integrated budget planning system at the center of the regions.⁷⁶⁴

On 13 December 2022, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati stated that corruption is the main cause of a country's economic downturn and creates inequality or gaps that are very unequal. She explained that corruption has been a significant barrier for many countries, both developing and poor countries, as well as developed countries, in creating equitable prosperity. To overcome the threat of corruption and build

⁷⁵⁷ KPK Bekali Pendidikan Antikorupsi bagi Dosen dan Calon Dosen, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/686620/kpk-bekali-pendidikan-antikorupsi-bagi-dosen-dan-calon-dosen>

⁷⁵⁸ Kejagung Sita 209 Bidang Tanah Terafiliasi Kasus Korupsi Jiwasraya, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 24 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/688562/kejagung-sita-209-bidang-tanah-terafiliasi-kasus-korupsi-jiwasraya>

⁷⁵⁹ Dalam Forum ASEAN-PAC, Indonesia Tegaskan Komitmen Dukung Pemberantasan Korupsi Lintas Negara, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 24 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/688899/dalam-forum-asean-pac-indonesia-tegaskan-komitmen-dukung-pemberantasan-korupsi-lintas-negara>

⁷⁶⁰ Dalam Forum ASEAN-PAC, Indonesia Tegaskan Komitmen Dukung Pemberantasan Korupsi Lintas Negara, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 25 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/688912/dorong-transparansi-pemerintahan-kpk-hadirkan-festival-mal-pelayanan-publik-di-hakordia-bali>

⁷⁶¹ KPK Luncurkan 10 Desa Antikorupsi 2022, Berikut Daftarnya, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 30 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nusantara/689573/kpk-luncurkan-10-desa-antikorupsi-2022-berikut-daftarnya#>

⁷⁶² Persuasi Budaya Antikorupsi lewat Film, KPK Gelar Penghargaan ACFEST 2022, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 5 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/691248/persuasi-budaya-antikorupsi-lewat-film-kpk-gelar-penghargaan-acffest-2022#>

⁷⁶³ KPK Tahan Hakim Agung Gazalba Saleh Terkait Suap Penanganan Perkara di MA, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/692844/kpk-tahan-hakim-agung-gazalba-saleh-terkait-suap-penanganan-perkara-di-ma>

⁷⁶⁴ KPK Percepat Integrasi Sistem Elektronik Stranas PK 2022 pada SIPD Kemendagri, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 13 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/693838/kpk-percepat-integrasi-sistem-elektronik-stranas-pk-2022-pada-sipd-kemendagri#>

institutions based on good governance, the Minister called for continuous activities against corruption to create just shared welfare and suppress the possibility of fraud and corruption, ultimately escaping the middle-income trap.⁷⁶⁵

On 14 December 2022, the KPK shared good practices at the 2022 Hakordia Anti-Corruption Education Network Workshop in line with the goal of integrating the values of integrity and anti-corruption in education.⁷⁶⁶

On 28 December 2022, the KPK integrated anti-corruption education into the National Curriculum, implementing the Trident of Corruption Eradication Strategies to form citizens with integrity by instilling anti-corruption values.⁷⁶⁷ This curriculum involves educational units, educators, parents, communities, professional organizations and government as policy makers.

On 30 December 2022, the KPK increased international corruption eradication cooperation with various agencies from several countries.⁷⁶⁸ It signed the renewal of the “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Preventing and Combating Corruption.”

On 3 January 2023, the KPK detained Head of the Subdivision for Application of Criminal and Human Rights in the Legal Aid Divisions at the Legal Aid Bureau of the Legal Division of the National Police Headquarters Bambang Kayung for alleged corruption in the form of bribes and gratuities related to forgery of letters regarding the disputes over the rights of PT ACM's heirs.⁷⁶⁹

On 10 January 2023, the KPK deposited IDR4.2 million to the state, which was recuperated from former Head of the Housing and Land Office of the Bekasi City Government, who was convicted of bribery.⁷⁷⁰

On 3 January 2023, the Supreme Court took steps to address judicial corruption and improve internal oversight after a corruption scandal that involved several justices and workers. However, critics believe that more thorough reform is needed to eradicate corruption from the highest court. The KPK recently named Edy Wibowo, a judicial justice, as a suspect in a bribery case involving a Supreme Court appellate ruling favoring Sandi Karsa Makassar Hospital. The Supreme Court's commitment to fighting judicial corruption is relevant to Indonesia's zero-tolerance anti-corruption efforts.⁷⁷¹

On 19 January 2023, the KPK promoted the values of integrity to elementary school students to prepare the younger generation to be ready to eradicate corruption in the future.⁷⁷²

⁷⁶⁵ Menkeu : Korupsi Penyebab Utama Memburuknya Perekonomian Suatu Negara, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 13 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 March 2023.

<https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/informasi-publik/publikasi/berita-utama/korupsi-penyebab-memburuknya-perekonomian>
⁷⁶⁶ KPK Berbagi Praktik Baik di Sarasehan Jejaring Pendidikan Antikorupsi Hakordia 2022, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 14 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/693856/kpk-berbagi-praktik-baik-di-sarasehan-jejaring-pendidikan-antikorupsi-hakordia-2022>

⁷⁶⁷ KPK Telah Integrasikan Pendidikan Antikorupsi ke Kurikulum Nasional di 2022, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 28 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/698223/kpk-telah-integrasikan-pendidikan-antikorupsi-ke-kurikulum-nasional-di-2022>

⁷⁶⁸ Selama 2022, KPK Tingkatkan Kerja Sama Pemberantasan Korupsi Internasional, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 30 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/698766/selama-2022-kpk-tingkatkan-kerja-sama-pemberantasan-korupsi-internasional>

⁷⁶⁹ KPK Tahan AKBP Bambang Kayun dalam Kasus Dugaan Suap dan Gratifikasi, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 3 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/699592/kpk-tahan-akbp-bambang-kayun-dalam-kasus-dugaan-suap-dan-gratifikasi>

⁷⁷⁰ KPK Setor Rp402 Juta ke Negara dari Terpidana Jumhana Luthfi Amin, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 10 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/700974/kpk-setor-rp402-juta-ke-negara-dari-terpidana-jumhana-luthfi-amin>

⁷⁷¹ Supreme Court vows to commit to judicial corruption eradication, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 3 January 2023. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2023/01/03/supreme-court-vows-to-commit-to-judicial-corruption-eradication.html>

⁷⁷² KPK Sosialisasikan Nilai Integritas ke Siswa SD, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 19 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/703564/kpk-sosialisasikan-nilai-integritas-ke-siswa-sd>

On 4 February 2023, the KPK invited 16 ministries and institutions who are members of the Kesyahbadaan and Port Authority as executors of corruption prevention actions and service provider stakeholders.⁷⁷³ The aim of the “Follow-up JAGA Port meeting” was to unify the commitment of these bodies to be responsive to all forms of public complaints that are constrained in service.

On 6 February 2023, the KPK highlighted the role of universities in the eradication of corruption as part of the Field World Lecture program for Postgraduate Law Master’s students.⁷⁷⁴

On 8 February 2023, the Attorney General’s Office and the KPK signed the Corruption Eradication Cooperations Agreement.⁷⁷⁵ This collaboration aimed to equalize perceptions, increase coordination and supervision of corruption cases to optimize and accelerate case resolutions.

On 10 February 2023, the Team for Arresting Fugitives at the North Sumatra High Court secured a fugitive convicted on corruption charges costing the state IDR32 billion.⁷⁷⁶

On 14 February 2023, the KPK promoted early corruption prevention to high school students as part of its corruption eradication trident strategy, which places education as the first principle that emphasizes the improvement of values.⁷⁷⁷

On 16 February 2023, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Kemenkumham) received confiscated assets, valued at IDR 56.7 billion, in the form of a plot of land and a building unit from the KPK. The assets will be used to administer immigration services to the public. The Minister of Law and Human Rights, Yasonna H. Laoly, expressed his gratitude towards the KPK’s efforts to resolve corruption cases and hopes that the received assets will improve immigration services. The assets received will be recorded in the BMN Accounting Management Information System to ensure clear and accountable recording. The Ministry of Law and Human Rights also submitted an application for the PSP Confiscated Goods PSP for a land area and a building with Building Use Rights in Tanjung Priok, North Jakarta.⁷⁷⁸

On 17 February 2023, the KPK officially named Wahyudi Hardi, Chair of the Sandi Karsa Makassar Hospital Foundation, as a suspect in an alleged bribery case involving the Supreme Court of Indonesia. Justice Edy Wibowo, the Deputy Registrar at the Supreme Court, has previously been named and removed from his post in December 2022 as part of the judicial corruption investigation, with the Supreme Court committing to improving internal oversight of corruption.⁷⁷⁹

On 21 February 2023, the KPK detained a suspect in relations to alleged corruption in the form of receiving bribes, gratuities and money laundering crimes in relation to an infrastructure development project in

⁷⁷³ KPK Ajak 16 K/L Sektor Pelabuhan Berkomitmen Menindaklanjuti JAGA.id, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 4 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/708118/kpk-ajak-16-k-l-sektor-pelabuhan-berkomitmen-menindaklanjuti-jaga-id>

⁷⁷⁴ KPK Dorong Peran Perguruan Tinggi dalam Pemberantasan Korupsi, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 6 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 February 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/708960/kpk-dorong-peran-perguruan-tinggi-dalam-pemberantasan-korupsi>

⁷⁷⁵ Kejangung dan KPK Teken Perjanjian Kerja Sama Pemberantasan Korupsi, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 8 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/709750/kejangung-dan-kpk-teken-perjanjian-kerja-sama-pemberantasan-korupsi>

⁷⁷⁶ Jaksa Amankan Terpidana Korupsi Rp32 Miliar di BSM KCP Perdagangan, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 10 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/710743/jaksa-amankan-terpidana-korupsi-rp32-miliar-di-bsm-kcp-perdagangan>

⁷⁷⁷ KPK Sosialisasikan Cegah Korupsi Sejak Dini pada Siswa SMA, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 14 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/711846/kpk-sosialisasikan-cegah-korupsi-sejak-dini-pada-siswa-sma>

⁷⁷⁸ Terima Barang Rampasan Rp56 Miliar, Kemenkumham Optimalkan Layanan Keimigrasian, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 16 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.kemenkumham.go.id/berita-utama/terima-barang-rampasan-rp56-miliar-kemenkumham-optimalkan-layanan-keimigrasian>

⁷⁷⁹ Diduga Suap Hakim MA Edy Wibowo, Ketua Yayan RS Jadi Tersangka dan Ditahan KPK, Merdeka (Jakarta) 17 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 June 2023. <https://www.merdeka.com/peristiwa/diduga-suap-hakim-ma-edy-wibowo-ketua-yayan-rs-jadi-tersangka-dan-ditahan-kpk.html>

Central Mamberamo Regency involving IDR200 billion.⁷⁸⁰ The suspect is suspected of violating Article 12 letter a or letter b or Article 11 and Article 12B of RI Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption as amended by RI Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning Amendments to RI Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning Eradication of Corruption Crimes in conjunction with Articles 3 and 4 of RI Law Number 8 of 2010 concerning the Prevention and Eradication of Money Laundering Crimes.

On 27 February 2023, the Chairman of the DPR RI Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Agency, Fadli Zon, emphasized the importance of transparency in political finance as a crucial part of eradicating corruption and promoting democracy during the SEAPAC Conference in Jakarta. The event was an initiative of the Southeast Asia Parliamentary Against Corruption (SEAPAC) in collaboration with the Indonesian Parliamentary Cooperation Agency, where parliamentarians from Indonesia and ASEAN countries, academics, and anti-corruption activists attended. The root of corruption in many countries is the weak regulation and supervision of political finance, including funding for political parties, campaign funds, and donations from third parties, and it is deemed necessary to improve regulation and oversight for political finance to be more transparent and freer of corruption. Through this international meeting, Fadli hopes to strengthen anti-corruption legislation systems and formulate regulations related to the transparency of political financing.⁷⁸¹

On 6 March 2023, the KPK convicted former Director General of the Ministry of Transportation based on the decision of the Corruption Court.⁷⁸²

On 9 March 2023, the KPK of Indonesia received a visit from the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The meeting aimed to establish cooperation between the two institutions to combat corruption, including an anti-corruption education strategy approach. KPK Deputy for Education and Community Participation, Wawan Wardiana, expressed the importance of carrying out an educational strategy to internalize the values of integrity and anti-corruption and build individuals with honest character and behavior. The KPK has various programs for this, such as curriculum integration, supplementing Anti-Corruption Education (PAK) materials, monitoring, and empowering education stakeholders. The KPK also conducts the Smart Politics with Integrity (PCB) program to increase awareness and commitment to integrity in political parties, the public, KPU, and Bawaslu.⁷⁸³

On 10 March 2023, the KPK seized IDR5.6 billion as part of an investigation into alleged receipt of gratuities by former Sidoarjo Regent Saiful Ilah.⁷⁸⁴ He is suspected of violating Article 12B of RI Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes as amended by RI Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning Amendments to RI Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes.

On 10 March 2023, the KPK introduced an Anti-Corruption Education Center to the Kingdom of Cambodia with the aim to increase cooperation.⁷⁸⁵ The programs aim to increase employee capacity, knowledge and abilities.

⁷⁸⁰ KPK Tahan Bupati Mamberamo Tengah, DPO Tersangka Suap, Gratifikasi, dan TPPU, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 21 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/714338/kpk-tahan-bupati-mamberamo-tengah-dpo-tersangka-suap-gratifikasi-dan-tppu>

⁷⁸¹ DPR RI Dorong Pengelolaan Keuangan Politik yang Transparan di SEAPAC Conference, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 23 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/716408/dpr-ri-dorong-pengelolaan-keuangan-politik-yang-transparan-di-seapac-conference>

⁷⁸² KPK Lelang Barang Rampasan Terpidana Mantan Dirjen Hubla Kemenhub, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 6 Marh 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/718762/kpk-lelang-barang-rampasan-terpidana-mantan-dirjen-hubla-kemenhub>

⁷⁸³ KPK Berbagi Program Pendidikan Antikorupsi kepada ACU Kamboja, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/720136/kpk-berbagi-program-pendidikan-antikorupsi-kepada-acu-kamboja#>

⁷⁸⁴ KPK Sita Rp5,6 Miliar Dugaan Gratifikasi Tersangka SI, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 10 March, 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/718762/kpk-lelang-barang-rampasan-terpidana-mantan-dirjen-hubla-kemenhub>

⁷⁸⁵ KPK Kenalkan Pusat Edukasi Antikorupsi ke Kerajaan Kamboja, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 10 March, 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/720693/kpk-kenalkan-pusat-edukasi-antikorupsi-ke-kerajaan-kamboja>

On 16 March 2023, the North Sumatra High Prosecutor's Office's Fugitive Arrest Team arrested Muhammad Khaidir Nasution, convicted in the corruption case of embezzlement of Batahan IV Transmigrant Certificates, Batahan District, Mandailing Natal Regency for the 2008 period.⁷⁸⁶

On 16 March 2023, Minister of Law and Human Rights, Yasonna H. Laoly, instructed all levels of the Kemenkumham to adopt a simple lifestyle, according to President Joko Widodo's directions. He urged staff to avoid exhibiting luxury items and to carry out their duties and functions in a trustworthy, professional, and accountable manner to prevent corruption. The Minister hopes to create a serving Kemenkumham bureaucracy and to contribute positively in increasing the National Corruption Perception Index (IPK) and ensure the smooth running of the national development program.⁷⁸⁷

On 20 March 2023, the KPK sentenced to prison former Yogyakarta Mayor Haryadi Suyuti and his secretary according to the decision of the Yogyakarta Tipikor District Court on a corruption case involving IDR165 million.⁷⁸⁸

On 21 March 2023, the KPK launched the 2023 Monitoring Center for Prevention Indicators as a response to the high level of vulnerability of regional governments to corruption.⁷⁸⁹ This year, the theme adopted is "Strengthening the Synergy of Corruption Prevention in the Licensing and Procurement of Goods and Services (PBJ) Sector in Local Governments Ahead of the Political Year." It aims to improve governance in eight focus areas: planning and budgeting, procurement of goods and services, licensing, oversight of government Internal Supervisory Apparatus, State Civil Apparatus Management, local tax optimization, regional property management and village governance.

On 21 March 2023, the KPK named non-active Supreme Court judge Gazalba Saleh as a suspect in receiving gratuities and money laundering crimes.⁷⁹⁰

On 21 March 2023, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati, emphasized the joint commitment of the Ministry of Finance and INTRAC to fighting and eradicating criminal acts of money laundering and corruption. She stated that the Ministry of Finance institutions work together with the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (PPATK) to exchange information and data in order to fight and eradicate corruption and money laundering. The Ministry of Finance and PPATK have collaborated in following up on data regarding suspected money laundering transactions and investigated individuals and entities involved in transactions from 2017 to 2019. The Minister of Finance has also emphasized that the Ministry of Finance institutions proactively work with PPATK to safeguard state finances and will take firm action in accordance with civil service regulations if employees of the Ministry of Finance are involved in corruption or other criminal activities.⁷⁹¹

⁷⁸⁶ Jaksa Amankan Buronan Korupsi Penggelapan Sertifikat Transmigran, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 16 March, 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/722964/jaksa-amankan-buronan-korupsi-penggelapan-sertifikat-transmigran>

⁷⁸⁷ Menkumham Instruksikan Jajaran Kemenkumham Terapkan Pola Hidup Sederhana, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 16 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.kemenkumham.go.id/berita-utama/menkumham-instruksikan-jajaran-kemenkumham-terapkan-pola-hidup-sederhana>

⁷⁸⁸ KPK Eksekusi Mantan Wali Kota Yogyakarta Haryadi Suyuti ke Lapas Sukamiskin, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 20 March, 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/724806/kpk-eksekusi-mantan-wali-kota-yogyakarta-haryadi-suyuti-ke-lapas-sukamiskin>

⁷⁸⁹ Risiko Korupsi Pemda Tinggi, KPK Luncurkan Indikator MCP 2023, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 21 March, 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/725253/risiko-korupsi-pemda-tinggi-kpk-luncurkan-indikator-mcp-2023>

⁷⁹⁰ KPK Tetapkan Hakim Agung MA GS Tersangka Gratifikasi dan Pencucian Uang, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 21 March, 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/725315/kpk-tetapkan-hakim-agung-ma-gs-tersangka-gratifikasi-dan-pencucian-uang>

⁷⁹¹ Menkeu Tegaskan Komitmen Bersama Kemenkeu-PPATK untuk Berantas TPPU maupun Korupsi, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 21 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/informasi-publik/publikasi/berita-utama/komitmen-kemenkeu-ppatk>

On 27 March 2023, the head of the KPK said that the KPK conducted a search of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to investigate allegations of corruption.⁷⁹²

On 27 March 2023, the Supreme Court Oversight Body initiated the development of an Anti-Bribery Management System (SMAP) based on data from the KPK.⁷⁹³ SMAP will focus on bribery that occurs in the judiciary, aiming to prevent, detect, and respond to bribery incidents.

On 30 March 2023, the KPK held anti-corruption training and education for indigenous peoples and local communities in collaboration with GIZ and the Jayapura Regency Government.⁷⁹⁴ The 52 participants had the objectives of understanding corruption and the effects of corruption, their role in preventing forestry corruption, recognizing the values of integrity in local wisdom values and joint action to prevent corruption.

On 3 April 2023, the KPK detained a suspect of an alleged corruption case in the form of bribes related to infrastructure projects in South Buru Regency, Maluku Province.⁷⁹⁵ The suspect might be in violation of Article 5 paragraph (1) letter a of Article 22 of RI Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes as amended by RI Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning Amendments to RI Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts Corruption Jo Article 55 paragraph (1) to 1 of the Criminal Code.

On 5 April 2023, the KPK invited the community to participate in preventing corruption through education at a technical coordination meeting for the virtual implementation of the 2023 KPK bus roadshow program.⁷⁹⁶ The aim is to instill the values of integrity, anti-corruption values to all people, especially at an early age, as stipulated in article 7 of law number 19 of 2019 concerning the Corruption Eradication Commission, which states that the KPK has the authority to organize anti-corruption education programs in every educational network.

On 10 April 2023, the KPK reminded state officials and civil servants to refuse gratification ahead of Eid.⁷⁹⁷ If due to certain conditions civil servants or state administrators cannot refuse gratuity, they must report it to the KPK no later than 30 working days after the gratuity is received.

On 11 April 2023, Assistant for General Administration of the Regional Secretariat of Central Kalimantan Province Sri Suwanto opened training for prospective anti-corruption instructors and experience path certification in collaboration with the KPK.⁷⁹⁸ 33 participants underwent a three-day training in order to improve the competence of Human Resources for Apparatus as mandated by Law No. 5 of 2014 concerning State Civil Apparatus. The KPK also invited all members of society to carry out anti-corruption prevention and education strategies.

⁷⁹² Selidiki Dugaan Korupsi Pembayaran Tunjangan Kinerja Pegawai, KPK Geledah Kementerian ESDM, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 27 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/726542/selidiki-dugaan-korupsi-pembayaran-tunjangan-kinerja-pegawai-kpk-geledah-kementerian-esdm#>

⁷⁹³ Badan Pengawasan MA Menginisiasi Pembangunan Sistem Manajemen Anti-Penyuapan, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 27 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/726462/badan-pengawasan-ma-menginisiasi-pembangunan-sistem-manajemen-anti-penyuapan>

⁷⁹⁴ Puluhan Masyarakat Adat dan Komunitas Lokal Ikuti Pelatihan Pendidikan Anti Korupsi, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 30 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nusantara/727647/puluhan-masyarakat-adat-dan-komunitas-lokal-ikuti-pelatihan-pendidikan-anti-korupsi>

⁷⁹⁵ KPK Tahan lagi Tersangka Pemberi Suap Proyek di Buru Selatan, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 3 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/728757/kpk-tahan-lagi-tersangka-pemberi-suap-proyek-di-buru-selatan>

⁷⁹⁶ Cegah Korupsi Melalui Pendidikan, KPK Ajak Masyarakat Ikut Berperan Serta, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 5 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nusantara/729486/cegah-korupsi-melalui-pendidikan-kpk-ajak-masyarakat-ikut-berperan-serta>

⁷⁹⁷ KPK Ingatkan Penyelenggara Negara dan PNS Tolak Gratifikasi Jelang Lebaran 2023, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 10 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/730840/kpk-ingatkan-penyelenggara-negara-dan-pns-tolak-gratifikasi-jelang-lebaran-2023>

⁷⁹⁸ Gandeng KPK, Pemprov. Kalteng Gelar Pelatihan Calon Penyuluh Antikorupsi dan Sertifikasi Jalur Pengalaman, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 11 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nusantara/731160/gandeng-kpk-pemprov-kalteng-gelar-pelatihan-calon-penyuluh-antikorupsi-dan-sertifikasi-jalur-pengalaman>

On 17 April 2023, the Head of the KPK Region V Supervision Coordination Task Force Dian Patria announced mandatory asset control measures for regional governments to improve upon the issues of asset misappropriation by officials.⁷⁹⁹

On 18 April 2023, the Intelligence Team for the Arrest of Fugitives at the South Sulawesi High Prosecutor's Office arrested a fugitive in a corruption case for construction of roads and bridges.⁸⁰⁰ State finances suffered a loss of IDR2.98 billion as a result of the convict's actions, which violated Article 2 paragraph (1) in conjunction with Article 18 Paragraph (1) letter b of Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption as amended and supplemented by Law Number 20 of 1999 2001 concerning Amendments to Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes in conjunction with Article 55 paragraph (1) 1st of the Criminal Code.

On 18 April 2023, the KPK announced it confiscated IDR10 billion in assets related to alleged bribery belonging to the inactive Mamberamo Tengah Regent.⁸⁰¹ The assets were allegedly related to bribery, gratuity and money laundering crimes.

On 18 April 2023, investigators at the Assistant for Special Crimes at the South Sulawesi High Prosecutor's Office confiscated IDR1.5 billion related to the corruption case regarding the Perusahaan Daerah Air Minum water company in Makassar City.⁸⁰²

On 3 May 2023, the KPK confiscated IDR12.7 billion in assets related to bribes and gratuities in the handling of cases of the National Police.⁸⁰³

On 5 May 2023, the KPK held the 2023 Anti-Corruption Film Festival (ACFFest).⁸⁰⁴ The annual event has been held since 2013 with the aim to educate and invite young people to be more creative, caring, and critical in fighting corruption. ACFFest 2023 carried the theme "Your Voice, Our Voice, Voice of Conscience," which is intended to educate young people to stay away from the practice of buying and selling votes in the upcoming election.

On 9 June 2023, the Coordinating Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Minister Mahfud MD announced that the government will comply with the Constitutional Court's ruling that a KPK commissioner's office term should be five years instead of four.⁸⁰⁵ This sets constitutional limits on KPK leadership, showing that the KPK is being held accountable by the federal government and the Constitutional Court of Indonesia.

On 24 June 2023, the KPK announced that the Anti-Corruption Village program can improve the overall community's welfare as a result of transparent accounting and optimized budgeting.⁸⁰⁶

⁷⁹⁹ Penertiban Penguasaan Aset Wajib Dilakukan Pemda untuk Hindari Efek Domino, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 17 April 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/733299/penertiban-penguasaan-aset-wajib-dilakukan-pemda-untuk-hindari-efek-domino>

⁸⁰⁰ Kejati Sulsel Amankan Buronan Korupsi Pembangunan Jalan dan Jembatan, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/733825/kejati-sulsel-amankan-buronan-korupsi-pembangunan-jalan-dan-jembatan>

⁸⁰¹ KPK Sita Aset Senilai Rp10 Miliar Terkait TPK dengan Tersangka RHP, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/733817/kpk-sita-aset-senilai-rp10-miliar-terkait-tpk-dengan-tersangka-rhp>

⁸⁰² Jaksa Sita Rp1,5 Miliar Terkait Kasus Korupsi PDAM Kota Makassar, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/733835/jaksa-sita-rp1-5-miliar-terkait-kasus-korupsi-pdam-kota-makassar>

⁸⁰³ KPK Sita Aset Tersangka BK Senilai Rp12,7 Miliar, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 3 May 2023. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/736803/kpk-sita-aset-tersangka-bk-senilai-rp12-7-miliar>

⁸⁰⁴ Gelar Kompetisi Film Antikorupsi, KPK Ajak Masyarakat Tolak Jual-Beli Suara di Pemilu 2024, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 5 May 2023. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2023. <https://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/737584/gelar-kompetisi-film-antikorupsi-kpk-ajak-masyarakat-tolak-jual-beli-suara-di-pemilu-2024>

⁸⁰⁵ Government to abide by MK decision extending KPK leadership term, Antara News (Jakarta) 9 June 2023. Access Date: 10 June 2023. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/284616/government-to-abide-by-mk-decision-extending-kpk-leadership-term>

⁸⁰⁶ Anti-corruption Village Program can improve local welfare: KPK, Antara News (Jakarta), 24 May 2023. Access Date: 10 June 2023. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/282807/anti-corruption-village-program-can-improve-local-welfare-kpk>

On 11 August 2023, the KPK initiated a new investigation into allegations of corruption concerning state financial losses during the period of 2012 to 2018 for the Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) of the Republic of Indonesia.⁸⁰⁷ This indicates Indonesia's efforts to address current and previous corruption of state resources.

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. Various institutions, such as the Ministry of Finance, the Supreme Court, the KPK, and the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, have taken steps to fight corruption through various programs and initiatives. The recent visit from the Anti-Corruption Unit of Cambodia to the KPK and the SEAPAC conference in Jakarta also indicate Indonesia's efforts to establish cooperation with international and regional institutions to combat corruption. The emphasis on transparency in political finance and the adoption of a simple lifestyle by the Kemenkumham bureaucracy further demonstrate Indonesia's commitment to eradicating corruption.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analysts: James (Xiaolong) Wang and Daria Temirkaeva

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 5 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, together with the Ministries of the Interior and Justice, organised a conference on "Legal Diplomacy in the service of peace and international security: Italy's engagement in the fight against corruption."⁸⁰⁸

On 16 December 2022, Italy participated in the European Union's 15th Experience-sharing Workshop in the Fight against Corruption in Brussels, Belgium. In this workshop, representatives of countries in the EU gathered together to actively share the strategies of member states to reduce corruption in their own nations. In addition to the members of the EU, the United Nations Office from Drugs and Crime and representatives from the Council of Europe's Group of States Against Corruption were also present in the workshop.⁸⁰⁹

On 16 December 2022, the Council of Ministers approved a legislative decree reforming the Code of public contracts in implementation of article 1 of the law of 21 June 2022, no. 78.⁸¹⁰ One of the main innovations introduced includes digitization, which was made operational by the National Anti-Corruption Authority. All citizens are expressly granted the possibility of requesting documentation, within the limits permitted by current law, through the institution of generalized civic access.

On 24 January 2023, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni formally addressed Italy and the Western Balkan nations regarding collaboration to achieve collective interests. In the address, Meloni indicates that

⁸⁰⁷ KPK Buka Penyidikan Baru Dugaan Korupsi di Basarnas Periode 2012-2018, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 11 August 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 August 2023. <https://www.infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-politik-hukum/768031/kpk-buka-penyidikan-baru-dugaan-korupsi-di-basarnas-periode-2012-2018>

⁸⁰⁸ La diplomazia Giuridica al servizio della Pace e della Sicurezza Internazionale: l'impegno dell'Italia nel contrasto alla corruzione, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 5 December 2022. Access Date: 4 September 2023. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2022/12/diretta-streaming-la-diplomazia-giuridica-al-servizio-della-pace-e-della-sicurezza-internazionale-limpegno-dellitalia-nel-contrasto-alla-corruzione/

⁸⁰⁹ Future of the fight against corruption": DG HOME workshop on the fight against corruption. European Commission (Brussels). 16 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/future-fight-against-corruption-dg-home-workshop-fight-against-corruption-2022-12-16_en

⁸¹⁰ Press release of the Council of Ministers n. 10, Italian Government (Rome). 16 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.governo.it/en/node/21339>

collaboration within the European Union is integral to successfully mitigate corruption, irregular migration flows, illegal trafficking, and radicalism.⁸¹¹

On 2 February 2023, the Council of Ministers approved a bill containing provisions for the implementation of the differentiated autonomy of Regions with ordinary statute pursuant to article 116, third paragraph of the Constitution.⁸¹² Among the four bills relating to as many international agreements and conventions, one of the main provisions includes the ratification and implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on police cooperation, made in Kiev on June 10, 2021. This legal instrument for regulating police cooperation is aimed at promoting, developing and strengthening cooperation aimed at preventing and combating crime, including crimes of corruption.

On 3 March 2023, Italy, as the Co-Chair, hosted the First Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting of the G20 to address bringing to justice fugitive economic offenders.⁸¹³

On 9 March 2023, the Council of Ministers approved of a new decree regarding the protection of the interests of consumers. This decree includes salient features such as “cross-border representative actions,” which acknowledge the interests of individuals from other member states of the European Union. This will be applied into European law effective 25 June 2023.⁸¹⁴

On 16 March 2023, the Government approved a bill to cut income and corporate taxes whilst softening the penalties of tax dodgers who agree to pay overdue sums. The new act aims to mitigate the issue of tax evasion within the nation, which costs the state EUR95.5 million annually. The government of Italy utilizes a cooperative approach to encourage individuals to settle missed payments, eliminating the risk of criminal convictions for those who take the initiative to settle with officials and pledge to pay off their dues.⁸¹⁵

On 21 March 2023, an operation was carried out in Naples to arrest a large criminal group for large-scale value-added tax (VAT) evasion through sales of electronic equipment at competitive prices. The Italian Financial Police conducted 25 searches across Italy to look for accomplices of the group. Among the 12 people arrested for VAT evasion, four were public officials arrested on the grounds of corruption.⁸¹⁶

On 4 April 2023, a judge of the Tribunal of Brescia convicted a police officer from the Italian Financial Police for corruption and bribery. The public official, a member of the team investigating VAT fraud within the nation, was offered EUR50,000 by the businessperson who was a suspect in this investigation along with his family. The officer was unable to provide prosecutors with substantial evidence to prove that the businessperson was innocent which in turn found the officer guilty of corruption. This resulted in a 5-year prison sentence for the public official, which came along with the confiscation of the EUR50,000 used in bribes, together with an additional EUR433,775 in assets that do not have a justified origin.⁸¹⁷

⁸¹¹ President Meloni’s video message to the national conference ‘Italy and the Western Balkans: Growth and Integration’, Italian Government (Rome). 24 January 2023. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-video-message-national-conference-italy-and-western-balkans-growth-and>

⁸¹² Press release of the Council of Ministers n. 19, Italian Government (Rome). 2 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.governo.it/en/node/21687>

⁸¹³ First Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting (ACWG) of G20 to be held at Gurugram, Haryana from 1st to 3rd March, 2023, G20 (New Delhi) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 4 September 2023. <https://www.g20.org/en/media-resources/press-releases/february-23/acwg/>

⁸¹⁴ Consumer protection consolidation: new class action approved in Italy. Dentons (Toronto). 16 March 2023. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/articles/2023/march/16/consumer-protection-consolidation-new-class-action-approved-in-italy>

⁸¹⁵ Italy approves bill cutting income tax, easing sanctions for evaders. Reuters (London). 16 March 2023. Access Date: 14 June 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-present-bill-cutting-income-tax-easing-sanctions-evaders-2023-03-16/>

⁸¹⁶ Operation in Italy against criminal group under investigation for massive VAT fraud: 12 arrests, including four public officials. European Public Prosecutor’s Office (Luxembourg City). 21 March 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023.

⁸¹⁷ Italy: Public official convicted of corruption – confiscation of over €500 000 ordered. European Public Prosecutor’s Office (Luxembourg City). 5 April 2023. Access Date: 14 June 2023. <https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/italy-public-official-convicted-corruption-confiscation-over-eu500-000-ordered>

On 15 June 2023, the Italian Cabinet approved a legal reform to fortify the rights of defendants.⁸¹⁸ The reform is in congruence with the ideas of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in the hopes of speeding up legal procedures and reducing the abuses of prosecutors within the nation. Despite the strengthened rights of defendants, several prosecutors and judges claim that this reform will make legal procedures more inefficient and complicated; arrest warrants need to be signed by three judges rather than one, the rights of prosecutors to appeal against acquittals is revoked for less serious crimes, and the rules of wiretapping are compromised as a result of this new amendment.

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to lead by example through strengthening and implementing their obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts. This is seen through nation's effort as it drafted and revised bills, convicted individuals guilty of corruption and bribery, and displayed willingness to cooperate with other nations to reduce corruption and bribery. Although Italy continues to display consistent effort to reduce forms of corruption and bribery within the country, tax evasion, corruption, and bribery remain prevalent issues that require stronger actions from the Italian government.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Therese Angeline C. Reyes

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 27 December 2022, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed a convention “for Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.”⁸¹⁹ It amends the already-existing Convention, established in 1986. It revises the taxation of business profits and introduces mechanisms in place to prevent the abuse of the Convention. The amendments will also eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance. These amendments will be enforced after each country's domestic procedures are completed.

On 30 January 2023, the Government of Japan, and the Government of Greece agreed in principle to a tax convention between the two nations.⁸²⁰ This convention will aid in prevent tax evasion and avoidance, as well as eliminate international double taxation. This agreement will be enforced after each country's domestic procedures are completed.

On 3 February 2023, Japan's transparency over intention to released treated water from a Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean had helped in easing concerns of Micronesia's President, David Panuelo.⁸²¹ President Panuelo voiced his initial concern at the United Nations General Assembly in September, where he stated the water in question contained low concentrations of tritium. Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida provided “extensive information,” which caused President Panuelo to state that he trusted Japan was “doing the right thing.”

On 8 February 2023, Japanese prosecutors arrested several people in connection to a bid-rigging scandal.⁸²² This came after a months-long investigation into planning, sponsoring of the 2020 Olympics, which took place in 2021 after it was postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Those arrested included an

⁸¹⁸ Italy launches ‘Berlusconi’ legal reform to bolster rights of accused. Reuters (London). 15 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-launches-berlusconi-legal-reform-bolster-rights-accused-2023-06-15/>

⁸¹⁹ New Tax Convention with Azerbaijan was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 27 December 2022. Access Date: 19 December 2023. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20221227Aze.html

⁸²⁰ ギリシャとの租税条約について実質合意に至りました, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 30 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 March 2023.

https://www.mof.go.jp/tax_policy/summary/international/tax_convention/press_release/20230130_gr.html

⁸²¹ Micronesia president says 'transparency' has eased Fukushima water concerns, Japan Times (Kyodo) 3 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/02/03/national/micronesia-concern-eases-fukushima/>

⁸²² Ex-Tokyo Olympics official, ad execs arrested in bid-rigging scandal, Reuters (Tokyo) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/tokyo-olympics-ex-official-arrested-alleged-bid-rigging-case-nhk-2023-02-08/>

executive of the Tokyo 2020 Games Operations Bureau, as well as three executives at several advertising and event-planning firms.

On 17 April 2023 the National Police Agency has approved a new security plan to strengthen security measures and to ensure safety precautions at gatherings of very important people (VIPs).⁸²³ This comes from alarming questions about the state of VIP security, after several of Japan's top politicians were attacked and/or killed, exposing "vulnerabilities in Japan's security system and a failure to institute changes following the killing of former prime minister Shinzo Abe during an election campaign last year." One recommendation came from the Council for Public Policy Chief's chief analyst Isao Itabashi, who recommended "public appearances by top politicians should be indoors, with bag checks and metal detectors in place," to prevent weapons from being brought inside.

On 24 May 2023, Japan's lawmakers decided to enforce stricter anti-money laundering measures for digital assets.⁸²⁴ This was done following the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) deemed initial legislation as insufficient. Japan, along with tracking activities of major cryptocurrencies, will also increase monitoring on "cryptocurrencies that are pegged to a currency like the U. S. dollar or a commodity."

On 9 June 2023, Japan's law enforcement arrested a man for stealing JPY5 million by controlling victims' computers remotely.⁸²⁵ The man and his accomplices were accused of "instructing a 69-year-old man to instal a program that would allow his computer to be remote-controlled back in September 2022."

On 4 July 2023, Japan's District Court in Tokyo convicted one of several officials charged in the Olympic bribery scandal, sentencing him to suspended jail time.⁸²⁶ The man that was convicted, Joji Matsui, was a consultant who was the former head of the Amuse consulting company, was one of the first to receive bribes from companies who wanted to sponsor the 2020 games and gain licenses. Matsui was sentenced to two years in prison, which was suspended for four years.

On 9 August 2023, Japan, Indonesia and Interpol announced arrests made in a yearslong cybercrime operation using a software that was developed by a seventeen-year-old.⁸²⁷ The software in question, 16Shop, was a phishing tool used to steal credit card information to make illegal purchases in Japan, which were then sent to Indonesian students studying in Japan. The creator of 16Shop, Riswanda Noor Saputra, now 23, created the software at 1, took up programming in the fifth grade and was referred to as a "genius" by not only his own lawyer but investigators.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. Japan has establishments with other nations to ensure tax crimes are not committed within the country or overseas and has also taken steps in being more transparent with their actions. Finally, Japan has taken steps to combat corruption within the country, arresting those they have found to have committed offences of corruption and bribery.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nejat Ahmed

⁸²³ Attack in Japan raises alarm about VIP weeks before G7 summit, Reuters (Tokyo) 17 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/attack-japan-raises-alarm-about-vip-security-weeks-before-g7-summit-2023-04-17/>

⁸²⁴ Japan looks to crack down on money laundering in crypto industry, Kitco News (Montreal), 24 May 2023. Access date: 9 June 2023. <https://www.kitco.com/news/2023-05-24/Japan-looks-to-crack-down-on-money-laundering-in-crypto-industry.html>

⁸²⁵ Japan arrests Vietnamese for swindling \$35,000 in cyber fraud, VN Express International (Hanoi) 9 June 2023. Access Date:

13 June 2023. <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/japan-arrests-vietnamese-for-swindling-35-000-in-cyber-fraud-4615588.html>

⁸²⁶ Japan court finds consultant guilty of taking bribes in sprawling Tokyo Olympics trial, AP News (New York) 4 July 2023.

Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://apnews.com/article/olympics-tokyo-bribery-trial-corruption-f0d523a9d883c99bd0d916934601db46>

⁸²⁷ Japan-Indonesia phishing probe leads back to a teenage 'genius', The Asahi Shimbun (Osaka) 9 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14977874>

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 23 November 2022, prosecutors raided the land ministry and an affiliate of CJ Group as part of a probe into corruption allegations involving a former chief of staff under the Moon Jae-in administration.⁸²⁸ The prosecution has arrested and indicted Lee Jung-geun, a former deputy secretary general of the main opposition Democratic Party who acted as a full-time adviser. Lee faces charges of pocketing nearly KRW1 billion in bribes from a businessman in return for business favors between 2019-2021. Lee is also suspected of illegally receiving a total of KRW330 million in political funds from the businessman in 2020 while parliamentary elections were under way.

On 20 December 2022, a roundtable to prepare for the “2nd Summit for Democracy” took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the title “Democracy, Anti-Corruption, and Experience of the Republic of Korea.”⁸²⁹ Dr. Lee Sook Jong, Professor of Sungkyunkwan University and Senior Fellow of the East Asia Institute, presided over the roundtable. Dr. Han Sung Min, Associate Professor of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, gave a presentation on Korea’s history and experience in anti-corruption and Dr. Kim Nam Kyu, Professor at Korea University, gave a presentation on democracy and anti-corruption. The session brought together members of academia and civil society to share ways to advance anti-corruption and democracy with the international community.

On 3 February 2023, Korean courts sentenced former justice minister Cho Kuk to two years in prison for forgery. The former minister was also found guilty of “abusing his power” in his capacity as senior presidential secretary for civil affairs under former President Moon Jae-in. He was further indicted for interfering in bribery investigations into a political aide in the Moon administration and for illegally receiving KRW 6 million. However, he was acquitted of bribery, concealment and destruction of evidence charges.⁸³⁰

On 21 February 2023, President Yoon Suk-yeol authorised a motion to arrest Lee Jae-myung, the leader of the opposition party, the Democratic Party of Korea. The Seoul Central District Court issued the arrest based on bribery charges, citing that Lee had received millions of dollars’ worth of bribes in the form of sponsorships during his tenure as the mayor of Seongnam.⁸³¹

On 22 March 2023, the leader of Korea’s opposition party was indicted for an array of corruption charges following a year-and-a-half-long investigation.⁸³² Lee Jae-Myung will be sent to trial over his suspected role in a controversial real estate project during his time as the mayor of Seongnam. Seoul prosecutors said Lee leaked confidential information about the real estate project to select private investors in his position as mayor, resulting in at least KRW788.6 billion in profit. This would constitute a violation of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Public Office. Prosecutors added that Lee also received KRW13.3 billion in bribes from four companies based in the city in the form of sponsorships to the city-run soccer club. Prosecutors are also looking into Lee’s alleged contact with North Korea in 2019 while he was the governor of Gyeonggi Province. Lee’s former aide in the Gyeonggi office was indicted earlier this week for sending at least USD8 million to North Korean authorities on behalf of Lee for a possible joint project between the province and North Korea. Publicly, Lee has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

On 22 March 2023, Korean prosecutors began investigating allegations of “illicit funds” related to the family of late former president Chun Doo-hwan, following complaints submitted by the Public Welfare

⁸²⁸ Prosecutors raid land ministry, CJ affiliate in corruption probe, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 23 November 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20221123000677&ACE_SEARCH=1

⁸²⁹ Roundtable to Prepare for “2nd Summit for Democracy” Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 22 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=322130&page=1

⁸³⁰ Ex-justice minister sentenced 2 years for forging kids’ admission documents, abuse of power, Korea Herald (Seoul) 3 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230203000534&ACE_SEARCH=1

⁸³¹ President Yoon approves motion for opposition leader’s arrest, The Korean Herald (Seoul) 21 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230221000573&ACE_SEARCH=1

⁸³² Opposition leader indicted on corruption charges, The Korean Herald (Seoul) 22 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023. https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230322000692&ACE_SEARCH=1

Countermeasures Committee. The complaints were prompted after the former president's grandson, Chun Woo-won, alleged that the family was "living off black money" in a confession that was posted on social media. The investigation was assigned to the Criminal Proceeds Recovery Department to ascertain whether the allegations made by Chun Woo-won constitute criminal charges for violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Criminal Proceeds Concealment.⁸³³

On 23 March 2023, the US State Department announced that Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol will host a leader-level discussion on economic growth and shared prosperity during the Summit for Democracy.⁸³⁴ As one of five leader-level plenary sessions during the two-day summit, it aims to put new and high-level focus on the need to strengthen democratic institutions, protect human rights and accelerate the fight against corruption. The leaders will each host a plenary session that will be held on topics that include global challenges, justice for all and strong institutions.

On 30 March 2023, President Yoon gave a speech on the second day of the Summit for Democracy committing to give back to the international community by aiding countries in need of financing tools to fight corruption.⁸³⁵ The "Shared Vision for Democracy and Prosperity" plan will receive USD100 million over three years.

On 10 April 2023, President Yoon Suk Yeol commented on Korea's recent efforts to address the issue of corruption during the Indo-Pacific Regional Meeting of Second Summit for Democracy.⁸³⁶ President Yoon specifically mentioned the improvements made to anti-corruption laws and reaffirmed the need to combat corruption at both a national and international level. He stated Korea's intention to invest USD100 million in development cooperation projects over the next three years, to further promote the growth of "democracy," including in projects related to "anti-corruption efforts." The participating Indo-Pacific countries, including Korea, adopted the "Seoul Declaration on Challenges and Progress in Addressing Corruption," which aimed to prioritise the efforts to strengthen democracy in the region by fighting corruption. Minister of Foreign Affairs Park Jin emphasised the "resolve to prioritise the fight against corruption."

On 12 April 2023, the Seoul Central District Prosecutors Office sent investigators to the home and office of opposition representative Youn Kwan-suk over suspicions that the lawmaker "took illegal political funds." The raid was based on allegations that the representative received "illegal political funds" from Kan Rae-gu, the former head of the Association of Public Institution Auditors of Korea. The investigators seized evidence related to the allegations, including account books from 2021.⁸³⁷

On 13 June 2023, President Yoon emphasized the need for "increased transparency" in the allocation of subsidies for non-profit organizations during a Cabinet meeting.⁸³⁸ Yoon further elaborated that non-profit organizations had received roughly KRW2 trillion during the Moon Jae-in administration, with many receiving subsidies amidst corruption cases. The results of a non-government organizations audit conducted by the government showed that there were 1865 cases of corruption found in 29 organizations, with illegal funds amounting to KRW31.4 billion.

On 10 August 2023, the Seoul Central District Prosecutors Office summoned opposition leader Lee Jae-myung for questioning regarding a land development project in Seongnam that began during Lee's term as

⁸³³ Prosecution starts looking into 'black money' confession of ex-president's grandson, The Korean Herald (Seoul) 22 March 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230322000611&ACE_SEARCH=1

⁸³⁴ S. Korean president to host Summit for Democracy meeting on economic growth, The Korean Herald (Seoul) 23 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023. https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230323000112&ACE_SEARCH=1

⁸³⁵ Yoon doubles down on corruption fight, The Korean Herald (Seoul) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023. https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230330000689&ACE_SEARCH=1

⁸³⁶ Indo-Pacific Regional Meeting of 2nd Summit for Democracy Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 April, 2023. Access Date: August 15 2023. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320794

⁸³⁷ Main opposition lawmaker's home, office raided over suspected illegal political funds, The Korean Herald (Seoul) 12 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230412000233&ACE_SEARCH=1

⁸³⁸ Yoon calls for transparency in subsidies for non-profit private organizations, The Korean Herald (Seoul) 13 June 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230613000575&ACE_SEARCH=1

mayor.⁸³⁹ The summons is the latest development in a series of steps taken by the Prosecutor's Office, that is currently investigating bribery and corruption charges related to corporate donations to the municipal football club Seongnam FC and administrative favours granted to other land development projects that occurred during Lee's term.

On 21 August 2023, the Seoul Central District Prosecutors Office indicted former special counsel Park Young-soo on bribery charges.⁸⁴⁰ Prosecutors charged Park with accepting KRW1.9 billion in bribes from private property developers related to the Daejang-dong Project, including during his time as the chair of Woori Bank board in 2014-2015. The Prosecutor's Office also suspects that Park accepted KRW1.1 billion in bribes between 2019 and 2021, in addition to another KRW20 billion in exchange for "facilitating business favors for the developers."

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. While the Korean government has made efforts to enforce anti-corruption policies and initiated judicial action against corrupt government officials, they have not initiated any new policies relating to the prevention, combat, detection, investigation, prosecution or sanction of corruption.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Kiara Senanayake

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 22 November 2022, the Mexican government announced that a former public servant and Second Savings and Rural Finance Project provider investigated by the Ministry of Public Administration were to be sanctioned MXN27 million.⁸⁴¹ The former public servant was sanctioned for violation of the General Law of Administrative Responsibilities and failing to monitor fulfillment of contract for provision of services in return for receiving non-agreed deliverables to the contractor. The contractor was signed due to failure to comply with the agreed services, which was to distribute resources from the Natural Disaster Fund to victims of the 2017 earthquakes.

On 1 February 2023, the Government of Mexico updated the Organic Statute of the Executive Secretariat of the National Anticorruption System to reinforce comprehensive policies on the prevention, control, and deterrence of administrative offenses and acts of corruption, as well as the control and control of public resources.⁸⁴²

On 16 March 2023, Mexican authorities successfully served 9 of 22 arrest warrants in the Mexican Food Security (Segalmex) corruption case.⁸⁴³ Segalmex is a flagship policy of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's administration, intended to allow farmers to sell staple produce to the government at set rates.

⁸³⁹ Opposition leader Lee summoned for prosecution questioning over land development project, The Korean Herald (Seoul) 10 August 2023. Access Date: 15 August 2023.

https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20230810000219&ACE_SEARCH=1

⁸⁴⁰ Ex-special counsel indicted on bribery charges connected to development scandal, The Korea Times (Seoul) 21 August 2023. Access Date: 23 August 2023. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2023/08/113_357525.html

⁸⁴¹ Persona ex servidora pública y proveedor de Bansefi investigados por SFP son sancionados por daño al erario por más de 27 mdp, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 22 November 2022. Access Date: 1 July 2023.

<https://www.gob.mx/sfp/prensa/persona-ex-servidora-publica-y-proveedor-de-bansefi-investigados-por-sfp-son-sancionados-por-dano-al-erario-por-mas-de-30-mdp?idiom=es>

⁸⁴² ESTATUTO Orgánico de la Secretaría Ejecutiva del Sistema Nacional Anticorrupción., Diario Oficial de la Federación (Mexico City) 1 February 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023.

https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5678528&fecha=01/02/2023#gsc.tab=0

⁸⁴³ 9 of 22 arrest warrants served in Segalmex corruption case, Mexico News Daily (Mexico City) 16 March 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/warrants-served-segalmex-case/>

The Attorney General's Office (FGR) revealed that Segalmex managers are accused of diverting more than MXN142 million to personal projects. The investigation appears likely to widen to other companies.

On 21 March 2023, the Ministry of Public Administration participated in the 29th Meeting of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, where it presented three publications to raise awareness on corruption, including its effects, causes, and its prevention.⁸⁴⁴

On 1 April 2023, the Chamber of Deputies of the Honorable Congress of the Union presented the online version of its Catalogue of Information on Corruption in Mexico, which collects, classifies, and diffuses a group of variables and measures instruments related to the corruption phenomenon and its combat in Mexico and the world. The data is based on State institutions, international organisms and academic bodies, and civil society organizations.⁸⁴⁵ It provides the necessary information to analyze policies and other efforts for combating corruption, given that in international and national literature about corruption, there is no consensus on the corruption phenomenon's causes, consequences, and impact. The catalog includes information on what weak or strong actions constitute. Given that this is exclusively a measurement tool, there is no information about sanctions an institution may receive for weak efforts. However, Mexico does partially comply with its commitment through this catalog by strengthening its commitment to anti-corruption efforts, specifically the operationalization of corruption actions.

On 27 April 2023, the Ministry of Public Administration of Mexico signed an agreement with the State of Coahuila to train state personnel in the use of the Comprehensive Asset Evolution System to randomly evaluate asset declarations of public servants and detect anomalies.⁸⁴⁶

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. Although they have established mechanisms for measuring corruption and have even designated sanctions, they have not specified procedures for the latter. This would be congruent with the report of international organizations like the World Justice Project, which report no statistically significant improvement in the matter.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Cecilia Padilla

Russia: -1

Russia has not complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 29 December 2022, President Vladimir Putin signed a decree allowing government officials to forgo declaring income taxes, spending, assets, and "property-related obligations" to the government for the duration of Russia's military campaign in Ukraine. Previously, civil servants and military officers were legally required to disclose income tax returns as part of a government initiative to reduce corruption. The decree would be retroactively applied from 24 February 2022, when Russia first initiated the invasion of Ukraine.

⁸⁴⁴ SFP participa en la 39 Reunión de Expertos del Mecanismo de Seguimiento de la Convención Interamericana contra la Corrupción, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 21 March 2023. Access Date: 1 July 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/sfp/prensa/sfp-participa-en-la-39-reunion-de-expertos-del-mecanismo-de-seguimiento-de-la-convencion-interamericana-contra-la-corrupcion>

⁸⁴⁵ Presentan SESNA, AMEXCID y GIX el Catálogo de Información sobre la Corrupción en México, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 1 April 2022. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 24 March 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/amexcid/articulos/presentan-sesna-amexcid-y-giz-el-catalogo-de-informacion-sobre-la-corrupcion-en-mexico-298324?idiom=es>

⁸⁴⁶ Firman Gobierno de Coahuila y SFP convenio de colaboración para fortalecer el combate a la corrupción, Secretaría de la Función Pública (Mexico City) 7 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 September 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/sfp/prensa/firman-gobierno-de-coahuila-y-sfp-convenio-de-colaboracion-para-fortalecer-el-combate-a-la-corrupcion?idiom=es>

The decree would also impact another anti-corruption legislation that prohibits soldiers, security service members and civil servants from “receiving monetary gifts” for their involvement in Ukraine.⁸⁴⁷

On 15 February 2023, the State Duma adopted a law condemning the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption which had been submitted by President Putin. As a result, the Russian Federation will be unable to engage in “the discussion or adoption of reports and to vote in the Group of States against Corruption.”⁸⁴⁸

On 1 March 2023, the Government passed legislation that would restrict public access to Russia’s real estate register. The register, which is employed by investigative journalists to research the “complex ownership structures and holding companies” of state elites, will now only be accessible to “competent state agencies.”⁸⁴⁹

On 6 March 2023, the Prosecutor General’s Office announced that Russia included Transparency International in the state’s list of “undesirable organisations.” Organisations listed as “undesirable” are legally obliged to cease operations in Russia, and individuals found to be cooperating with organisations labelled as such risk being charged with felony offences. The Prosecutor General’s office cited Transparency International’s interference in the Russian government’s internal affairs as reason for the organisation’s inclusion in the list.⁸⁵⁰

Russia has not complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. The Government has repealed anti-corruption legislation, diminished the legal capabilities of anti-corruption institutions operating within the state such as Transparency International, deregulated financial institutions and passed laws that would further facilitate corruption within state institutions, such as restricting access to real estate data.

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1 .⁸⁵¹

Analyst: Kiara Senanayake

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 17 November 2022, Saudi Arabia signed a USD1 billion agreement with the Yemeni government to revitalize its flagging economy. The program is set to improve transparency in banking, financial and private sectors.⁸⁵²

On 1 December 2022, two Saudi citizens, and one resident, were sentenced 18 years in jail and fined USD133,000 for money laundering.⁸⁵³ The Saudi citizenship had issued commercial registers for several

⁸⁴⁷ Putin Waives Peacetime Requirement for Officials to Release Tax Returns, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 30 December 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/12/30/putin-waives-peacetime-requirement-for-officials-to-release-tax-returns-a79848>

⁸⁴⁸ The State Duma denounced the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, The Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <http://duma.gov.ru/en/news/56390/>

⁸⁴⁹ Law Hiding Russian Real Estate Ownership Data Comes Into Force, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 1 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/03/01/law-hiding-russian-real-estate-ownership-data-comes-into-force-a80373>

⁸⁵⁰ Russia Deems Transparency International ‘Undesirable’ Organisation, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 6 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/03/06/russia-deems-transparency-international-undesirable-organization-a80405>

⁸⁵¹ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com>, <http://duma.gov.ru/>, <http://government.ru/en/>, <https://en.mvd.ru/>, <https://tass.com/>

⁸⁵² Saudi Arabia sponsors \$1bn economic reform in Yemen, Arab News (Riyadh) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2209326/saudi-arabia>

⁸⁵³ Saudi Court Jails 3 for 18 Years for Money Laundering, Fined \$133,000, Arab News (Riyadh) December 1 2022. Access Date: 14 March 2023. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2209326/saudi-arabia>

entities opened bank accounts. They then handed the resident the commercial registers and the bank accounts, through which financial transactions were made, and transfers of huge sums of money outside the Kingdom. The Public Prosecution said funds were generated through “illegal” means as the accused used the commercial registers as a cover to transfer the money abroad. The court ruled confiscating a similar value of the funds transferred abroad and the proceeds of the crimes. Moreover, the resident will be deported after he finishes his sentence in prison.

On 8 December 2022, the 11th International Anti-Corruption Day Forum organized by the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority concluded.⁸⁵⁴ Several experts from the government and private sectors participated in the event titled “Corruption Risks Management in the Public Sector: Experiences, Challenges and Solutions,” based on the Kingdom’s keenness to raise awareness against the threat of corruption at all levels. This approach is consistent with the Kingdom’s Vision 2030, which confirms transparency and combating corruption as its main pillar to strengthen the principles of accountability in the public and private sectors, as well as its zero-tolerance to corruption at all levels.

On 10 December 2022, Saudi Arabia and China agreed to strengthen their strategic relations and expand commercial ties during Chinese President Xi Jinping’s three-day state visit to the Kingdom.⁸⁵⁵ Both sides agreed to deepen cooperation in the automotive industry, supply chains, logistics, water desalination, infrastructure, manufacturing, mining and the financial sector. They also welcomed agreements concerning anti-corruption, hydrogen energy, the judiciary, Chinese language education, housing, direct investment, radio and television, the digital economy, economic development, standardization, the news media and tax administration.

On 20 December 2022, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation met to discuss Saudi efforts to fight corruption and promote integrity.⁸⁵⁶ Participants included the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol and Egmont Group. It discussed the adoption of the Makkah Agreement, which aims at fighting corruption by enforcing anti-corruption laws “in accordance with their legal systems and in line with the aspirations and perspectives of member states in the fight against corruption.” President of the Kingdom’s Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority Mazin bin Ibrahim Al-Kahmous also reaffirmed Saudi Arabia’s support for efforts to combat corruption at local and international levels, as it constituted a pillar of Vision 2030.

On 20 December 2022, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held its First Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).⁸⁵⁷ Under the patronage of Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Mazin bin Ibrahim Al-Khamous, President of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority, concluded the First ministerial meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies in the Member States of the OIC, by the adoption of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention, with the attendance of heads and representatives of the anti-corruption law enforcement agencies of the OIC and heads of anti-corruption international organizations. The Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention aims to strengthen cooperation between anti-corruption law enforcement agencies in an efficient and rapid manner.

On 28 December 2022, the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority took action in 18 criminal cases involving a wide range of alleged crimes carried out by public-sector officials and other workers, including municipality employees, police officers and medics.⁸⁵⁸ Crimes of this kind have no statute of limitations, and the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority said that it will continue to investigate and pursue anyone who exploits public office for personal gain or harms the public interest in any way.

⁸⁵⁴ Saudi forum marks International Anti-Corruption Day, Arab News (Riyadh) December 8 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2213236/saudi-arabia>

⁸⁵⁵ Saudi Arabia, China emerge as comprehensive strategic partners as Chinese President Xi Jinping wraps up state visit, Arab News (Riyadh) December 10 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2213756/saudi-arabia>

⁸⁵⁶ OIC meeting discusses Saudi efforts to fight corruption, promote integrity, Arab News (Riyadh) December 20 2022. Access Date: 14 March 2023. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2219336/saudi-arabia>

⁸⁵⁷ Conclusion of the First Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies of the OIC. Nazaha (Riyadh) Access Date: April 27, 2023. <https://www.nazaha.gov.sa/News/Details?q=I4zCcokGhvZxMb8Eufg82A==>

⁸⁵⁸ Saudi Arabia’s anti-corruption authority takes action in 18 criminal cases, Arab News (Riyadh) December 28 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2223111/saudi-arabia>

On 28 December 2022, Lieutenant General Khaled Bin Qarar Al-Harbi, the former head of Saudi Arabia's public Security agency, has (reportedly) been sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment for corruption.⁸⁵⁹ King Salman Bin Abdulaziz issued a royal decree referring the former Lieutenant General for investigation on corruption charges including forgery, bribery and abuse of power for personal benefit. According to the Nazaha and the Saudi Press Agency, further investigations will take place for anyone involved in this case, and the necessary legal measures will be taken against them.

On 24 January 2023, Saudi Arabia, alongside Morocco, renewed their pledge to boost cooperation against terrorist funding.⁸⁶⁰ The agreement covered the development of cooperation and security coordination in different areas related to the fight against terrorism and terrorist financing operations. The Vice President of the Saudi State Security was the leading security delegation in Morocco, and signed this pledge alongside the head of Morocco's General Directorates of National Security and Territorial Surveillance. The agreement "illustrates the common will of the two parties to consolidate this bilateral cooperation serving the safety and security of their citizens."

On 25 January 2023, Nazaha arrested 142 official, primarily governmental bodies, in the Kingdom on corruption charges, including forgery, money laundering, and bribery. The authority also carried out 2,364 inspection visits in December, based on their findings, 307 people were charged, and 142 arrested.⁸⁶¹ Individuals arrested include officials who worked in the Ministry of Interior, National Guard, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs & Housing, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Water, Agriculture, Tax, Zakat, Customs Authority, and the Nazaha itself.

On 5 March 2023, Abdullah Falah Mudhi al-Shammari, the head of the embassy's consular section, and Khaled Nasser Ayed al-Qahtani, Abdullah's deputy, have been arrested at Saudi Arabia's embassy in Bangladesh for being a part of a large scheme to issue work-visas in the Kingdom.⁸⁶² Moreover, two interior ministry officials, 8 Bangladeshi residents and visitors, and a Palestinian investor, were arrested alongside the embassy's employees. Arrests were made in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior. The two interior ministry officials are alleged to have received USD14.4 million instalments while working at the embassy in return for issuing work visas. All these suspects "acknowledged receiving parts of the money within the Kingdom through the detained residents, while investing the remainder of the money outside the Kingdom. USD5.38 million worth of gold and cars were found will raiding the houses of the detained residents.

On 12 April 2023, Nazaha has initiated a criminal case against an expat who illegal received SAR6.6 million to clear expat fines.⁸⁶³ The fines were cleared to allow these expats to leave the country, and in the process cost Saudi Arabia's treasury SAR76 million. According to the report, the expat used an employee phone to confirm OTPs and access Ministry websites, exploited a remote worker's credentials, while the worker was on a suspension period. Three individuals were detained as consequence to engaging in this, and for acting as intermediaries to receive payments and completing transactions in an irregular manner in exchange for receiving a total of SAR800,000 in financial compensation.

On 21 April 2023, Nazaha published that during the month of Ramadan, they have initiated 1,612 oversight visits. Furthermore, they have investigated 131 accused individuals, and arrested 74 citizens and residents that have been found guilty of corruption related criminal activities. Of the 74 arrested individuals, among

⁸⁵⁹ Saudi imprisons ex-Public Security Head for 25 years for Corruption, group says, Middle East Monitor (Riyadh) December 28 2022. Access Date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20221228-saudi-imprisons-ex-public-security-head-for-25-years-for-corruption-group-says/>

⁸⁶⁰ Morocco, Saudi Arabia Pledge to Boost Security Cooperation, Morocco World News (Rabat) January 24 2023. Access Date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2023/01/353695/morocco-saudi-arabia-pledge-to-boost-security-cooperation>

⁸⁶¹ Saudi Arabia Arrests 142 Government Officials on Corruption, Bribery Charges, Al Arabiya (Riyadh) 25 January 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2023. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2023/01/25/Saudi-Arabia-arrests-142-government-officials-on-corruption-bribery-charges>

⁸⁶² Saudi Arabia Arrests Bangladesh Embassy Employees in Work Visas Corruption Schemes, Al Arabiya (Riyadh) 5 March 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2023. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2023/03/05/Saudi-Arabia-arrests-Bangladesh-embassy-employees-in-work-visas-corruption-scheme>

⁸⁶³ Saudi Arabia corruption authority busts expat for USD20 million crime. Arabian Business (Riyadh). Access Date: June 6, 2023. <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/culture-society/saudi-arabia-corruption-authority-busts-expat-for-20mn-crime>

them are employees of Saudi ministries (Interior, Defense, National Guard, Foreign Affairs, Health, Municipal Rural Affairs and Housing).

On 29 April 2023, Nazaha announced that they have arrested 234 state employees across eight ministries based on charges of “bribery, forgery, and power abuse.”⁸⁶⁴ After the authority carried 4,286 rounds of oversight and investigated 634 cases, they detected crimes of bribery, abuse of power, and forgery amongst civil servants in the Ministry of Defense, Interior, National Guard, Foreign Affairs, Health, Justice, Housing and Education.

On 18 May 2023, President of Nazaha Mazin bin Ibrahim Al-Khamous met with the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission of Nigeria, Abdurashed Bawa, to discuss the joint cooperation between the two countries in protecting integrity and combating corruption.⁸⁶⁵ They discussed important measures to protect integrity, promote transparency, and combat corruption. Moreover, during the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Kingdom and Nigeria to strengthen cooperation in protecting integrity and combating corruption. This agreement aims to enhance collaboration between the countries in fighting corruption, and in developing institutional capacity in both countries.

On 18 May 2023, Nazaha published a statement highlighting that they have arrested two employees in the General Court, as they received SAR250,000 out of a promised SAR500,000 as a bribe from a citizen in exchange for illegally bringing a case to the Court of Appeals and seeking to overturn an existing ruling in the case between the citizen and one of the investment companies in Jeddah.⁸⁶⁶ One of these employees, Ayman Abdulrazeq Salwati, will be fined SAR317,000.

On 21 May 2023, Nazaha arrested 84 individuals in 7 ministries following their involvement in several corruption crimes.⁸⁶⁷ According to the Nazaha, the defendants were involved in several corruption crimes that varied between abuse of power, bribery, money laundering and forgery.

On 1 June 2023, President Al-Khamous, and the Secretary and CEO of Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) of the Republic of Kenya Twalib Abdallah Mbarak, signed a deal to boost cooperation in combating corruption.⁸⁶⁸ The Saudi and Kenyan officials discussed methods of joint cooperation between the two countries in order to protect integrity and combat corruption. Both sides also reviewed the most important measures adopted by Nazaha in promoting integrity and transparency principles and combating corruption.

On 19 July 2023, Nazaha arrested 65 individuals with connections to corruption charges, after initiating a number of criminal and administrative cases during the month of Dhul Hijjah (19 June-19 July 2023).⁸⁶⁹ Nazaha had carried out around 2,230 rounds of inspections, and investigated charges against 213 individuals, prior to detaining 65 of them. The individuals arrested were officials working in the Ministry of Interior, Defense, National Guard, Health, Education, Municipal and Rural Affairs, and Housing. The crimes conducted include bribery, corruption, abuse of power, money laundering, and forgery.

On 7 August 2023, Nazaha published a statement announcing that 207 individuals, some of which are employees in the government, have been arrested for their involvement in bribery, abuse of power, and

⁸⁶⁴ Saudi Arabia arrests 235 civil servants on corruption. Middle East Monitor (Riyadh) Access Date: June 10, 2023. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220429-saudi-arabia-arrests-235-civil-servants-on-corruption-charges/>

⁸⁶⁵ Saudi Arabia, Nigeria discuss means to enhance cooperation in protecting integrity, combating corruption. Zawya (Riyadh). Access Date: June 6, 2023. <https://www.zawya.com/en/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-nigeria-discuss-means-to-enhance-cooperation-in-protecting-integrity-combating-corruption-giv49igk>

⁸⁶⁶ 2 Jeddah General Court employees arrested for bribery. Saudi Gazette (Jeddah) Access Date: June 7, 2023. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/632569>

⁸⁶⁷ Nazaha arrests 84 employees in 7 ministries over corruption. Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) Access Date: June 6, 2023. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/632631/SAUDI-ARABIA/Nazaha-arrests-84-employees-in-7-ministries-over-corruption>

⁸⁶⁸ Saudi Arabia, Kenya sign deal to boost cooperation in combating corruption. Zawya (Riyadh) Access Date: June 4, 2023. <https://www.zawya.com/en/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-kenya-sign-deal-to-boost-cooperation-in-combating-corruption-njfbwmip>

⁸⁶⁹ Nazaha Arrests 65 people Over Corruption Charges. Saudi Gazette (Riyadh), July 19, 2023. Access Date: August 9, 2023. <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/634354/SAUDI-ARABIA/Nazaha-arrests-65-people-over-corruption-charges>

forgery.⁸⁷⁰ The arrests were accompanied by investigations into 461 individuals, all of which were accused of criminal and administrative offences.

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. Through Saudi Arabia's National Anti-Corruption Commission, any acts of corruption, bribery, and money laundering were targeted and legal dealt with. Saudi Arabia has also taken action with Morocco to strengthen their efforts to combat terrorist funding.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Salma Amer Safarini

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 23 November 2022, the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) hosted a meeting with anti-corruption agency heads from the South African Development Community (SADC) member states.⁸⁷¹ Participants discussed how to address emerging trends and issues in corruption, within the SADC's Strategic Anti-Corruption Plan framework.

On 23 November 2022, the Road Traffic Management Corporation welcomed the arrest of officers accused of corruption.⁸⁷² The pair were stopping unsuspecting motorists in full law enforcement uniform with reflector jackets and were also in unlawful possession of documents belonging to the state. A total of ZAR890 was found by the two suspects.

On 29 November 2022, the Unemployment Insurance Fund released a statement, welcoming the arrest of 16 individuals who are suspected to have defrauded the Fund's Covid-19 Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme (TERS).⁸⁷³ The suspects allegedly claimed ZAR2.2 million in fraudulent TERS funds on behalf of individuals not under their employ. In commending the arrests, Teboho Maruping stated: "We will continue to work with the HAWKS (South African Police Services' Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation) in an attempt to bring all COVID-19 TERS fraudsters to book, and we will leave no stone unturned."

On 6 December 2022, the Road Traffic Management Corporation announced the Mbombela magistrate court's decision on a court date for 14 government officials accused of licensing fraud.⁸⁷⁴ The officials, who all served public safety departments and registering authorities, all served the province of Mpumalanga. They were arrested on allegations of "illicitly assisting vehicle owners to avoid payment of vehicle license fees."

On 8 December 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa authorized the SIU to investigate the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, and the Eskom State-Owned Entity, for

⁸⁷⁰ Saudi Arabia Arrests Over 200 in Latest Corruption Crackdown. OCCRP: Organizing Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (Riyadh). Access Date: August 11, 2023. <https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/14987-saudi-arabia-arrests-over-200-in-latest-corruption-crackdown>

⁸⁷¹ Special Investigating Unit hosts Southern African Development Community heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies meeting, 23 Nov, South African Government (Pretoria) 22 November 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/special-investigating-unit-hosts-southern-african-development-community-heads-anti>

⁸⁷² Road Traffic Management Corporation welcomes arrest of officers accused of corruption, 23 Nov, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 November 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/special-investigating-unit-hosts-southern-african-development-community-heads-anti>

⁸⁷³ Unemployment Insurance Fund welcomes arrest of accused in COVID-19 TERS scheme fraud, South African Government (Pretoria) 29 November 2022. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/covid-19-TERS-fraud-29-nov-2022-0000>

⁸⁷⁴ Road Traffic Management Corporation on Mpumalanga officials arrested for R60m licensing fraud in court, South African Government (Pretoria) 6 December 2022. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/road-traffic-management-corporation-mpumalanga-officials-arrested-r60m-licensing-fraud>

potential corruption and maladministration.⁸⁷⁵ The Eskom and Saldanha Bay proclamations are amendments to broaden the scope of existing investigations, whereas the Department of Water and Sanitation proclamation is new. The SIU is also to refer any evidence of criminal wrongdoing to the National Prosecuting Authority, for potential criminal indictment.

On 15 December 2022, the National Treasury released a statement welcoming the adoption by both houses of Parliament of the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting Terrorism Financing) Amendment Act and the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorism and Related Activities Amendment Act.⁸⁷⁶ The National Treasury stated that these laws, when enacted, “represents a giant step towards South Africa complying with the 40 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations.”

On 22 December 2022, President Ramaphosa signed Acts No. 22 and 23, otherwise known as the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting Terrorism Financing) Amendment Act and the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorism and Related Activities Amendment Act respectively, into law.⁸⁷⁷ The General Laws Amendment Act amends, among other bills, the Trust Property Control Act of 1988 and the Companies Act of 2008, in ways the National Treasury Department claims will “boost the ability of the authorities to fight against crime and corruption perpetrated by criminal syndicates.” The National Treasury Department welcomed the laws, stating that they “will strengthen the fight against corruption, fraud and terrorism.”

On 6 January 2023, the National Treasury released a statement welcoming the assent of the General Laws (Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting Terrorism Financing) Amendment Act and the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorism and Related Activities Amendment Act into law, noting significant anti-corruption measures present in these acts and announcing actions to further comply with FATF policies.⁸⁷⁸ The Treasury statement noted with commendation the General Laws Amendment Act’s amendments of the Trust Property Control Act (1988) and the Companies Act (2008) to increase transparency in corporate vehicle ownership, as well as amendments of the Financial Sector Regulation Act to promote diligent scrutiny and regulation enforcement upon owners of licensed financial institutions. In all, the Treasury stated that these amendments address 15 of 20 FATF-identified deficiencies for South Africa’s compliance to their recommendations. Alongside highlighting these provisions, the Treasury announced its intent to report its anti-corruption progress to the FATF for evaluation. A delegation led by the Treasury’s Acting Director-General will meet with the FATF Joint Group in Rabat, Morocco on 13 January 2023, allowing government officials to present and discuss its anti-FATF recommendation compliance actions with FATF officials.

On 25 January 2023, the Department of Water and Sanitation released a public statement reaffirming its commitment to tackling internal corruption, in partnership with South Africa’s SIU.⁸⁷⁹ The Department noted that investigations into instances of public employee malpractice, including fraud, improper expenditure and improper use of state property, are currently underway. Additionally, the Department noted that it would “not hesitate to take harsh action against any official who transgresses against good government ethics and principals,” citing the example of a Deputy Director-General who was dismissed from the Department for misconduct.

⁸⁷⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa authorises SIU investigation into allegation of corruption and maladministration in Department of Water and Sanitation, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/siu-authorized-investigate-allegations-corruption-and-maladministration-8-dec-2022-0000>

⁸⁷⁶ National Treasury on passing of amendment bills to fight corruption and terror financing, South African Government (Pretoria) 15 December 2022. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/passing-laws-strengthening-anti-money-laundering-system%2%A0general-laws-anti-money-laundering>

⁸⁷⁷ Enactment of Key Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Terror Financing Laws, National Treasury Department (Pretoria) 6 January 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. https://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2023/2023010601%20MEDIA%20STATEMENT-ENACTMENT%20OF%20KEY%20ANTI-MONEY%20LAUNDERING%20AND%20COMBATING%20OF%20TERROR%20FINANCING%20LAWS%20.pdf

⁸⁷⁸ Treasury on enactment of key anti-money laundering and combating of terror financing laws, South African Government (Pretoria) 6 January 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023.

⁸⁷⁹ Water and Sanitation commits to root out fraud and corruption, Department of Water and Sanitation (Pretoria) 25 January 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-commits-root-out-fraud-and-corruption-25-jan-2023-0000>

On 8 February 2023, the Eastern Cape Department of Health released a statement in support of the Mthatha Specialised Commercial Crimes Court's 10-year sentence for a former employee convicted of fraud.⁸⁸⁰ Specifically, this individual was convicted of personal protective equipment tender fraud, for awarding a procurement contract in a fraudulent manner. Eastern Cape Minister of the Executive Council for Health Nomakhosazana Meth commended the conviction, stating: "This sentencing shows that the days of people escaping with a slap on the wrist are gone. Corruption and fraud is a cancer to society that must be rooted out."

On 9 February 2023, President Ramaphosa delivered the annual State of the Nation address at the Cape Town City Hall.⁸⁸¹ President Ramaphosa announced that the government is working on amendments to the Protected Disclosures Act, 2000, and the Witness Protection Act, 1998, to further protect whistleblowers. President Ramaphosa also noted that work to improve witness protection program access for public employees is underway. Further, President Ramaphosa also announced that the government will complete the draft Public Procurement Bill to comply with State Capture Commission's final report recommendations, and pledged that the Investigating Directorate, which has successfully brought 32 state capture and corruption cases involving 187 accused individuals to court, will be installed as a permanent arm of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).⁸⁸²

On 13 February 2023, President Ramaphosa released a weekly letter to the nation on the topic of anti-corruption efforts.⁸⁸³ President Ramaphosa's address focused on the development and maintenance of anti-corruption institutions, noting, in particular, the development of the SIU's Special Tribunal and the Investigating Directorate in the office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions as concrete anti-corruption actions in recent years. President Ramaphosa further reaffirmed his pledge to incorporate the Investigating Directorate into the NPA as a permanent agency, and noted his administration's expectation that "2023 will be a year of increased activity for the Investigating Directorate as it builds on the sterling work done so far."

On 21 February 2023, Province of Gauteng Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Transport and Logistics Kedibone Diale-Tlabela released a statement welcoming the arrest of two individuals on fraud and theft charges.⁸⁸⁴ The individuals, one a former Department of Roads and Transport official, allegedly siphoned ZAR16 million from the Department in fraud and theft, as alleged after a six-year investigation by the HAWKS, NPA and the Department's Fraud and Anti-corruption Unit. MEC Diale-Tlabela stated that the arrest is "only the first salvo to looters of state resources, those who hollow out resources that are meant for the people of Gauteng for their personal gain."

On 22 February 2023, President Ramaphosa authorized the SIU to investigate administrators of the Ilima/Letsema support program for corruption and maladministration.⁸⁸⁵ The formerly existing Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), now the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, operated Letsema. This represents an amendment to the SIU's initial 2019 mandate for investigating the former DAFF at large.

⁸⁸⁰ Eastern Cape Health welcomes sentencing of former employee for Personal Protective Equipment tender fraud, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/eastern-cape-health-welcomes-sentencing-former-employee-personal-protective-equipment>

⁸⁸¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: 2023 State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-2023-state-nation-address-9-feb-2023-0000>

⁸⁸² Highlights of the State of the Nation Address 2023 – Fight against corruption, South African Government (Pretoria) 20 February 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/SONA2023-highlights-fight-corruption>

⁸⁸³ Building strong, independent institutions is vital to the fight against corruption, South African Government (Pretoria) 13 February 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/blog/building-strong-independent-institutions-vital-fight-against-corruption>

⁸⁸⁴ MEC Kidibone Diale-Tlabela welcomes arrest of former official on multimillion rand fraud and theft charges, South African Government (Pretoria) 21 February 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-diale-tlabela-welcomes-arrest-former-official-multimillion-rand-fraud-and-theft-charges>

⁸⁸⁵ SIU investigates allegations of mismanagement of the Ilima/Letsema support programme, South African Government (Pretoria) 22 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/siu-authorized-investigate-allegations-mismanagement-ilimalitsema-support-programme-former>

On 22 February 2023, Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana announced new funding for anti-corruption law enforcement initiatives as part of the 2023 Budget.⁸⁸⁶ Specifically, the new budget allocates an additional ZAR1.3 billion for the National Prosecuting Authority and an additional ZAR100 million for the SIU. Minister Godongwana noted that these funding increases are to aid in implementing recommendations by the State Capture Commission and FATF.

On 27 February 2023, President Ramaphosa issued a letter to the nation, addressing the FATF placing South Africa on its “grey list” for increased financial crimes issues monitoring.⁸⁸⁷ In this release, President Ramaphosa highlighted the government’s recent major anti-corruption policies, outlined current deficiencies and areas of improvement for South African anti-corruption efforts and reaffirmed his commitment to implementing the State Capture Commission and FATF’s recommendations. President Ramaphosa also welcomed increased monitoring from the FATF and called the “grey listing” an “opportunity to strengthen the fight against financial crimes.”

On 28 February 2023, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma published anti-corruption regulations in the Government Gazette, governing all emergency public procurement relating to the Electricity National State of Disaster.⁸⁸⁸ The gazetted regulations require the Auditor-General to conduct real-time financial investigations and audits of all emergency procurement activities. The regulations also require public institutions to report detailed accounts and explanations for all emergency procurement activities to Parliament within a month of expenditure.

On 8 March 2023, the High Court granted the SIU and the Pretoria Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU), an entity within the NPA, an order to freeze agricultural land fraudulently transferred to private individuals and corporations.⁸⁸⁹ An SIU investigation suggests that the land-owners defrauded the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and three provincial Deeds Registries by claiming the land as their private property when it was never given to them by the government. The land is valued at approximately ZAR53 million, representing another SIU action to address instances of significant fraud and corruption.

On 13 March 2023, the Road Traffic Management Corporation shared news of a City of Tshwane Metro Police Department officer’s arrest for bribery.⁸⁹⁰ The officer allegedly demanded a bribe of ZAR2,000 from an individual who was driving an unroadworthy trailer. The case will come before the Pretoria Magistrate Court on 12 May 2023.

On 16 March 2023, Western Cape Minister of Infrastructure Tertuis Simmers released a statement welcoming investigations into Cape Town Mayoral Committee member for Human Settlements Malusi Booi.⁸⁹¹ Minister Simmers reaffirmed that anti-corruption is a top priority in Western Cape’s government and that his ministry will “follow the proceedings of the investigation closely and will not make any pronouncements prematurely.”

⁸⁸⁶ 2023 Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance Mr Enoch Godongwana, Parliament of the Republic of South Africa (Cape Town) 22 February 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. https://www.parliament.gov.za/storage/app/media/Pages/2023/22-02-2023_budget_speech/speech/speech.pdf

⁸⁸⁷ From the desk of the President, Monday, 27 February 2023, Presidency of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.thepresidency.gov.za/from-the-desk-of-the-president/desk-president%2C-monday%2C-27-february-2023>

⁸⁸⁸ Electricity National State of Disaster regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 February 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/electricity-national-state-disaster-regulations-gazetted>

⁸⁸⁹ Special Investigating Unit on government land that was unlawfully transferred to private entities and individuals, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-prosecuting-authority-and-special-investigating-unit-8-mar-2023-0000>

⁸⁹⁰ Road Traffic Management Corporation on arrest of Tshwane Metro officer, South African Government (Pretoria) 13 March 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/soliciting-r2000-bribe-13-mar-2023-0000>

⁸⁹¹ MEC Tertuis Simmers welcomes investigation into alleged criminal activities involving state officials, South African Government (Pretoria) 16 March 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/criminal-activities-involving-state-officials-16-mar-2023-0000>

On 19 March 2023, the Police Service arrested a contractor employee at the Eskom State-Owned Entity, following a joint investigation by the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations and Eskom.⁸⁹² The individual in question allegedly paid ZAR14 million in Eskom funds to a fraudulent supplier, then resigned shortly afterward. Eskom Acting Senior Manager for Forensic and Anti-Corruption Amos Phoshoko welcomed the arrest, noting that the arrest of allegedly corrupt individuals after their resignation is a “deterrent to would be criminals” and “an encouraging step” in anti-corruption and anti-fraud efforts.

On 22 March 2023, the Department of Home Affairs fired a senior official involved with corruption on behalf of a Gupta family associate.⁸⁹³ Director for Appeals Major Kobese unsuccessfully attempted to influence Department officials into unduly processing permits for Gupta associate Ashu Chawla, and was found guilty of this charge along with two other charges of allowing undue influence from outside interests and engaging in “grossly inappropriate conduct, including paying a bribe.”

On 28 March 2023, the Department of Water and Sanitation released a statement welcoming the arrest of a Director who was unduly earning two public service salaries.⁸⁹⁴ The unnamed official pleaded guilty to fraud and dishonesty by working for the Department while receiving another full salary from the Department of the Moses Kotane Local Municipality, maintaining this fraud by taking sick, vacation and study leaves from the Municipality while claiming the position’s salary.

On 28 March 2023, three members of the North West Legislature met with members of the Directorate for Priority Criminal Investigations (DCPI) to discuss ongoing corruption cases against government officials.⁸⁹⁵ The legislature members outlined a series of suspected instances of government corruption to the DCPI, spanning municipalities including Maquassi Hills, State-Owned Enterprises including NTI Group, and the government agencies such as the Department of Human Settlements. The members commented upon their responsibility as public officials to “hold the government departments and municipalities accountable.” During the meeting, the DCPI commented that arrests pursuant to these investigations will soon be made.

On 29 March 2023, the SIU raided two properties owned by Masedi Star PTY Ltd., in connection with an investigation into possible personal protective equipment procurement corruption.⁸⁹⁶ The SIU took this action on the basis of evidence suggesting a “corrupt relationship between Masedi Star and a senior supply chain management official in [the Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works],” where the official allegedly exchanged preferential bidding treatment for financial kickbacks.

On 30 March 2023, the SIU released a statement welcoming the sentencing of four licensing officials on fraud charges.⁸⁹⁷ All four individuals are either to pay fines or face imprisonment for unduly waiving motor vehicle licensing fees for some operators.

On 3 April 2023, NPA National Director of Public Prosecutions Shamila Batohi reaffirmed the NPA’s commitment to transparency and anti-corruption to a cohort of incoming prosecutors.⁸⁹⁸ Batohi warned

⁸⁹² Eskom contractor employee arrested for fraud and corruption, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 19 March 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/eskom-contractor-employee-arrested-fraud-and-corruption>

⁸⁹³ Home Affairs dismisses senior official who facilitated undue issuing of permits to Gupta associates, South African Government (Pretoria) 22 March 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/home-affairs-22-mar-2023-0000>

⁸⁹⁴ Water and Sanitation welcomes arrest of senior manager for double dipping salaries, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 March 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-welcomes-arrest-senior-manager-double-dipping-salaries-28-mar-2023>

⁸⁹⁵ North West Legislature meets with Hawks over criminal cases against corrupt government officials, South African Government (Pretoria) 29 March 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/%C2%A0north-west-legislature-29-mar-2023-0000>

⁸⁹⁶ SIU raids properties in PPE corruption probe, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 29 March 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/siu-raids-properties-ppe-corruption-probe>

⁸⁹⁷ Special Investigating Unit welcomes sentencing of licensing officials for multiple counts of fraud, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/siu-welcomes-sentencing-licensing-officials-multiple-counts-fraud-30-mar-2023-0000>

⁸⁹⁸ No place for corruption in the NPA, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 3 April 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/no-place-corruption-mpa>

new recruits that “there is no place for corrupt or dishonest prosecutors,” and promised that any corrupt officials will be “fired after a fair process.”

On 4 April 2023, the SIU released a statement welcoming the arrest of Advocate Hassan Ebrahim Kajee, a state attorney.⁸⁹⁹ Mr. Kajee allegedly charged inflated rates for his services, charged for services not rendered, and purported to have worked for longer on a daily basis than actual hours in the day. The SIU is also pursuing a civil case against Mr. Kajee on account of his “corrupt and collusive relationship” with former Johannesburg Office of the State Attorney head Gustav Lebake, seeking ZAR27 million in damages.

On 6 April 2023, the Mbombela Special Commercial Crimes Court sentenced Mpendulo Siphso Mapalala to four years in prison for attempted bribery.⁹⁰⁰ Mapalala, a businessman in Mpumalanga, attempted to bribe an SIU investigator to drop charges against Gugu Bulungu, a Mpumalanga Department of Public Works service provider.

On 13 April 2023, Minister for Basic Education Angie Motshekga addressed the Schools Democracy Education Programme as Keynote Speaker.⁹⁰¹ Minister Motshekga mentioned the importance of fighting corruption to secure sustainable development, sustain democratic governance and ensure the effective use of public resources.

On 13 April 2023, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure released a statement detailing investigations into illegal occupations of state-owned residences by government officials.⁹⁰² Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Sihle Zikalala, according to the statement, has ordered a report on the extent of rent non-payment amongst government employees occupying state-owned housing across all provinces and will, upon the completion of this report, coordinate efforts with provincial government officials to address the problem.

On 14 April 2023, the SIU released a statement discussing and commending the Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum’s (HSACF) role in addressing corruption in healthcare.⁹⁰³ The SIU noted that HSACF oversight helped to facilitate over ZAR1.6 billion in civil action matters, and that HSACF works closely with the Fusion Centre and the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime to oversee and act against instances of corruption in the healthcare system.

On 19 April 2023, the SIU announced a preliminary investigation into 102 law firms that allegedly defrauded the Road Accident Fund (RAF).⁹⁰⁴ Alleged fraudulent acts in the SIU’s focus include procurement and tender irregularities, duplicate payments, inflated invoices and fraudulent RAF payment claims. The SIU has secured acknowledgment of debt agreements totalling ZAR68 million with some firms, and has recovered approximately ZAR18 million of the overall ZAR340 million in damages to date.

On 21 April 2023, the Department of Water and Sanitation dismissed Bulk Water and Pricing and Regulation Unit Director Gabonewe Madileka for double-dipping salaries by simultaneously maintaining

⁸⁹⁹ Investigating Unit welcomes arrest of Office of the State Attorney, Advocate Hassan Ebrahim Kajee, South African Government (Pretoria) 4 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/investigating-unit-welcomes-arrest-office-state-attorney-advocate-hassan-ebrahim-kajee-4>

⁹⁰⁰ Special Investigating Unit on sentencing of Mpumalanga businessman for attempting to bribe investigator to make Covid-19 investigation disappear, South African Government (Pretoria) 6 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/special-investigating-unit-sentencing-mpumalanga-businessman-attempting-bribe-investigator>

⁹⁰¹ Minister Angie Motshekga: Schools Democracy Education Programme, South African Government (Pretoria) 13 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-schools-democracy-education-programme-13-apr-2023-0000>

⁹⁰² Minister Sihle Zikalala investigates government officials defaulting on paying rent for state-owned properties, South African Government (Pretoria) 13 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/department-public-works-and-infrastructure-minister-sihle-zikalala-investigate-government>

⁹⁰³ Investigating Unit on Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum role in eradicating corruption in South Africa’s healthcare system, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/investigating-unit-health-sector-anti-corruption-forum-role-eradicating-corruption-south>

⁹⁰⁴ SIU preliminary investigates RAF over R340 million in duplicate payments to law firms, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/siu-preliminary-investigations-raf-finds-over-r340-million-duplicate-payments-law-firms-19>

an employment contract with the Moses Kotane Municipality.⁹⁰⁵ The internal investigation that led to this dismissal found Madileka guilty of defrauding the Municipality of approximately ZAR778,557.

On 21 April 2023, Western Cape Premier Alan Winde wrote to Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, objecting to the bid to exempt Eskom from having to disclose its “irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure.”⁹⁰⁶ Premier Winde wrote in favour of holding Eskom accountable for these expenditures, writing: “Rather than looking to exempt Eskom, the National Treasury should institute further scrutiny and support in rooting out the maladministration and corruption in the institution.”

On 25 April 2023, Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Sihle Zikalala commented upon the department’s progress in implementing the National Infrastructure Investment Plan and mentioned actions to reduce corruption in construction processes.⁹⁰⁷ Minister Zikalala committed to meet with the Police Services’ Economic Sabotage Unit and “mobilise communities to work with law enforcement” in addressing corruption. Minister Zikalala also made particular note of the need to fight the “construction mafia,” a phenomenon of criminal extortionary actions on construction sites.

On 27 April 2023, President Ramaphosa addressed the nation on National Freedom Day 2023.⁹⁰⁸ During his address, President Ramaphosa called for a strong stance against corruption and bribery, stating: “Let us stand firm against corruption and theft of state resources. Let us take a stand against public servants who neglect their responsibilities and duties. Let us take a stand against residents who refuse to pay for basic services even when they are obliged to do so, or who pay bribes to connect electricity or to make a traffic fine go away.”

On 2 May 2023, the SIU released a statement welcoming the University of Johannesburg’s repayment of ZAR311 million to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) in funding for students who switched institutions or did not attend the university from 2016 to 2021.⁹⁰⁹ The payment follows a September 2022 NSFAS investigation that found a lack of regulations and enforcement to ensure proper repayment of unreleased financial aid by universities, and since the report, the NSFAS has received a total of ZAR349.3 million in repayments from institutions of higher learning. The SIU’s involvement in promoting NSFAS repayment protects the Scheme’s financial integrity from potential waste, fraud, corruption and negligence promulgated from non-repayment by educational institutions.

On 4 May 2023, the NPA and its Investigating Directorate (ID) announced its intention to appeal the Free State high court decision in the Nulane Investments fraud and money laundering case, in which 203 individuals and 65 entities, including government officials, were accused of ZAR24.9 million in damages.⁹¹⁰ In their statement, the NPA noted “serious concerns with the judgement” and stated that the case “demonstrates the urgency to finalise the process to make the ID a permanent entity,” in line with prior commitments informed by the State Capture Commission’s final reports.

On 11 May 2023, Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises Obed Bapela announced his intention to conduct oversight visits to two State-Owned Enterprises. The Deputy Minister will tour Denel Land Systems and

⁹⁰⁵ Premier Alan Winde on bid to exempt Eskom from disclosing financial statements, South African Government (Pretoria) 21 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/premier-writes-finance-minister-objecting-bid-exempt-eskom-disclosing-financial-statements>

⁹⁰⁶ Water and Sanitation dismisses senior official for fraud and gross dishonesty, resultant in double-dipping, South African Government (Pretoria) 21 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/dws-dismisses-senior-official-fraud-and-gross-dishonesty-resultant-double-dipping-21-apr>

⁹⁰⁷ Minister Sihle Zikalala: Progress in implementing National Infrastructure Investment Plan, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-public-works-and-infrastructure-mr-sihle-zikalala-25-apr-2023-0000>

⁹⁰⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa: 2023 National Freedom Day, South African Government (Pretoria) 21 April 2023. Access Date: 7 May 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-2023-national-freedom-day-27-apr-2023-0000>

⁹⁰⁹ Special Investigating Unit welcomes R211 million payment to NSFAS, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 May 2023. Access Date: 11 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/special-investigating-unit-welcomes-r311-million-payment-nsfas-2-may-2023-0000>

⁹¹⁰ National Prosecuting Authority on Nulane R24.9 million feasibility study case judgement, South African Government (Pretoria) 4 May 2023. Access Date: 11 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/%C2%A0npa-investigating-directorate-appeal-nulane-judgement-4-may-2023-0000>

Denel Pretoria Metal Pressings on 12 May 2023.⁹¹¹ The Deputy Minister’s statement mentions the Denel Group’s ongoing implementation of a plan to root out corruption and “rebuild the reputation and capabilities of the company,” after “years of decline due to state capture and corruption.”

On 16 May 2023, the SIU released a statement welcoming a Special Tribunal decision to declare former Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Maite Nkoana-Mashabane’s order for the department to enter a land reform lease agreement with Cultiver Investments over the ownership of a chicken farm in Limpopo Province as “irregular and unlawful.”⁹¹² The SIU’s investigation into the Mike’s Chicken land reform lease agreement affair, as so authorized in 2017, focused on potential corruption or maladministration by government officials. The judgment found “irregularities” during the approval process for Cultiver Investments’ acquisition of Mike’s Chicken, as well as several contraventions of the Public Finance Management Act by certain Department officials.

On 18 May 2023, the SIU released a statement updating upon the recent work of the Infrastructure Built Anti-Corruption Forum (IBACF).⁹¹³ The IBACF, which is chaired by SIU Head Adv. Andy Mothibi, works to coordinate multi-stakeholder responses to corruption in construction. The Forum discussed various anti-corruption initiatives from within and outside the group, including Infrastructure South Africa’s corruption risk management initiative and the further use of data analytics to highlight corruption risk areas in construction processes. The statement also highlighted the IBACF’s anti-corruption education and training efforts, which are free to access for construction sector stakeholders and offered in partnership with the Global Infrastructure Anti-Corruption Centre.

On 18 May 2023, President Ramaphosa chaired a meeting of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council in his Presidential office at Tuynhuys.⁹¹⁴ The Council convenes and acts to further implement the State Capture Commission recommendations regarding anti-corruption and state capture. President Ramaphosa welcomed various updates on Council matters, including their efforts to create whistleblower-conducive environments through dialogue with non-government stakeholders and their upcoming proposed amendments to the Public Procurement Bill, the Protected Disclosures Act and the Political Party Funding Act in the interest of executing upon State Capture Commission recommendations. Further, the Presidency’s statement detailing this action notes the Council’s increasing focus on holistic appraisals and interventions towards systemic corruption, rather than upon individual corrupt actions.

On 19 May 2023, Deputy President Paul Mashatile engaged in open dialogue with leaders of Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed businesses.⁹¹⁵ At this meeting, the Deputy President discussed policy reforms he wishes to implement, including in the realm of combatting corruption, and business leaders urged government to take further action on fighting crime and corruption. Deputy President Mashatile referred to this engagement as “a platform to expedite the implementation of the commitments made,” and committed to meeting with JSE-listed business leaders again in the future to further discuss and collaborate upon areas of mutual interest, including anti-corruption efforts.

On 22 May 2023, Gauteng MEC for Transport and Logistics Kedibone Diale-Tlabela released a statement in recognition of the DPCI’s decision to arrest an official of the Department of Roads and Transport for

⁹¹¹ Deputy Minister Obed Bapela tour Denel Land Systems and Pretoria Metal Pressings as part of oversight visits to operations of SOE’s, 12 May, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 May 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-obed-bapela-tour-denel-land-systems-and-pretoria-metal-pressings-part>
⁹¹² Special Investigating Unit welcomes Special Tribunal order on land reform lease agreement with Cultiver Investments, South African Government (Pretoria) 16 May 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/special-investigating-unit-welcomes-special-tribunal-order-land-reform-lease-agreement>

⁹¹³ Special Investigating Unit on Infrastructure Built Anti-Corruption Forum, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 May 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/special-investigating-unit-infrastructure-built-anti-corruption-forum-18-may-2023-0000>

⁹¹⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa welcomes National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council works towards building a corruption-free South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 May 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-welcomes-national-anti-corruption-advisory-council>

⁹¹⁵ Deputy President Paul Mashatile addresses socio-economic challenges during business leaders’ dialogue, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 May 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-paul-mashatile-addresses-socio-economic-challenges-during-business-leaders>

bribery.⁹¹⁶ The individual is suspected to have demanded a bribe of ZAR80,000 from a businessman in return for preferential ruling on a development permit decision. In her statement, Minister Diale-Tlabela reaffirmed her department's commitment to anti-corruption, stating: "We are pleased with this arrest as it sets an important example for other officials within our department. This clearly demonstrates that the sixth administration is committed to rooting out corruption in our province."

On 23 May 2023, the SIU announced ZAR99 million worth of signed acknowledgment of debt agreements, committing companies to repay unduly claimed funds from the Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme.⁹¹⁷ This action to recoup funding comes as part of a larger SIU initiative to reclaim TERS funds, which the SIU claims has led to approximately ZAR71.4 million in returned funds.

On 25 May 2023, the Cabinet released a wide-ranging statement, updating upon the government's progress in various policy areas including corruption.⁹¹⁸ Specifically, the statement congratulated the Department of Water and Sanitation for its efforts to mitigate corrupt practices by government contractors. Cabinet also mentioned their approval of a draft General Intelligence Laws Amendment Bill, which if passed would enter into law "the implementation plan of the recommendations of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector including Organs of State."

On 31 May 2023, Western Cape Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Anton Bredell announced the establishment of an independent committee tasked with investigating alleged misconduct by councillors in the Knysna Local Municipality.⁹¹⁹ The commission will investigate a number of Knysna councillors, as well as the mayor and deputy mayor, for unlawfully creating, appointing individuals to and authorizing payments for jobs in their offices. After concluding their investigation, the committee will recommend further action, if needed, to Minister Bredell.

On 5 June 2023, President Ramaphosa authorized the SIU to investigate alleged corruption and maladministration at Umgeni Water, a state-owned enterprise (SOE) based in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.⁹²⁰ The SIU will investigate two tenders, for security and community engagement services respectively, for related unlawfully wasteful or corrupt expenditures. The SIU may also investigate the actions of specific government officials, contractors or other involved individuals or entities and may institute civil action against any accused party.

On 7 June 2023, the National Treasury announced that the Minister of Finance would not grant the Eskom SOE partial exemption from disclosing any "irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and material losses from criminal conduct" as part of its financial statements.⁹²¹ The National Treasury's statement explains that this decision promotes Eskom's continued compliance with high standards for accounting and financial reporting expected of SOEs, seeking "accountability and transparency in all financial matters." Further, the National Treasury committed to work alongside Eskom to rectify existing issues with compliance reporting and to further develop a revised framework on "irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure" alongside the Auditor-General.

⁹¹⁶ MEC Diale-Tlabela welcomes arrest of a roads official on charges of corruption, South African Government (Pretoria) 22 May 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-diale-tlabela-welcomes-arrest-roads-official-charges-corruption-22-may-2023-0000>

⁹¹⁷ Special Investigating Unit recovers R 71.4 million linked to TERS claims, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 May 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/special-investigating-unit-recovers-r-714-million>

⁹¹⁸ Statement on the Cabinet Meeting of 24 May 2023, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 May 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-cabinet-meeting-24-may>

⁹¹⁹ MEC Anton Bredell appoints committee to investigate alleged misconduct of Municipal Councillors in Knysna Local Municipality, South African Government (Pretoria) 31 May 2023. Access Date: 11 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-anton-bredell-31-may-2023-0000>

⁹²⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa authorizes SIU to investigate allegation of corruption and maladministration at Umgeni Water, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 11 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-authorises-siu-investigate-allegations-corruption-and>

⁹²¹ National Treasury on decision on ESKOM's partial exemption, South African Government (Pretoria) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 11 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-treasury-decision-%C2%A0eskom%E2%80%99s-partial-exemption-7-jun-2023-0000>

On 7 June 2023, the Government and CEOs of large businesses based in South Africa represented by the Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) non-profit organization agreed to a partnership initiative covering various areas of mutual interest, including corruption.⁹²² As part of this initiative, the Government and BUSA-affiliated companies agreed to establish the Joint Initiative to Fight Crime and Corruption, a platform for further joint anti-corruption action between the Government and the private sector. Additionally, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the NPA and its ID in line with commitments made in response to the Zondo Commission, whereas businesses committed to providing support to the NPA and its ID in fulfilling their mandate.

On 9 June 2023, Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Sihle Zikalala reaffirmed the government's commitment to fighting corruption in infrastructure by calling for accountability from government contractors that do not deliver upon their commitments.⁹²³ Minister Zikalala specifically noted the incomplete Correctional Service Centre in Parys and the Park Road Police Station in Bloemfontein, both of which have experienced unnaturally protracted development processes due to unfulfilled commitments from government contractors. Minister Zikalala called for a full audit of these two projects and will meet with the Infrastructure Built Environment Anti-Corruption Forum to further combat corruption in construction and infrastructure.

On 12 June 2023, the UIF released a statement welcoming the arrest of six individuals from the North West Province, two of whom were former Department of Employment and Labour employees, by the DPCI.⁹²⁴ The individuals are suspected to have defrauded the UIF of ZAR2 million through a syndicate that fraudulently claimed unemployment benefits on behalf of unknowing individuals who did not qualify for any UIF funding.

On 19 June 2023, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Ronald Lamola committed to a cooperation protocol agreement with Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic Catherine Colonna.⁹²⁵ The agreement commits South Africa to improve the cyber-forensic capabilities of its SIU, and provides for the development of an anti-corruption academy in Pretoria, servicing local and SADC member state anti-corruption officials.

On 19 June 2023, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) released a statement detailing corruption charges against two retired, and one current, General of the South African Police Service (SAPS).⁹²⁶ The three officials allegedly unlawfully tampered with interview scoresheets to unfairly advantage a certain candidate, who eventually received a SAPS job offer, suspectedly on those fraudulent grounds.

On 23 June 2023, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development released a statement regarding an apparent breach of the Guardian's Fund System (GFS), a secure payment system linked to the Guardian's Fund national estate management and administration program.⁹²⁷ The Ministry noted its collaboration with SAPS, the DPCI and other law enforcement agencies to apprehend GFS officials who allegedly breached

⁹²² Joint media statement by South African Government and Organised Business establish partnership initiative, South African Government (Pretoria) 7 June 2023. Access Date: 11 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/joint-media-statement-south-african-government-and-organised-business-establish-partnership>

⁹²³ Minister Sihle Zikalala calls for prosecution and blacklisting of contractors robbing state, South African Government (Pretoria) 9 June 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-sihle-zikalala-calls-prosecution-and-blacklisting-contractors-robbing-state-9-jun>

⁹²⁴ Unemployment Insurance Fund welcomes arrests of six suspects arrested of R2 million fraud in North West Province, South African Government (Pretoria) 12 June 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/unemployment-insurance-fund-welcomes-arrests-six-suspects-arrested-r2-million-fraud-north>

⁹²⁵ Minister Ronald Lamola signs protocol agreement with France to increase SIU capacity, 19 Jun, South African Government (Pretoria) 15 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-ronald-lamola-signs-protocol-agreement-france-increase-siu-capacity-19-jun-15-jun>

⁹²⁶ Independent Police Investigative Directorate on corruption charges against SAPS Generals, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/independent-police-investigative-directorate-corruption-charges-against-saps-generals-19>

⁹²⁷ Justice and Constitutional Development on fraudulent disbursement of Guardian's Fund Moneys at Master's Office, South African Government (Pretoria) 23 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/media-statement-fraudulent-disbursement-guardian%E2%80%99s-fund-moneys-master%E2%80%99s-office>

the systems and stole ZAR17 million from the Fund. The Ministry also mentioned its concurrence with proposed strategies to shore up the system's security in light of this incident and noted that it has sought and received a preservation order for a portion of the embezzled funds.

On 27 June 2023, UIF Commissioner's office Manager Smiso Nkosi and Bernice Matlhako from North West Province's UIF Risk and Fraud Unit reaffirmed the UIF's commitment to tackling corruption internally during a statement detailing a ZAR2.1 billion UIF funding release.⁹²⁸ Nkosi discussed the UIF auditing efforts already undertaken and the potential fraud and corruption identified during these audits, whereas Matlhako mentioned currently underway investigations into individuals who allegedly bribed or defrauded the UIF and its officials.

On 29 June 2023, a SIU Special Tribunal ordered three former Western Cape municipal officials to pay ZAR400,000 to the Matzikama Local Municipality for money lost due to an irregularly awarded personal protective equipment (PPE) development contract.⁹²⁹ The employees in question maintained and did not disclose a relationship with the awardee company's proprietor and received direct financial compensation from the company operator in exchange for a municipal PPE contract.

On 29 June 2023, the Justice and Constitutional Development Department released proposed whistleblower protection reforms to the public for review and comments.⁹³⁰ The reforms include an expansion of the Protected Disclosures Act, the development of a whistleblower support fund and the strengthening of the South African Human Rights Commission.

On 4 July 2023, the Road Traffic Management Corporation released a statement regarding the arrest of two of its employees in Vrede Free State on bribery charges.⁹³¹ The individuals allegedly cooperated on a scheme by which they would solicit ZAR1500 bribes from learner's licence applicants in exchange for correct answers to the learner's licence test.

On 4 July 2023, the SIU and NPA released a statement welcoming the retrieval of ZAR1.9 million fraudulently claimed by Lerato Raphael Mokoteli, a pastor in Bloemfontein.⁹³² Mokoteli claimed the money from the Agriculture Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSeta) for a joint venture that did not in fact exist.

On 6 July 2023, North West MEC for Public Works and Roads Gaoage Oageng Molapisi addressed a letter to the head of the Public Works and Roads Department calling for an internal investigation into a contract awarded to a repeatedly delinquent and unreliable contractor.⁹³³ The MEC calls for the Department to "conduct its business in a transparent and accountable manner" and stated that the tender to Nduhana Civils "perpetuates a wrong narrative about the Department which we have been working hard to change."

⁹²⁸ Unemployment Insurance Fund pays out R2,1 billion to workers affected by COVID-19 pandemic in North West Province, South African Government (Pretoria) 27 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/unemployment-insurance-fund-pays-out-r21-billion-workers-affected-covid-19-pandemic-north>

⁹²⁹ SIU orders former Western Cape Municipal Officials to pay back money lost by Matzikama Local Municipality in irregular PPE Tender, South African Government (Pretoria) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/siu-orders-former-western-cape-municipal-officials-pay-back-r400-000-lost-matzikama-local>

⁹³⁰ Justice and Constitutional Development releases proposed reforms to whistleblowing legislation for public comments, South African Government (Pretoria) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/justice-and-constitutional-development-releases-proposed-reforms-whistleblowing-legislation>

⁹³¹ Road Traffic Management Corporation on arrest of Vrede Driving School instructor and licensing official for fraud, South African Government (Pretoria) 4 July 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/licensing-official-arrested-fraud-4-jul-2023-0000>

⁹³² Special Investigating Unit and National Prosecuting Authority on AgriSeta fraudulent case, South African Government (Pretoria) 4 July 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/special-investigating-unit-and-national-prosecuting-authority-agriseta-fraudulent-case-4>

⁹³³ MEC Gaoage Oageng Molapisi on internal investigation of tender award, South African Government (Pretoria) 6 July 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/reports-tender-award-6-jul-2023-0000>

On 21 July 2023, the Public Service Commission and the United Nations Development Programme co-hosted a whistle-blower symposium.⁹³⁴ Participants discussed the particular roadblocks and solutions to exposing ethical breaches in the public service, the development of further whistleblower support programmes and more anti-corruption topics.

On 31 July 2023, the SIU hosted the Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (AAACA) General Assembly.⁹³⁵ The Assembly, which focused on “citizen engagement in the fight against corruption and official financial flows,” facilitated anti-corruption policy discussion and capacity building between anti-corruption officials of 45 African countries.

On 1 August 2023, President Ramaphosa’s office released a statement updating on public-private partnerships on topic areas of mutual interest, including corruption.⁹³⁶ The Presidency’s statement mentioned the constitution of the Joint Initiative against Crime and Corruption (JICC), as well as an independent organization known as Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA) established by business leaders to coordinate with government actors. Per the statement, two next steps include finishing a NPA amendment bill that would bolster the Investigating Directorate and make it a permanent entity, as well as further operationalizing the JICC through dialogue and cooperative action.

On 2 August 2023, President Ramaphosa signed a proclamation directing the SIU to investigate the Office of the Premier of KwaZulu Natal for potentially unlawful administrative conduct.⁹³⁷ In particular, the investigation will audit the Premier’s office for “unauthorized, irregular, or fruitless and wasteful expenditure” and scrutinize the decision to appoint a particular consultant to various infrastructural programs.

On 12 August 2023, Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration Chana Pilane-Majake addressed the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting, providing updates and sharing information about South Africa’s anti-corruption initiatives.⁹³⁸ The Deputy Minister mentioned various recent anti-corruption policy priorities and actions, including widening the country’s repertoire of extradition treaties and bilateral agreements on anti-corruption measures. The Deputy Minister also affirmed the government’s support for various multilateral and international anti-corruption frameworks, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the OECD Convention, and the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

On 14 August 2023, President Ramaphosa released a letter to the nation entitled, “Working to prevent state capture now and into the future.”⁹³⁹ In this letter, President Ramaphosa summarized recent anti-corruption and financial crime law enforcement achievements, including ZAR13 billion in freezing orders granted to the NPA and ZAR5.4 billion returned to State funds from fraudulent holders. President Ramaphosa also touched on changes to corruption legislation, including amendments to the Public Procurement Bill to mitigate bribery in the awarding of tenders, a large-scale review of the nation’s anti-corruption agencies and further action to honour recommendations made by the State Capture Commission.

⁹³⁴ Public Service Commission hosts symposium on protection of whistle-blowers, 21 Jul, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 July 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/public-service-commission-hosts-symposium-protection-whistle-blowers-21-jul-19-jul-2023>

⁹³⁵ Special Investigating Unit hosts sixth General Assembly, 31 Jul to 1 Aug, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 July 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/corruption-and-illicit-financial-flows-28-jul-2023-0000>

⁹³⁶ Presidency on progress reported in Government and business partnership, South African Government (Pretoria) 1 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/joint-media-statement-1-aug-2023-0000>

⁹³⁷ SIU investigates allegations of maladministration in Office of the Premier of KwaZulu Natal, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/siu-authorized-2-aug-2023-0000>

⁹³⁸ Deputy Minister Chana Pilane-Majake: G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting, South African Government (Pretoria) 12 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/g20-anti-corruption-ministers-meeting-12-august-2023-kolkata-india-deputy-minister-public>

⁹³⁹ Working to prevent state capture now and into the future, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/blog/working-prevent-state-capture-now-and-future>

On 14 August 2023, the Department of Employment and Labour released a statement informing on the arrest of two foreign nationals in Mpumalanga.⁹⁴⁰ The two individuals stand accused of paying a ZAR2000 bribe to a Department official for assistance with an unemployment benefit application, as part of a conspiracy to defraud the UIF.

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to “lead by example through strengthening and implementing our obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing our commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.” Amendments to existing laws and promised protections for whistle-blowers, expansion of the witness protection program for public employees, and commitment to carrying out the State Capture Commission’s recommendations demonstrate adherence to obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts. Such pronouncements and actions to hold corrupt individuals accountable both demonstrate a strong commitment to the FATF and State Capture Commission’s recommendations, as well as a zero-tolerance corruption policy broadly.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Luca Rampersad

Türkiye: 0

Türkiye has complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 11 January 2023, Türkiye’s judiciary announced that Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu is facing prosecution over alleged corruption. The case alleges that while he was mayor of Istanbul’s Beylikduzu district from 2014-2019, Imamoglu awarded a public tender to an unqualified company. Prosecutors are seeking a maximum seven-year prison term for Imamoglu and six co-workers on charges of graft, as well as a ban from politics on the same charges. This move against Imamoglu comes as Türkiye’s opposition weighs which candidate would stand the best chance against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the upcoming elections. Imamoglu, a potential challenger to Erdogan, is ahead of him in opinion polls, and his appeal is said to cut across ethnic, sectarian, and class lines, including the Kurds, secular liberals, Sunni conservatives, and the business elite.⁹⁴¹

On 3 February 2023, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Brian E. Nelson, met with the Banks Association of Türkiye to discuss the implementation of international sanctions on Russia for its war against Ukraine. Nelson emphasized the importance of addressing vulnerabilities in the anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism regimes in Türkiye and the United States, with a focus on closing off the exploitation of real estate and beneficial ownership. He also highlighted the risks and consequences of illicit activity in Russia and called for Turkish businesses and financial institutions to conduct enhanced due diligence on transactions with Russian entities and individuals. Nelson recognized Türkiye’s unique challenges in facing broad illicit finance risks and called for deeper partnership to mitigate these risks.⁹⁴²

On 12 February 2023, Turkish officials issued 113 arrest warrants related to the construction of buildings that collapsed in the recent earthquake. Police have already taken at least 12 people into custody, including building contractors. Experts have warned for years that many new buildings in Türkiye were unsafe due to endemic corruption and government policies that allowed contractors to ignore building regulations. The collapse of thousands of buildings during the earthquake has raised questions about whether the impact of

⁹⁴⁰ Employment and Labour on arrests of two foreign nationals in Mpumalanga, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/two-arrested-after-bribing-14-aug-2023-0000>

⁹⁴¹ Istanbul mayor charged with corruption as Turkish opposition weighs Erdogan challenger, Al-Monitor (Washington DC) 11 January 2023. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/01/istanbul-mayor-charged-corruption-turkish-opposition-weighs-erdogan-challenger>

⁹⁴² Remarks by U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson in Türkiye, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington DC) 3 February 2023. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1248>

the natural disaster was worsened by human failings. The warrants show Türkiye's commitment to holding accountable those responsible for corruption, which is relevant to its anti-corruption efforts.⁹⁴³

On 12 June 2023, Turkish Provincial Gendarmerie Command teams detained 10 individuals, including four public officials, in relation to an alleged multi-national bribery scheme involving Syria at the Çobanbey Border Crossing in Kilis.⁹⁴⁴ The suspects allegedly bribed customs officials to allow otherwise illegal goods to pass into Syria.

On 16 June 2023, Istanbul Financial Crimes Branch Office teams detained 39 suspects, constituted mostly of company officials, in a suspected Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) fraud scheme.⁹⁴⁵ The suspected company officials allegedly bribed two İŞKUR officers to turn a blind eye to improprieties in their execution of the agency's On-the-Job Training Program, resulting in "millions of liras in public damage."

On 1 July 2023, the Istanbul Police Department caught and subsequently arrested three Avcılar Municipality employees for allegedly soliciting a bribe.⁹⁴⁶ The employees allegedly asked for a bribe from a sacrificial meat seller from Iğdır.

On 4 July 2023, the Aydın Provincial Police Department Smuggling and Organized Crime Branch Directorate detained 28 farmers, beekeepers and national parks officials as part of an anti-bribery investigation called "Operation Bee hive."⁹⁴⁷ After their investigation, the Söke Chief Public Prosecutor's Office accuses these individuals, including the Dilek Peninsula-Büyük Menderes Delta National Park Chief, of engaging in a bribery scheme whereby parks officials allow the beekeepers and farmers unlawful licence to drill boreholes.

On 12 July 2023, the Konya Provincial Department Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Branch detained 23 individuals, consisting of café owners and cigarette control auditors, in relation to an alleged bribery scheme.⁹⁴⁸ The café owners allegedly paid bribes to the government officers in exchange for prior notice before what would have otherwise been spontaneous cigarette control inspections.

On 8 August 2023, the Denizli Provincial Police Department Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Branch arrested four individuals for having allegedly received bribes at Denizli Çardak Airport.⁹⁴⁹ The suspects were a police officer, customs guard and two Iranian translators, who allegedly allowed passage of illegal alcohol, historical artifacts and Iranian passengers with expired visas in exchange for monetary bribes.

On 19 August 2023, the Antalya Provincial Gendarmerie cooperated with local authorities to apprehend the Manavgat Harbor Master on bribery charges.⁹⁵⁰ Authorities suspect the arrested official of having request a EUR3000 bribe from a water sports operator to expedite a boat licensing request.

⁹⁴³ Turkey earthquake: 113 arrest warrants connected to building construction, BBC News (London) 12 February 2023. Access Date: 29 March 2023. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-64615349>

⁹⁴⁴ Çobanbey Sınır Kapısı'nda 'rüşvet' operasyonu: 10 gözaltı, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 12 June 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.hurriyet.com.tr/gundem/cobanbey-sinir-kapisinda-rusvet-operasyonu-10-gozalti-42282543>

⁹⁴⁵ Büyükçekmece İŞKUR'da rüşvet operasyonu: 39 gözaltı, CNN Turk (Istanbul) 16 June 2023. Access Date: 15 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.cnnturk.com/turkiye/buyukcekmece-iskurda-rusvet-operasyonu-39-gozalti>

⁹⁴⁶ Kurban rüşvetine 3 tutuklama, NTV (Istanbul) 1 July 2023. Access Date: 15 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/kurban-rusvetine-3-tutuklama,ely3jXPOTU2VBHSXnIOJFQ>

⁹⁴⁷ Aydın merkezli 5 ilde rüşvet operasyonu: 28 gözaltı, Cumhuriyet (Istanbul) 4 July 2023. Access Date: 15 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/turkiye/aydin-merkezli-5-ilde-rusvet-operasyonu-28-gozalti-2096184>

⁹⁴⁸ Konya'da rüşvet operasyonu: Denetçi memurlar da gözaltında, NTV (Istanbul) 12 July 2023. Access Date: 15 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/konyada-rusvet-operasyonu-denetci-memurlar-da-gozaltinda,01VT605wz0-rdfZ1O-pnbg>

⁹⁴⁹ Havalimanında rüşvet operasyonuna 4 tutuklama, T24 (Istanbul) 8 August 2023. Access Date: 15 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://t24.com.tr/haber/havalimaninda-rusvet-operasyonuna-4-tutuklama,1123965>

⁹⁵⁰ Liman başkanına rüşvet iddiasıyla gözaltı, NTV (Istanbul) 19 August 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/liman-baskanina-rusvet-iddiasıyla-gozalti,jkMXkE3qcE21tZpS7Czyqw>

Türkiye has partially complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. While the government has taken some steps to hold accountable those responsible for corruption, recent events, such as the prosecution of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, the country's low ranking in the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index, and the widespread destruction caused by the recent earthquakes, have highlighted the need for more concrete measures to combat corruption. The recent actions taken by the government, including the issuance of arrest warrants related to the construction of buildings that collapsed during the earthquake, show a willingness to address corruption and hold those responsible accountable. However, more needs to be done to ensure that corruption is not tolerated in Türkiye.

Thus, Türkiye receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Luca Rampersad

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 18 November 2022, the Government pledged GBP4 million in new funding for the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime.⁹⁵¹ This will help curb the corruption, instability and negative economic development of the world's poorest communities in the poaching and the illegal wildlife trade, estimated to be worth up to GBP17 billion a year.

On 6 December 2022, the UK emphasized the need for the global community to continue fighting illicit finance and corruption at the International Anti-Corruption Conference.⁹⁵² Security Minister Tom Tugendhat said: "Our new legislation, and the upcoming publication of our Anti-Corruption Strategy and UK Economic Crime Plan, means we will continue to take tough action against those who seek to threaten our way of life."

On 9 December 2022, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly announced a new wave of sanctions that targets corrupt actors, and those violating and abusing human rights, as well as perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict.⁹⁵³

On 9 December 2022, the UK has designated 8 individuals under our Global Human Rights regime, which allows the UK to stop those involved in serious human rights abuses and violations from entering the country, channelling money through UK banks, or profiting from our economy.⁹⁵⁴ The UK is also using its Global Anti-Corruption regime to sanction an additional 5 individuals.

⁹⁵¹ Fight against international wildlife crime stepped up, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 November 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-against-international-wildlife-crime-stepped-up>

⁹⁵² United Kingdom Calls for Global Community to Continue Fight against Corruption, Development Office (London) 09 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-calls-for-global-community-to-continue-fight-against-corruption>

⁹⁵³ UK Sanctions Target 30 Corrupt Political Figures, Human Rights Violators and Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence around the World, Development Office (London) 09 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-target-30-corrupt-political-figures-human-rights-violators-and-perpetrators-of-conflict-related-sexual-violence-around-the-world>

⁹⁵⁴ UK Sanctions Target 30 Corrupt Political Figures, Human Rights Violators and Perpetrators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence around the World, Development Office (London) 09 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-target-30-corrupt-political-figures-human-rights-violators-and-perpetrators-of-conflict-related-sexual-violence-around-the-world>

On 10 January 2023, the UK consistently called out corruption in Lebanon's governance systems, most recently in an article co-signed by G7 Ambassadors together with the EU Ambassador last month to mark World Anti-Corruption Day.⁹⁵⁵

On 30 January 2023, the UK Embassy in Mexico presents the report "Corruption Along Migration Pathways in Mexico" in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee to understand the impacts of corruption along migration routes.⁹⁵⁶

On 1 February 2023, the UK government announced that overseas companies owning UK land who have not registered their beneficial owners with Companies House could now face penalties such as sale restrictions and tough fines.⁹⁵⁷ Foreign companies were required to declare their beneficial owners on the Register of Overseas Entities by 31 January, under world leading new anti-money laundering measures introduced by the government to flush out corrupt elites.

On 6 February 2023, the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) launched a Police Integrity reporting line in collaboration with Crimestoppers.⁹⁵⁸ This will improve crime prevention and detection, as well as protect their staff and communities. This new reporting line is part of a bigger piece of work being undertaken by the MDP to set up its own Anti-Corruption Unit.

On 10 February 2023, the UK sanctioned three prominent Bulgarians under the UK's Global Anti-Corruption sanctions regime, including a former member of parliament, an ex-national security official and Bulgaria's richest.⁹⁵⁹ They have been handed travel bans and asset freezes for abusing their positions of power by redirecting state funds for their own benefit.

On 10 February 2023, the Government has sanctioned 35 individuals and entities under the Global Anti-Corruption regime since its introduction in April 2021.⁹⁶⁰

On 14 February 2023, UK financial sanctions are in place for persons involved in serious corruption or that are linked to those involved in serious corruption.⁹⁶¹

On 6 March 2023, the UK endorsed their calls on the Government of South Sudan to stop violence, end corruption and deliver basic services for the South Sudanese people at the UN Security Council.⁹⁶²

On 27 March 2023, the Government launched a review of the whistleblowing laws.⁹⁶³ The review will gather evidence on the effectiveness of the current regime in enabling workers to speak up about wrongdoing and protect those who do so. This review will cover central topics such as who is covered by whistleblowing

⁹⁵⁵ Statement from the British Embassy Beirut, British Embassy Beirut (Beirut) 10 January 2023. Access Date: 17 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-british-embassy-beirut>

⁹⁵⁶ The British Embassy in Mexico Presents a Report about Corruption and Migration, British Embassy Mexico City (Mexico City) 30 January 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-british-embassy-in-mexico-presents-a-report-about-corruption-and-migration>

⁹⁵⁷ Corruption Crackdown under New Government Anti Money Laundering Laws, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 01 February 2023. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/corruption-crackdown-under-new-government-anti-money-laundering-laws>

⁹⁵⁸ MDP launch new anonymous reporting line for officers and staff, Ministry of Defense (London) 06 February 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mdp-launch-new-anonymous-reporting-line-for-officers-and-staff>

⁹⁵⁹ UK Sanctions High Profile Bulgarian Figures Involved in Corruption, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2023. Access Date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-high-profile-bulgarian-figures-involved-in-corruption>

⁹⁶⁰ UK Sanctions High Profile Bulgarian Figures Involved in Corruption, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-high-profile-bulgarian-figures-involved-in-corruption>

⁹⁶¹ Financial Sanctions, Global Anti-Corruption, HM Treasury and Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-global-anti-corruption>

⁹⁶² UK Sanctions High Profile Bulgarian Figures Involved in Corruption, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 06 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-government-of-south-sudan-must-stop-violence-and-deliver-basic-services-to-their-people-uk-statement-at-the-un-security-council>

⁹⁶³ Government reviews whistleblowing laws, Department for Business and Trade (London) 27 March 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-reviews-whistleblowing-laws>

protections, the availability of information and guidance for whistleblowing purposes and how employers and prescribed persons respond to whistleblowing disclosures, including best practice.

On 30 March 2023, the Government, law enforcement and private sector agreed on a new plan to crack down on money laundering, kleptocracy and sanctions evasion.⁹⁶⁴ The Economic Crime Plan 2 will enhance cooperation to identify and strip corrupt elites and criminal gangs of their financial assets building on the unprecedented package of sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. 475 new highly trained financial crime investigators will increase their capacity to target money laundering and the recovery of GBP1 billion in criminal assets over the next ten years. GBP100 million was invested in cutting edge technology to equip law enforcement and regulators to identify, seize and store illicit crypto assets more effectively.

On 30 March 2023, the HM Treasury and the Home Office published the Economic Crime Plan 2 for 2023 to 2026.⁹⁶⁵ The three-year plan builds on the first Economic Crime Plan published in 2019 and commits the UK government to: combatting kleptocracy and driving down sanctions evasion, cutting fraud, and reducing money laundering and recovering more criminal assets.

On 11 April 2023, the Government introduced a new "failure to prevent fraud" offence by way of an amendment to its draft Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill.⁹⁶⁶ Under this new offence, an organisation could be held liable for fraud committed, or if it did not have reasonable procedures in place to prevent the fraud from occurring.

On 12 April 2023, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly announced sanctions for those who have knowingly assisted sanctioned Russia oligarchs to hide their assets in complex financial networks.⁹⁶⁷ Asset freezes, travel bans, transport sanctions and trust services sanctions have been handed in partnership across Whitehall, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, His Majesty's Revenue and Customs, National Crime Agency, Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation and others such as Department for Transport. Among those sanctioned are Demetris Ioannides and Christodoulos Vassiliades, two Cypriot professional enablers supporting major Russian oligarchs Roman Abramovich and Alisher Usmanov hiding GBP760 million in assets. The UK has also targeted Usmanov's financial network, including companies USM, Curzon Square Limited and Hanley Limited. Vladimir and Varvara Skoch, the father and daughter of Usmanov's business partner and "richest man in the Duma" Andrei Skoch, have also been sanctioned.

On 9 May 2023, Delegate to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Justin Addison stated to OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group that Russia's invasion shows the threat posed to our societies by kleptocracies.⁹⁶⁸ He highlighted the need to reinforce the UK's response to illicit finance both at home and overseas, and that the UK is fully committed to recovering and returning corruptly obtained assets.

On 12 May 2023, British parliamentarians proposed the establishment of an International Anti-Corruption Court (IACC) to freeze billions of US dollars kept abroad by corrupt government officials.⁹⁶⁹ The IACC proposal is part

⁹⁶⁴ New plan puts UK at the forefront of fight against economic crime, Home Office (London) 30 March 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plan-puts-uk-at-the-forefront-of-fight-against-economic-crime>

⁹⁶⁵ UK Government Gets Tough on Sanctions Evasion, Fraud and Money Laundering in Newly Published Economic Crime Plan, Mondaq (London) 17 May 2023. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.mondaq.com/uk/crime/1315900/uk-government-gets-tough-on-sanctions-evasion-fraud-and-money-laundering-in-newly-published-economic-crime-plan>.

⁹⁶⁶ UK Government Outlines Details of New Failure to Prevent Fraud Offence, Mondaq (London) 9 May 2023. Access Date: 16 May 2023. <https://www.mondaq.com/uk/white-collar-crime-anti-corruption--fraud/1313270/uk-government-outlines-details-of-new-failure-to-prevent-fraud-offence>.

⁹⁶⁷ UK sanctions Abramovich and Usmanov's financial fixers in crackdown on oligarch enablers, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 12 April 2023. Access Date: 6 May 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-abramovich-and-usmanovs-financial-fixers-in-crackdown-on-oligarch-enablers>

⁹⁶⁸ Asset Recovery and Combatting Corruption: UK Statement to the OSCE, Development Office (London) 9 May 2023. Access Date: 16 May 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/asset-recovery-and-combatting-corruption-uk-statement-to-the-osce>.

⁹⁶⁹ Zimbabwe: UK Parliament Moots International Anti-Corruption Court in Response to Gold Mafia Revelations, Growing Cases of Graft, All Africa (Cape Town) 12 May 2023. Access Date: 17 May 2023. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202305120038.html>.

of amendments to the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill currently under consideration in the House of Lords.

On 12 May 2023, Prime Minister Sunak hosted the Anti-Corruption Summit to step up global action to expose, punish and drive out corruption in all walks of life.⁹⁷⁰ This is the first summit of its kind, bringing together world leaders, business and civil society to agree a package of practical steps to expose corruption so there is nowhere to hide, punish the perpetrators and support those affected by corruption and drive out the culture of corruption wherever it exists.

On 25 May 2023, the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), Transparency International UK (TI-UK) and the World Economic Forum's Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (the Forum's PACI) have published a comprehensive review of anti-corruption corporate reporting by the largest publicly traded companies worldwide.⁹⁷¹ The report decodes the current state of anti-corruption reporting practices and highlights the urgent need for enhanced quality, reliability, and comparability in this crucial area.

On 15 June 2023, the UK-Australia Declaration to Combat Illicit Financing Co-ordination Dialogue was held in London, and brought together senior and working level officials from respective policy, law enforcement, intelligence, and customs agencies.⁹⁷² The United Kingdom Home Office and the Australian Attorney General's Department formalized a joint commitment to combat illicit financing with the signing of the UK-Australia Declaration to Combat Illicit Finance in August 2022.

On 14 August 2023, Security Minister Tom Tugendhat proposed a new anti-corruption strategy to stop the laundering of criminal money in the UK, and to help British businesses that trade internationally to do so compliantly and more cost-effectively.⁹⁷³

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. It has invested in new sanctions, engaged with other countries through collaborative efforts, and plans to enforce the new Anti-Corruption Strategy and UK Economic Crime Plan.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Meverest Lin

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 17 November 2022, the Department of Justice announced that it transferred over USD20.6 million to the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in accordance with an August 23rd agreement between

⁹⁷⁰ Anti-Corruption Summit 2016, Government of UK (London) 12 May 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/anti-corruption-summit-london-2016/about>

⁹⁷¹ IFAC, TI-UK, and World Economic Forum's PACI Review of Anti-Corruption Reporting Sheds Light on Current Practice & Encourages Increased Transparency, International Federation of Accountants (New York) 25 May 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.ifac.org/news-events/2023-05/ifac-ti-uk-and-world-economic-forum-s-paci-review-anti-corruption-reporting-sheds-light-current>

⁹⁷² UK-Australia joint statement from the Illicit Financing Co-ordination Dialogue, Government of UK (London) 25 July 23. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illicit-financing-co-ordination-uk-australia-joint-statement/uk-australia-joint-statement-from-the-illicit-financing-co-ordination-dialogue>

⁹⁷³ Security minister working on new strategy to tackle the 'enemy of trade' – corruption, Institute of Export and International Trade (London) 14 August 2023. Access Date: 18 August 2023. <https://www.export.org.uk/news/648774/Security-minister-working-on-new-strategy-to-tackle-the-enemy-of-trade--corruption-.html>

the governments to repatriate assets the United States forfeited that were stolen by Former Nigerian Dictator General Sani Abacha and his co-conspirators.⁹⁷⁴

On 21 November 2022, a former Tribal government official of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation was sentenced to prison for participating in a bribery scheme.⁹⁷⁵ The former official faces six years and three months in prison for a bribery scheme involving soliciting and accepting bribes and kickbacks from a contractor providing construction services on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

On 30 November 2022, a former police chief in Louisiana and a former city council member were each sentenced to one year in prison and a USD10,000 fine for violating federal election laws as part of a conspiracy to pay, or offer to pay, voters for voting in a federal election.⁹⁷⁶ An additional co-conspirator was sentenced to four months in prison for his role in the scheme. Two other Louisiana men who previously pleaded guilty for their involvement in the vote buying scheme will be sentenced at a later date.

On 1 December 2022, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Nicole M. Argentieri delivered remarks at the 39th International Conference on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).⁹⁷⁷ She reaffirmed the fight against foreign corruption as a top priority for the Biden Administration, described the Criminal Division's continued cooperation with international partners, and explained how those relationships are expanding to combat corruption and other offenses, highlighted some recent FCPA enforcement actions against both corporations and individuals and addressed the department's recent policy enhancements on corporate criminal enforcement. This includes providing incentives to encourage voluntary self-disclosure.

On 9 December 2022, Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Polite, Jr. delivered closing remarks at the 20th International Anti-Corruption Conference.⁹⁷⁸ He proclaimed the shared commitment to combating corruption across the globe and highlighted the crucial link between anti-corruption and peace, security and development. He also reaffirmed the fight against corruption as a top priority for the Biden Administration and showcased the department's commitment to growing relationships with foreign governments to expand the fight against corruption into new industries and new jurisdictions, including those whose enforcement regimes and anti-corruption laws are just emerging.

On 1 January 2023, Aurelien Michel, non-fungible token (NFT) developer, was charged for participating in a multimillion-dollar international fraud scheme. Michel defrauded purchases of "Mutant Ape Planet" NFTs, through more than USD2.9 million in cryptocurrency.⁹⁷⁹ After selling out of the NFTs, the purchasers were 'reg-pulled' a cryptocurrency scam in which a developer attracts investors but pulls out prior to the completion of the project. Instead, millions worth of the NFT purchasers' cryptocurrency was diverted for Mr. Michel's personal benefit. The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Special Agent-in-Charge, Homeland Security Investigations, and Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

⁹⁷⁴ United States Repatriates Over \$20 Million in Assets Stolen by Former Nigerian Dictator, Department of Justice (New York City) 17 November 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/united-states-repatriates-over-20-million-assets-stolen-former-nigerian-dictator>

⁹⁷⁵ Former Tribal Official Sentenced to Prison for Bribery Scheme, Department of Justice (New York City) 21 November 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-tribal-official-sentenced-prison-bribery-scheme>

⁹⁷⁶ Former Louisiana Police Chief, City Councilmember, and Additional Co-Conspirator Sentenced in Vote Buying Conspiracy, Department of Justice (New York City) 30 November 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-louisiana-police-chief-city-councilmember-and-additional-co-conspirator-sentenced-vote>

⁹⁷⁷ Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Nicole M. Argentieri Delivers Remarks at the 39th International Conference on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, Department of Justice (New York City) 01 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/non-fungible-token-nft-developer-charged-multi-million-dollar-international-fraud>

⁹⁷⁸ Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Polite, Jr. Delivers Closing Remarks at the 20th International Anti-Corruption Conference, Department of Justice (New York City) 09 December 2022. Access Date: 30 March 2023.

⁹⁷⁹ Non-Fungible Token (NFT) Developer Charged in Multi-Million Dollar International Fraud Scheme, Department of Justice (New York City) 05 January 2023. Access Date: 17 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/non-fungible-token-nft-developer-charged-multi-million-dollar-international-fraud>

Criminal Investigations collaboratively announced charges against Mr. Michel after his arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

On 20 January 2023, arrest and criminal charges were announced against British and Russian businessmen for facilitating sanctions evasion of Russian oligarch's USD90 million yacht.⁹⁸⁰ The yacht was seized and one subject was arrested by Spain at the request of the United States. The men are charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States and to commit offenses against the United States, violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and money laundering for facilitating a sanctions evasion and money laundering scheme in relation to the ownership and operation of a luxury yacht owned by sanctioned Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg.

On 31 January 2023, John DeMarr, a US promoter of foreign cryptocurrency companies was sentenced to 60 months in prison for participating in a multimillion-dollar securities fraud scheme, as well as USD3,513,305.41 in forfeiture.⁹⁸¹ The Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation and law enforcement partners stated "DeMarr, a promoter of several digital asset-related companies, conspired with others to defraud victims and made misleading representations for significant profits. Mr. DeMarr diverted funds into accounts he controlled and spent the money to maintain a lavish lifestyle."

On 3 February 2023, a former Arkansas State Senator was sentenced to 46 months in prison for accepting multiple bribes and tax fraud in connection with a multi-district investigation spanning the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas and the Western District of Missouri.⁹⁸²

On 16 February 2023, the Department of Justice announced that it is sharing approximately USD954,807 with the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in accordance with an agreement between the governments to repatriate assets the United States forfeited stolen by former Governor of the State of Bayelsa in Nigeria, Diepreye Solomon Peter Alamiyeseigha.⁹⁸³

On 9 March 2023, the White House published a fact sheet regarding President Joe Biden's Budget to keep America safe and confront global challenges, including those concerning corruption. President Biden has pursued that more than USD3.4 million "to advance democratic governance and foster democratic renewal globally." The White House reported that this would strengthen free and independent media, fight corruption and bolster democratic institutions. Additionally, the budget aims to allocate USD291million in response to the deteriorating conditions in Haiti, this includes helping Haiti combat corruption.⁹⁸⁴

On 22 March 2023, the Department of Justice announced charges and sentence in connection with Iranian Procurement Network's Attempts to Acquire Sophisticated Military Technology. A federal court in the District of Columbia announced two indictments charging multiple defendants with violations of the Arms Export Control Act and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act for their roles in separate schemes to procure and export US technology to Iran between 2005 and 2013. In connection with this, the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, designated three of the defendants and four entities for their involvement in the procurement of equipment that supports Iran's ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle and weapons program. The defendants charged and sentenced were: Amanallah Paidar (from Iran), Murat Bükey (from Türkiye), Agshar Mahmoudi (from Iran), Bahram Mahmoudi (from Iran), Mahmoud Alilou (from Iran) and Shahin Golshani (from United Arab Emirates).

⁹⁸⁰ Arrest and Criminal Charges Announced Against British and Russian Businessmen for Facilitating Sanctions Evasion of Russian Oligarch's \$90 Million Yacht, Department of Justice (New York City) 20 January 2023. Access Date: 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/arrest-and-criminal-charges-announced-against-british-and-russian-businessmen-facilitating>

⁹⁸¹ US Promoter of Foreign Cryptocurrency Companies Sentenced to 60 Months in Prison for His Role in multi-Million Dollar Securities Fraud Schemes., Department of Justice (New York City) 31 January 2023. Access Date: 17 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/us-promoter-foreign-cryptocurrency-companies-sentenced-60-months-prison-his-role-multi>

⁹⁸² Former Arkansas State Senator Sentenced for Bribery and Tax Fraud, Department of Justice (New York City) 27 February 2023. Access Date 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-arkansas-state-senator-sentenced-bribery-and-tax-fraud>

⁹⁸³ United States to Repatriate Nearly \$1 Million to Federal Republic of Nigeria, Department of Justice (New York City) 16 February 2023. Access Date 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/united-states-repatriate-nearly-1-million-federal-republic-nigeria>

⁹⁸⁴ FACT SHEET: President Biden's Budget Keeps America Safe and Confronts Global Challenges, The White House (Washington DC) 9 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2023/03/09/fact-sheet-president-bidens-budget-keeps-america-safe-and-confronts-global-challenges/>

These defendants were conspired to have obtained US technology, such as a high-speed camera that has known nuclear and ballistic missile testing applications, a nose landing gear assembly for an F-5 fighter jet, and a meteorological sensor system, through their companies Aran Modern Devices Kish Company (in Iran), and Modern Technologies (in the United Arab Emirates). Bükey and Paidar, specifically, were conspired to have exported and transshipped through Türkiye “a device that can test the efficacy and power of fuel cells and attempted to obtain a bio-detection system that has application in weapons of mass destruction (WMD) research and use.”⁹⁸⁵

On 23 March 2023, a federal jury convicted a deputy US Marshal for conspiracy to commit cyberstalking, cyberstalking, perjury and obstruction of a federal matter.⁹⁸⁶ Ian Diaz abused his position as a deputy US Marshal to execute an intricate cyberstalking scheme that framed an innocent person for sexual assault. He is scheduled to be sentenced on June 30 and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

On 27 March 2023, the Justice Department announced the final resolution of two civil cases seeking the forfeiture of the proceeds of foreign corruption offenses in the Nigerian Oil Industry that were laundered in and through the United States.⁹⁸⁷ The department has recovered roughly USD53.1 million in cash and a promissory note with a principal value of USD16 million.

On 28 March 2023, Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco delivered remarks on defending the rule of law against hostile nation-states.⁹⁸⁸ She highlighted how the Department of Justice is using every tool at its disposal to increase the resilience of democratic institutions by strengthening anti-corruption measures, the active enforcement of anti-bribery laws like the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and anti-money laundering statutes, as well as holding corrupt actors accountable for offering, paying and promising bribe payments. The United States is also using forfeiture and money laundering laws to pursue bribe takers and their gains through the Kleptocracy Initiative, as well as vigorously enforcing sanctions against Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and others to disrupt illicit finance schemes. In the end, the United States called on its allies and partners to stand together against these efforts.

On 7 April 2023, five individuals, Levon Termendzhyan, Jacob Kingston, Isaiah Kingston, Rachel Kingston, and Sally Kingston were sentenced to prison for their roles in a USD1 billion biofuel tax conspiracy. “According to court documents and testimony from Dermen’s 2020 trial, from 2010 to 2018, Dermen conspired with Jacob and Isaiah Kingston, their mother, Rachel Kingston, Jacob Kingston’s wife, Sally Kingston, and others, to fraudulently claim more than USD1 billion in refundable renewable fuel tax credits. The IRS ultimately paid out more than USD511 million in credits to Washakie Renewable Energy, a Utah biodiesel company owned by Jacob and Isaiah Kingston. The Kingstons distributed the fraud proceeds among themselves and Dermen.”⁹⁸⁹ The money from the fraudulent claims were used to make purchases in the US, Türkiye, and Belize.

On 18 April 2023, a federal grand jury in Tampa, Florida, charged four US citizens and three Russian Intelligence officers with conspiring to use US citizens as illegal agents of the Russian government.⁹⁹⁰

⁹⁸⁵ Justice Department Announces Charges and Sentence in Connection with Iranian Procurement Network’s Attempts to Acquire Sophisticated Military Technology. Department of Justice (District of Columbia) Access Date: April 28, 2023.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-charges-and-sentence-connection-iranian-procurement-network-s>

⁹⁸⁶ Deputy U.S. Marshal Convicted of Conspiracy, Cyberstalking, Perjury, and Obstruction, Department of Justice (New York City) 24 March 2023. Access Date 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/deputy-us-marshal-convicted-conspiracy-cyberstalking-perjury-and-obstruction>

⁹⁸⁷ Justice Department Recovers Over \$53M in Profits Obtained from Corruption in the Nigerian Oil Industry, Department of Justice (New York City) 27 March 2023. Access Date 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-recovers-over-53m-profits-obtained-corruption-nigerian-oil-industry>

⁹⁸⁸ Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco Delivers Remarks on Defending the Rule of Law Against Hostile Nation-States, Department of Justice (New York City) 28 March 2023. Access Date 30 March 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/deputy-attorney-general-lisa-o-monaco-delivers-remarks-defending-rule-law-against-hostile>

⁹⁸⁹ Los Angeles Businessman, Utah Fuel Plant operators and Employees Sentenced to Prison for Billion-Dollar Biofuel Tax Fraud Scheme. Department of Justice (Utah) Access Date: April 30, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/los-angeles-businessman-utah-fuel-plant-operators-and-employees-sentenced-prison-billion>

⁹⁹⁰ US Citizens and Russian Intelligence Officers Charged with Conspiring to Use US Citizens as Illegal Agents of the Russian Government. Department of Justice (Tampa, Florida) Access Date: May 5, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-citizens-and-russian-intelligence-officers-charged-conspiring-use-us-citizens-illegal>

According to the US Department of Justice, the Russian nationals were working on behalf of the Russian government and in conjunction with the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) to conduct a multi-year foreign malign influence campaign in the US. The indictment alleges that the Russian defendants recruited, funded and direct US political groups, particularly candidates for local office, to act as unregistered illegal agents of the Russian government that promote pro-Russian propaganda. Kenneth A. Polite, Assistant Attorney General, said that this is a reflection of the Russian government's attempts to "secretly influence US elections." According to the indictment, Aleksandr Viktorovich Ionov, a resident of Moscow, and founder and president of the Anti-Globalization Movement of Russia, utilized this organization to carry out Russia's malign influence campaign. Ionov's influence efforts allegedly directed and supervised by Moscow-based FSB officers. Moreover, among other illegal activities, the superseding indictment alleges that Ionov and indicted defendants, Aleksey Borisovich Sukhdolov and Yegor Sergeyevich Popov, conspired to directly and substantially influence democratic elections in the US by clandestinely funding and directing political campaigns for a candidate in St. Petersburg, Florida in 2019. Additionally, in from November 2014 until July 2022, Ionov allegedly engaged in a years-long foreign malign influence campaign targeting the US. For instance, he allegedly recruited members of political groups within the US, such as the African People's Socialist Party in Florida.

On 11 May 2023, a former Assistant Inspector General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was sentenced to one year and one day in prison for engaging in a scheme to conceal his financial indebtedness to a government contractor and personal friend to whom he steered tens of millions of dollars in government business.⁹⁹¹

On 16 May 2023, a Virginia man pleaded guilty to a money laundering. The United States has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. The Department of Justice, alongside Homeland Security, IRS, and other government organizations collectively work together to investigate and arrest any individuals in the US committing any corruption related activities, as well as individuals committing crimes outside the US.

On 20 June 2023, a federal jury in Brooklyn, New York, convicted three defendants on multiple counts of a superseding indictment charging them with acting and conspiring to act in the United States as illegal agents of the People's Republic of China (PRC), without proper notification to the Attorney General.⁹⁹² The three individuals are Michael McMahon, Congying Zheng, and Zhy Yong (Jason Yong). According to court documents and trial evidence, the three individuals knowingly acted at the direction of the PRC government officials to conduct surveillance and engage in a campaign to harass, stalk, and coerce certain residents of the United States to return to the PRC- as part of a global and extralegal repatriation effort known as "Operation Fox Hunt." The individuals essentially stalked victims, and threatened them by leaving notes at their residence.

On 30 June 2023, a former deputy U.S. Marshal, Ian R. Diaz, was sentenced to 10 years and one month in prison for conspiracy to commit cyberstalking, perjury and obstruction of justice.⁹⁹³ Diaz, and his former wife, unindicted co-conspirator, both were involved in harassing and threatening electronic communications that contained apparent threats to harm individuals by soliciting and luring men found through Craigslist "personal" advertisements to engage in a so-called "rape fantasies." During trial, it was

⁹⁹¹ Former U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Assistant Inspector General Sentenced for Falsifying Financial Disclosure. Department of Justice (Virginia). Access Date: June 1, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-us-department-housing-and-urban-development-assistant-inspector-general-sentenced>

⁹⁹² Federal Jury Convicts Three Defendants of Interstate Stalking of Chinese Nationals in the United States and Two Defendants of Acting or Conspiring to Act on Behalf of the People's Republic of China. Department of Justice (Brooklyn, New York). Access Date: August 9, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/federal-jury-convicts-three-defendants-interstate-stalking-chinese-nationals-united-states>

⁹⁹³ Former Deputy U.S. Marshal Sentenced for Cyberstalking, Perjury, and Obstruction. Department of Justice (Washington DC). Access Date: August 9, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-deputy-us-marshal-sentenced-cyberstalking-perjury-and-obstruction>

proven that this process was orchestrated by Diaz's former wife, Jane Doe, and then later it was revealed that Diaz had framed her.

On 19 July 2023, the former executive vice president of an Atlanta engineering firm, Lohrasb "Jeff" Jafari, was sentenced to five years in prison for paying bribes to two City of Atlanta officials in exchange for setting city business worth millions of dollars to his company, and thus evading over USD1.5 million in taxes.⁹⁹⁴

On August 3 2023, in two separate cases in the Southern and Central Districts of California, two U.S Navy service members were arrested for transmitting sensitive military information to the People's Republic of China (PRC).⁹⁹⁵ According to the Assistant Attorney General, Mathew G. Olsen, "these individuals stand accused of violating the commitments they made to protect the United States and betraying the public trust, to benefit the PRC government...the Department of Justice will continue to use every tool in our arsenal to counter threats from China and to deter those who aid them in breaking our laws and threatening our national security."

On 11 August 2023, former Tennessee State Senator, and practicing attorney, Brian Kelsey, was sentenced to one year and nine months in prison for violating campaign finance laws and conspiring to defraud the Federal Election Commission (FEC) as part of a scheme to benefit his 2016 campaign for Congress.⁹⁹⁶ As per court documents, Kelsey secretly and unlawfully funneled money from multiple sources, including his own campaign committee, to his federal campaign committee. To carry out this scheme, Kelsey conspired with others, in order to cause a national political organization to make illegal and excessive contributions to Kelsey's federal campaign committee by secretly coordinating with the organization on advertisements supporting Kelsey's federal candidacy, thus eventually causing false reports of contributions and expenditures to be filed with the FEC.

The United States has fully complied with its commitments to strengthen its zero tolerance anti-corruption efforts. The Department of Justice, alongside the HSI, IRS, and other government organizations collectively work together to investigate and arrest any individuals in the US committing any corruption related activities, as well as individuals committing crimes outside the US.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Salma Amer Safarini

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with continuing to lead by example through strengthening and implementing their obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing their commitment to zero tolerance for corruption.

On 7 December 2022, the European Council announced their agreement to strengthen anti-money laundering regulation (AML) and the new sixth directive on AML.⁹⁹⁷ The Minister for Finance of Czechia Zbyněk Stanjura stated "Terrorists and those who finance them are not welcome in Europe." As a result, the AML will be extended to the crypto-currency sector and large cash payments will be limited and better regulated.

⁹⁹⁴ Businessman Sentenced for Bribery Scheme and Tax Evasion. Department of Justice (Atlanta, Georgia). Access Date: August 9, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/businessman-sentenced-bribery-scheme-and-tax-evasion>

⁹⁹⁵ Two U.S. Navy Service Members Arrested for Transmitting Military Information to the People's Republic of China. Department of Justice (Southern District of California). Access Date: August 9, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-us-navy-servicemembers-arrested-transmitting-military-information-peoples-republic-china>

⁹⁹⁶ Former Tennessee State Senator and Co-Conspirator Sentenced for Campaign Finance Scheme. Department of Justice (Nashville, Tennessee). Access Date: August 14, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-tennessee-state-senator-and-co-conspirator-sentenced-campaign-finance-scheme>

⁹⁹⁷ Anti-money laundering: Council agrees its position on a strengthened rulebook, European Council (Brussels). 7 December 2022. Access date: 10 March 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/07/anti-money-laundering-council-agrees-its-position-on-a-strengthened-rulebook/>

On 15 December 2022, the European Parliament published a text in which it highlights the need for “transparency and accountability in the European institutions” following the revelations of a cash-for-favor corruption scheme within the European Parliament with Qatar and Morocco.⁹⁹⁸ The former Vice President of the European Parliament Eva Kaili was immediately removed from her position after her arrest for corruption and money laundering which shows the quick reaction of the European Union.

On 16 December 2022, the European Union held its 15th Experience-sharing Workshop in the Fight against Corruption in Brussels, Belgium. In this workshop, representatives of countries in the EU gathered together to actively share the strategies of member states to reduce corruption in their own nations. In addition to the members of the EU, the United Nations Office from Drugs and Crime and representatives from the Council of Europe’s Group of States Against Corruption were also present in the workshop.⁹⁹⁹

On 12 January 2023, President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola disclosed a 14-point plan to prevent and combat corruption.¹⁰⁰⁰ The proposal will tighten rules for current and former Members of the European Parliaments (MEPs) and introduce an integrity section of the European Parliament’s website to disclose information on sanctions, gifts, and trips to improve transparency. However, this 14-point plan has yet to be adopted and implemented.

On 28 February 2023, member of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank (ECB) Edouard Fernandez-Bollo released a statement in which he declared that the “ECB welcomes the progress made towards the creation of the Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA).”¹⁰⁰¹ This proposed authority was presented by the European Commission in July 2021 to reduce combat money laundering and terrorism financing.¹⁰⁰² The European Parliament is expected to vote on the AMLA Regulation in the coming months while AMLA is predicted to launch in 2024.

On 7 March 2023, the European Commission’s renewed Schengen Information System (SIS) came into effect.¹⁰⁰³ The SIS is an information sharing system that contains data about criminal activity such as wanted persons and stolen objects in the European Union. The upgraded version includes additional tools to better fight criminality and terrorism.

On 16 March 2023, Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine Oleksandr Kubrakov and the Head of the European Union Anti-Corruption Initiative (EUACI) Allan Pagh Kristensen signed the Memorandum of understanding between the Ministry and the EUACI.¹⁰⁰⁴ Anti-corruption reform was cited as one of the Ministry’s priorities, and the signing of the Memorandum was seen as a demonstration of the Ministry’s strong commitment to values of transparency, accountability and integrity and to preventing corruption.

⁹⁹⁸ European Parliament resolution of 15 December 2022 on suspicions of corruption from Qatar and the broader need for transparency and accountability in the European institutions, European Parliament (Brussels). 15 December 2022. Access date: 19 March 2023. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0448_EN.html

⁹⁹⁹ Future of the fight against corruption”: DG HOME workshop on the fight against corruption. European Commission (Brussels). 16 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/future-fight-against-corruption-dg-home-workshop-fight-against-corruption-2022-12-16_en

¹⁰⁰⁰ Roberta Metsola unveils 14-point parliament reform plan after graft scandal, Times of Malta (Birkirkara). 12 January 2023. Access date: 10 March 2023. <https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/roberta-metsola-unveils-14point-parliament-reform-plan-graft-scandal.1006840>

¹⁰⁰¹ Preventing money laundering through European banks, European Central Bank (Frankfurt am Main). 28 February 2023. Access date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.bankingsupervision.europa.eu/press/blog/2023/html/ssm.blog230228~fedbbfec49.en.html>

¹⁰⁰² Anti-money-laundering authority (AMLA): Countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism, European Parliament (Strasbourg). 19 January 2023. Access date: March 15, 2023. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI\(2022\)733645](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2022)733645)

¹⁰⁰³ Security Union: The renewed Schengen Information Systems enters into operation, European Commission (Brussels). 7 March 2023. Access date: 15 March 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_1505

¹⁰⁰⁴ Reconstruction of Ukraine with respect for integrity, accountability and transparency, European Union Anti-Corruption Initiative (Kyiv) 16 March 2023. Access date: 30 March 2023. <https://euaci.eu/news/reconstruction-of-ukraine-with-respect-for-integrity-accountability-and-transparency>

On 26 April 2023, the European Commission presented proposals to reform the Stability and Growth Pact, the European Union's fiscal policy framework.¹⁰⁰⁵ These reforms aim to promote sustainable growth and strengthen EU fiscal rules while improving transparency. European Union countries will submit progress reports annually, thus increasing monitoring and reducing fiscal fraud.

On 4 May 2023, the European Council supported conclusions that corruption hinders social, economic, and political development.¹⁰⁰⁶ The Council called on the European Commission and High Representative to adopt an "integrated EU approach" to address corruption. Moreover, in its conclusions, the Council urged the European External Action Service (EEAS) as well as member states to expand resources to limit illicit financial flows.

On 10 May 2023, the European Parliament discussed new rules to prevent corruption and the misuse of EU funds.¹⁰⁰⁷ MEPs argued that the EU should not send funds or freeze funds to member countries that disrespect the rule of law. This clause is referred to as the rule of law conditionality regulation which MEPs wish to reinforce.¹⁰⁰⁸ Moreover, to ensure that funds are correctly allocated and to prevent terrorism financing, MEPs suggested to create a public blacklist of non-governmental organizations that have engaged in activity which goes against EU values and laws.

On 23 May 2023, the European Parliament voted on new legislation to accelerate the freezing and confiscation of criminal assets within the EU.¹⁰⁰⁹ This proposed legislation also targets loopholes and would speed up the process of asset freezing. Moreover, the agreed text includes other crimes such as trafficking of firearms and nuclear material.

On 8 June 2023, the European Commission adopted a proposal for an ethics body in light of the corruption scheme within the European Parliament with Qatar and Morocco.¹⁰¹⁰ This proposal aims to create 'common, clear, transparent, and comprehensible standards' for EU politicians. The ethics body will address fields such as the acceptance of gifts and hospitality, external activities and the declaration of interests and assets. Even though this panel wouldn't have the authority to conduct investigations, the ethics body will bring increased supervision of EU politicians in order to combat corruption.¹⁰¹¹

On 21 June 2023, the EU-US Ministerial Meeting on Justice and Home Affairs took place in Stockholm.¹⁰¹² The EU and the US maintained their stance against Russian's war against Ukraine and assured that international crimes will be investigated. Moreover, the two parties discussed the importance of international accountability mechanisms in reference to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Lastly, the United States and the European Union recognized the rising threat of violent extremism and terrorism. They reiterated their commitment to combatting terrorism and utilizing new online technologies to prevent

¹⁰⁰⁵ Commission proposes new economic governance rules fit for the future, European Commission (Brussels). 26 April 2023. Access date: 2 May 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_2393

¹⁰⁰⁶ Corruption as an obstacle to development: Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels). 4 May 2023. Access date: 8 June 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/05/04/corruption-as-an-obstacle-to-development-council-approves-conclusions/>

¹⁰⁰⁷ Discharge approved but MEPs concerned over control of EU's recovery and resilience funds, European Parliament (Strasbourg). 10 May 2023. Access date: 10 June 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230505IPR85005/discharge-approved-but-meps-concerned-over-control-of-eu-s-recovery-funds>

¹⁰⁰⁸ Rule of law conditionality regulation, European Commission (Brussels). Access date: 10 June 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/protection-eu-budget/rule-law-conditionality-regulation_en

¹⁰⁰⁹ MEPs vote to speed up the freezing and confiscation of criminal assets (Strasbourg). 23 May 2023. Access date: 10 June 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/protection-eu-budget/rule-law-conditionality-regulation_en

¹⁰¹⁰ EU Ethics Body : Commission proposes the creation of common ethics standards for all EU institutions, European Commission (Strasbourg). 8 June 2023. Access date: 13 June 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3106

¹⁰¹¹ In wake of Qatargate, Commission releases binding ethics accord, Politico (Arlington). 7 June 2023. Access date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.politico.eu/article/in-wake-of-qatargate-commission-seeks-binding-ethics-accord/>

¹⁰¹² Joint EU-US statement following the EU-US Ministerial Meeting on Justice and Home Affairs, European Council (Brussels). 21 June 2023. Access date: 19 August 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/06/21/joint-eu-us-statement-following-the-eu-us-ministerial-on-justice-and-home-affairs-stockholm/>

and prosecute crime. This shows the European Union's important commitment to anti-corruption efforts and to collaborating with other world powers to tackle those threats.

On 5 July 2023, the European Commission published its annual Rule of Law Report which reviews each EU state's developments.¹⁰¹³ Key findings include the need for justice reforms in many member states and the need for developing anti-corruption frameworks. The report reveals that 70 per cent of EU citizens believe that corruption is widespread in their country. The Rule of Law Report aims to keep European Union institutions accountable with their recommendations and emphasize issues and solutions at hand.

On 6 July 2023, a majority of MEPs voted in favor of adopting a law that would ensure that sanctions in all states of the European Union are enforced in the same manner.¹⁰¹⁴ By establishing common definitions and minimum penalties, this law would limit countries from circumventing sanctions. This law was proposed in a context where Russians have been able to avoid EU sanctions, as MEP Sophie in't Veld mentioned, "So many rich Russians are able to continue living their luxury lifestyle and companies are making enormous profits, by violating and circumventing the sanctions." Therefore, this law would ensure that EU sanctions are evenly enforced across the European Union in order to reduce crime and corruption.

On 12 July 2023, Members of the European Parliament have voiced their opinions on the European Commissions' ethics body proposal and have deemed it "unsatisfactory."¹⁰¹⁵ They suggest that the ethics body should be able to investigate ethical breaches on its own initiative and recommend sanctions publicly. MEPs have also criticized the Commission's proposal of appointing five independent ethics experts as they deem it insufficient.¹⁰¹⁶ Moreover, the Members of the European Parliament mentioned that the ethics body should put in place more protections for whistleblowers. Thus, negotiations concerning this new ethics body will take place between the Parliament, Council, and Commission.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to continue to lead by example through strengthening and implementing its obligations and commitments to anti-corruption efforts including through legally binding instruments, while renewing its commitment to zero tolerance for corruption. It has outlined clear plans for addressing anti-corruption, and has announced pending legislation to create criminal punishments for corrupt activities.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Julie Souchet

¹⁰¹³ Rule of Law Report 2023: Progress on 65% of recommendations, but further action needed, European Commission (Brussels). 5 July 2023. Access date: 20 August 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3631

¹⁰¹⁴ Eu sanctions: new law to crack down on violations, European Parliament (Strasbourg). 6 July 2023. Access date: 19 August 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230703IPR01909/eu-sanctions-new-law-to-crack-down-on-violations>

¹⁰¹⁵ Eu ethics body: Commission's proposal "unsatisfactory", MEPs say, European Parliament (Strasbourg). 12 July 2023. Access date: 19 August 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230707IPR02430/eu-ethics-body-commission-s-proposal-unsatisfactory-meps-say>

¹⁰¹⁶ Proposed EU ethics body blasted as unambitious and unsatisfactory by MEPs, Euronews (Brussels). 12 July 2023. Access date: 20 August 2023. <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2023/07/12/proposed-eu-ethics-body-blasted-as-unambitious-and-unsatisfactory-by-meps>