



# Countering Corruption

## CONTEXT

Since 2007, Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index has consistently ranked Somalia last. In the TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix, Somalia is among the bottom five countries globally. Among the 190 countries assessed by the World Bank Group in its 2020 'Doing Business' Report, Somalia was identified as the worst in terms of doing business (high ranking nations in the World Bank index reflect public sectors that are accountable and efficient). The figures that are available undoubtedly paint a grim picture, and while reliable figures are difficult to come by, it would not be inaccurate to describe Somalia as grappling with a corruption crisis that is both 'pervasive and systemic.'

This picture was sketched in the recently published Somalia National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2020-2023 (NACS). It is a testament to recent joint UN and Somali efforts that there is a National Anti-Corruption Strategy, and that it is being implemented by the National Integrity Coordination Unit (NICU) within the Somali Ministry of Justice.

## INTEGRATED APPROACH

Countering corruption in Somalia is a priority for the United Nations. The UN has played a key role in advocating for the enactment of laws and the development of policies with relevant authorities and partners. Further to these efforts, and in addition to the creation of the NACS and the NICU, Somalia as of 2021 has an Independent Anti-Corruption Commission which will spearhead the fight against corruption. In addition, in August 2021, Somalia became a State Party to the UN Convention against Corruption.

Since April 2021, the United Nations in Somalia has had a dedicated Special Anti-Corruption Advisor supporting its work from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Jointly funded by the Peace Building Support Office and UNODC, the Advisor is embedded in the Integrated Office of the UN Deputy Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, available to advise the UN Country Team and Somali counterparts across a wide range of anti-corruption and transparency-related issues. The Advisor also co-chairs with United Nations Development Programme a UN-wide Anti-Corruption/Anti-Fraud Task Force which is responsible, amongst other things, for building a multi-UN agency development project to assist stakeholders in their fight against corruption. The project is currently in the final stages of development.

The Advisor also works closely with the UN's Risk Management Unit to ensure that these closely related thematic areas are fully aligned, and clear synergies achieved. This will both identify and then mitigate risks arising from the UN operations in Somalia.

## FACTS AT A GLANCE

Among **190** countries, Somalia was identified as the worst in terms of doing business\*

\* World Bank Group in its 2020 'Doing Business' Report



## UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC)

In a very significant development, after many years since the Convention was opened for signature (December 2003), Somalia became a State Party to the UN Convention against Corruption on 11 August 2021. UNCAC is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem. The Convention covers five main areas: preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange.