

Commitment #1

Improve public engagement for prevention of bribery and corruption through the presence of Integrity Officers within public authorities

1st March 2019– 31st August 2021

| | |
|---|--|
| Lead implementing agency/actor | Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) |
| Commitment description | |
| What is the public problem that the commitment will address? | There is a lack of faith in the integrity of the public sector due to corruption. Citizens have grievances stemming from corruption such as extortion and bribe requests, but are unable to follow up on the complaints filed. Lack of awareness on the procedures, costs, time involved in obtaining a public service has led to manipulation of service recipients by some public officials leading to bribe taking. Citizens do not know whom to turn to when facing bribery and corruption at the point of service delivery. This undermines their confidence in public institutions. Although various laws and regulations are introduced to curb bribery and corruption, they focus mainly on enforcing the law or penalizing offenders consequent to the occurrence of an incident of bribery and corruption. CIABOC has observed that implementation of laws and regulations alone has no effect in creating a culture free of bribery and corruption. |
| What is the commitment? | Many countries which have successfully curbed corruption in their societies have focused on raising integrity in the public service as an effective tool to prevent bribery and corruption. The purpose of this commitment is to limit opportunities for bribe taking and corruption by educating citizens on the means and modes of public service delivery with the assistance of Integrity Officers appointed in public institutions. When citizens have greater awareness on the type of public service that can be obtained from institutions, the procedure, time and cost involved, it will curtail opportunities for public officials to mislead them and thus engage in bribe-taking or corruption. In the process, public sector employees too will be made aware on how to prevent bribery or corruption in their institutions. |
| How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem? | This commitment will provide for the appointment of Integrity Officers in public institutions to create wide awareness on public service delivery and facilitate citizens to obtain their services. The Integrity Officers will be responsible for creating Citizen Charters. Where necessary, the Integrity Officer, under the guidance of the Head of the Department, will appoint a facilitating officer to provide guidance to the citizens, facilitate communication with the relevant service providing officer, and ensure that an efficient service is being provided. Further, the Integrity Officer will be responsible to simplify and clarify circulars that lack clarity and take action to raise awareness among citizens and staff employees concerning such circulars. They will also take action to implement and comply with a code of ethics, Conflict of Interest rules, Gift rules and provision of assets declarations. |
| Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values? | This commitment promotes transparency and public participation as it guides and facilitates citizens on the services that could be obtained from |

| | the public Institution. It also enhances public accountability since this whole process of having Integrity Officers improves the clarity of the actions of public institutions. | | |
|---|--|--|---------------|
| Additional information | The Commitment supports the objectives of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption; the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 which calls for reducing corruption and bribery; and the current initiatives by the CIABOC, including the implementation of an envisaged national action plan to combat corruption which is under preparation. | | |
| Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable | | Start Date: | End Date: |
| 1. Cabinet approval is obtained to appoint Integrity Officers in all public institutions and circular instructions are issued accordingly. | | March 2019 | July 2019 |
| 2. Role and responsibilities of Integrity Officers are disseminated by electronic, print and digital media and a public awareness campaign. Integrity Officer contact details and functions are displayed at the entrance of all public institutions (trilingual and Braille) and websites. | | July 2019 | December 2019 |
| 3. Citizen Charters providing information on the type of services provided, costs for such services, delivery time etc are displayed in every service providing institution. | | July 2019 | December 2019 |
| 4. Examine procedures and circulars in operation in the institution, and where such procedures and circulars lack clarity or are complex, take necessary steps to make them simple and clear. | | January 2020 | July 2020 |
| 5. Where required, under the guidance of the Head of the Institution, appoint a Facilitating Officer to guide and facilitate the public. | | January 2020 | July 2020 |
| Contact information | | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Director General Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC) | |
| Title, Department | | Director General Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC) | |
| Email and Phone | | Email: ciaboc@eureka.lk Tel: 011 2 596 365 | |
| Other Actors Involved | State actors involved | Presidential Secretariat; Ministry in charge of Public Administration; Ministry in charge of Home Affairs; Ministry in charge of Provincial Councils & Local Government. | |
| | CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups | Transparency International Sri Lanka and other engaged Civil Societies | |

Commitment #2

Establish an effective asset declaration system to ease submission, verification and public access

1st March 2019– 31st August 2021

| | |
|---|---|
| Lead implementing agency/actor | Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) |
| Commitment description | |
| What is the public problem that the commitment will address? | There is a citizen perception that elected officials and senior public servants frequently use their official positions for personal financial gains. Citizens are unaware of the financial interests of elected officials and senior public servants. Details of personal assets are necessary if a complaint arises with regard to unlawful acquisition of assets by government officials or politicians. Under the asset disclosure law in the country, all relevant government employees are required to declare their assets and liabilities annually to their Heads of Institutions. Many government institutions do not, however, adhere to this legal requirement. Asset disclosures are currently made through a paper based system, but this is extremely challenging for monitoring and verification purposes. |
| What is the commitment? | This commitment is about establishing an effective asset declaration system for systematic asset disclosure by persons occupying public positions that will help strengthen public integrity and enhance citizens' confidence in public institutions. |
| How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem? | The CIABOC will publicly launch an asset declaration online portal with ease of submission, verification and public access following relevant legal amendments. Citizens will be provided information on public access through a public information campaign using electronic, print and digital media. Public scrutiny of assets will serve as a deterrent against unethical behaviour to use public office for private gains. CIABOC will provide annual reports on the status of prosecutions undertaken based on asset declaration verification. By facilitating access to asset information and verification, instances of corruption and abuse can be more readily detected. |
| Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values? | This commitment promotes public accountability as it provides for public scrutiny of the measures taken against unethical behaviours of public officials. It promotes technology and innovation for openness and accountability by providing opportunities for information and citizen participation. |
| Additional information | The Commitment strengthens the prevailing Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Law; supports the objectives of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption; the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 which calls for reducing corruption and bribery; and the current initiatives by the CIABOC, including the implementation of an envisaged national action plan to combat corruption which is under preparation. |

| Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable | | Start Date: | End Date: |
|--|---|--|---------------|
| 1. Asset declaration online portal introduced with a public launch following relevant legal amendments. | | March 2019 | December 2019 |
| 2. Citizens are provided information on public access through a public information campaign using electronic, print and digital media | | January 2020 | June 2020 |
| 3. Creating an Office of Assets Disclosure to be responsible for collecting, analyzing and taking necessary actions on assets declarations | | January 2020 | June 2020 |
| 4. CIABOC provides annual reports on the status of prosecutions undertaken based on asset declaration verification | | January 2020 | December 2020 |
| Contact information | | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Director General Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption(CIABOC) | |
| Title, Department | | | |
| Email and Phone | | Email: ciaboc@eureka.lk Tel: 011 2 596 365 | |
| Other Actors Involved | State actors involved | Presidential Secretariat, Attorney General's Department, Auditor General's Department, Ministry in charge of Information Technology; Ministry in charge of Public Administration, Department of Inland Revenue, Sri Lanka Customs, Exchange Control Department | |
| | CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups | Transparency International Sri Lanka and other engaged Civil Society | |