

**Presentations from Session 1**

**International Anti-Corruption Conventions and their Implementation by the  
ACN countries**

## **Monitoring the Implementation of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention**

**Mr Patrick Moulette**, Head, Anti-Corruption Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs,  
OECD

### A. Introduction

- Why should we bother to monitor the Implementation of International Conventions?
- Why does the agenda include once more an item on this usual topic?

#### 1. Importance of Sharing Experiences

The OECD believes that it is important to share the lessons derived from the monitoring experience of those international instruments relating to corruption and money laundering.

#### WHY

- First, because this exchange of information will mutually reinforce the conclusions/findings from the various country reports and can serve to further increase pressure for changes in legislation or enforcement practices in the countries reviewed.
- Second, sharing information can help avoid duplication while at the same time maximising efficiencies.
- Third, talking to one another in gatherings such as this one, will help increase country confidence that our organisations are working together to alleviate, as much as possible, the burden imposed by various monitoring exercises.

#### 2. Purpose of presentation

The purpose of this presentation is twofold:

- To distil some of the lessons from the evaluations already carried out; and
- To listen and learn. In this respect, it would particularly helpful for those countries already evaluated to provide feedback as to how they perceive the process -- what can be done to improve monitoring.

#### 3. Outline of presentation

My presentation will therefore cover:

- The essentials for conducting successful monitoring exercises;
- A brief summary of the OECD experience/practice so;
- To see what lessons can be drawn from this experience that may be pertinent to the ACN.

### B. Essentials for Successful Monitoring

Essentials: These are primarily the goals of evaluations and the tools necessary to achieve those goals.

- *What are the primary goals of evaluations?*

The primary goals of evaluations are to ensure full implementation among all the Parties to the instruments and the effective application of those instruments.

- *What are the tools for achieving these goals?*

Monitoring is the most essential tool to ensure both of these goals. Monitoring does not begin and end with the on-site visit by the expert-evaluators. It is an ongoing process that starts with the preparations for the visit, is sharpened by the observations during the on-site discussions with officials, culminates in the evaluation by the peer group, and continues through with the follow-up by the country to implement the recommendations from the peer group. In this respect, monitoring is not an end in itself but a means to arrive at the peer review, which is the element that brings legitimacy to the process.

- *Why bother?*

Our governments have signed these international commitments; and in the case of the OECD Convention, 36 countries have ratified the Convention. Since these commitments have been made at the highest political level and duly ratified by national parliaments, the question arises whether this is enough. A decade and a half ago, this may have been enough. Today, civil society expects more than words; it is forcing governments to account for their actions (or inaction). Monitoring and publication of the results are the most immediate proof that governments are seriously enforcing these instruments.

Another function served by monitoring is simply helping to maintain high visibility and awareness of what our instruments are trying to achieve. The occasion of the on-site visit and the publication of the review report are excellent opportunities for the reviewed country to disseminate information among the general public, the private sector, and civil society.

### C. Brief summary of the OECD experience

Since the Convention came into force in February 1999, the Working Group has monitored how the world's most industrialised nations prevent, criminalise and enforce the offence of foreign bribery. Now all of these countries punish foreign bribery with imprisonment and often substantial fines. Thus the world's major corporations now think twice before bribing foreign public officials to obtain lucrative public procurement contracts.

Several noteworthy trends in the fight against foreign bribery by the parties to the Convention have emerged. Thanks in large part to the work of governments, the private sector, and NGOs, there is a significant increase in awareness that foreign bribery is now prohibited in these countries. As a result, a number of allegations for foreign bribery have come to light and several investigations are ongoing. In addition, many large companies have established codes of conduct and ethics that include a prohibition against bribery.

The seriousness of countries' commitment to fighting foreign bribery has led to changes in many of their laws, following recommendations of the Working Group. Perhaps the best example is the extraordinary steps taken by certain countries to enable them to prosecute cases that take place outside their borders.

Another positive development has been the establishment of corporate liability by parties to the Convention to establish corporate liability for foreign bribery, giving countries the option to pursue not only individuals, but also the companies that have benefited from bribes.

Countries also need to increase and specialise their available resources and enhance coordination between various branches of law enforcement. In addition, the Working Group has recommended that several countries lengthen their statutes of limitations to ensure that there is adequate time to proceed against foreign bribery cases as obtaining evidence from abroad normally takes many months and sometimes longer.

Although international cooperation is generally good between parties to the Convention – there is a high proportion of convictions where assistance was provided by the country where the briber occurred – increased cooperation is also essential from countries that are not parties to the Convention. The OECD therefore works with non-parties to help them come closer to international anti-corruption standards. This work not only reinforces these countries' capacity in their own fight against corruption but also helps them to be able to provide international legal assistance.

D. A final message

- To countries: Don't expect a whitewash. Welcome a thorough examination. Monitoring is the only guarantee you have that your competitors are also playing by the rules. Help your evaluators understand your legal system but don't push them to "gloss over" differences of views. Don't underestimate the power of civil society and their ability to influence public opinion. If reports are perceived as "soft", the process is doomed and so are the instruments that monitoring is meant to preserve.
- To evaluators: The fight against foreign bribery has been fraught with challenges and to succeed in the fight against transnational bribery, these challenges must be overcome. The OECD is dedicated to continue making this struggle one of its priorities. The OECD is committed to working with non-member partners like the ACN to develop and spread a culture of monitoring.

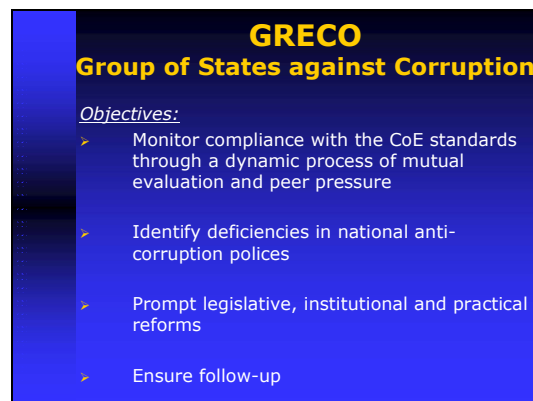
## GRECO Evaluations and Recommendations to the ACN countries: an Overview

Ms Liubov Samokhina, Administrator, GRECO Secretariat, Council of Europe

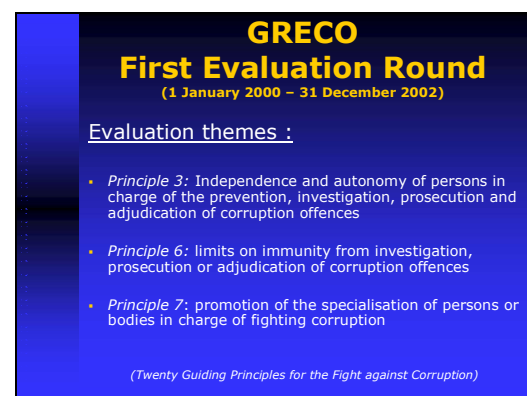
Slide 1



Slide 2



Slide 3



Slide 4

**NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION PLANS & CO-ORDINATING MECHANISMS/BODIES:**

- Elaborate national anti-corruption plan:  
Bulgaria (iii), Georgia (i), FYROM (ii)
- Fully implement and reinforce national anti-corruption plan/mechanisms where they already exist:  
Albania (i), Croatia (iii), Estonia (i, x), Latvia (ii, iv), FYROM (vii)
- Set up a national co-ordinating mechanism/body for the fight against corruption:  
Bulgaria (iii), Croatia (iii), Georgia (iv), Lithuania (ii)

Slide 5

**Promoting specialisation on corruption within the authorities in charge of the fight against corruption:**

- Within the police:  
Bulgaria (vi), Estonia (iv), Georgia (xiv), Latvia (v), FYROM (xi)
- Within the prosecutors service:  
Bulgaria (x,xi), Croatia (vi, viii), Estonia (viii), Romania (vi)
- Within the justice system:  
Estonia (viii)

Slide 6

**Use of investigative techniques:**

- Enhance the use of special investigative techniques:  
Albania (vi), Croatia (xii, xiii), Georgia (xvi, xvii), Latvia (viii), FYROM (viii)
- Promote the protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers and the use of undercover agents:  
Croatia (xi), Georgia (xxi), Latvia (xiii), Romania (x), FYROM (ix)

Slide 7

**Immunities**

- Reduce the list of categories of persons covered by immunity:  
Albania (xvi), Bulgaria (xiii), Georgia (xxiii), Romania (xii), FYROM (xvii)
- Facilitate the procedure of lifting immunities, by elaborating guidelines, or clear and transparent rules, as well as by setting up specific and objective criteria:  
Bulgaria (xiv), Croatia (xvi), Georgia (xxiv), Latvia (xv), FYROM (xvi)

Slide 8

**Data on corruption**

- Ensure a systematic collection and processing of data on corruption, as well as statistical monitoring of corruption:  
Albania (iii), Bulgaria (i), Croatia (i), Georgia (iv), Lithuania (i)
- Promote research on corruption:  
Bulgaria (ii), Croatia (ii), Estonia (i), Latvia (vi), Lithuania (i), Romania (i), FYROM (i)

Slide 9

**Second Evaluation Round**  
(1 January 2003 – 31 December 2005)

Evaluation themes :

- Identification, seizure & confiscation of proceeds of corruption
- Public administration & corruption, including:
  - transparent and fair selection procedures
  - reporting on corruption and whistleblower protection
  - Codes of Conduct
  - transparent auditing system
- Legal Persons & Corruption, including:
  - corporate criminal liability
  - registration of sanctioned legal persons

*(Twenty Guiding Principles & Criminal Law Convention on Corruption)*

Slide 10

**Identification, seizure & confiscation of proceeds of corruption**

- Make full use of relevant legal provisions by developing clear procedures to be used by police officers and prosecutors concerning financial investigations in respect of offender's assets  
Albania (i), Estonia (iii)
- Provide the police and prosecution with specific training on the proceeds of crime, including of corruption-related offences  
Albania (ii), Estonia (iii)

Slide 11

**Identification, seizure & confiscation of proceeds of corruption**

- Ensure that legal provisions are introduced allowing effective freezing and confiscation of assets from third parties  
Estonia (ii), Latvia (i)
- Allow confiscation of assets of an equivalent value  
Latvia (i)
- Introduce practical means for the management of temporarily seized property, such as enterprises or company shares  
Estonia (i), Lithuania (ii)

Slide 12

**Public administration & corruption**

- Promote anti-corruption policies & measures at local & regional levels & monitor their implementation  
Albania (iv), Estonia (vi), Lithuania (iii)

Slide 13

**Public administration & corruption**

- Adopt Codes of Ethics & ensure that ethical rules apply to all public officials and also cover situations where public officials move to the private sector  
Albania (v), Latvia (viii)
- Provide proper training to all public officials regarding the existing rules on ethics  
Albania (vi), Lithuania (vi)

Slide 14

**Public administration & corruption**

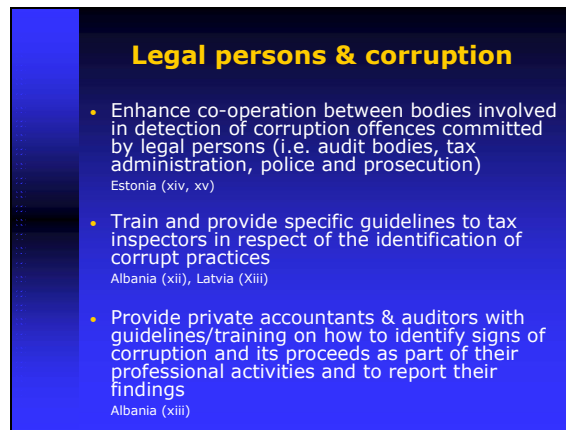
- Place civil servants under the obligation to report suspicions of corruption offences & to establish an adequate protection for those who report wrongdoing  
Albania (vii), Latvia (ix), Estonia (x)
- Review the manner in which suspicions of corruption are processed in public administration to ensure prompt initiation of criminal investigations  
Albania (vii)

Slide 15

**Legal persons & corruption**

- Establish liability of legal person for offences of bribery, trading in influence and money laundering and to provide for sanctions that are effective, proportionate and dissuasive  
Albania (x), Latvia (x), Lithuania (vii)
- Raise awareness among crime preventing/investigating/prosecuting authorities of the possibilities of applying the existing rules on liability of legal persons, & of problems of corruption linked with legal persons; these topics to be included in training programmes for the police, prosecutors, judges, tax inspectors & State auditors  
Estonia (xiii), Lithuania (viii)

Slide 16



**Legal persons & corruption**

- Enhance co-operation between bodies involved in detection of corruption offences committed by legal persons (i.e. audit bodies, tax administration, police and prosecution)  
Estonia (xiv, xv)
- Train and provide specific guidelines to tax inspectors in respect of the identification of corrupt practices  
Albania (xii), Latvia (Xiii)
- Provide private accountants & auditors with guidelines/training on how to identify signs of corruption and its proceeds as part of their professional activities and to report their findings  
Albania (xiii)

Slide 17



GRECO

[www.greco.coe.int](http://www.greco.coe.int)

## **Ratification, Implementation and Monitoring of the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

**Ms Valérie Lebaux**, Legal Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

### **Introduction**

The United Nations Convention against Corruption was adopted in October 2003 and opened for signature in December 2003 in Merida, Mexico. Although regional instruments, such as the Council of Europe conventions, and instruments addressing specific aspects of corruption, such as the OECD Convention on combating bribery of foreign public officials or the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (which includes some provisions on bribery of public officials) already existed, Member States agreed that there was a need for a global, binding instrument focusing only on corruption and on all its aspects.

The Convention contains four main substantive chapters:

- a chapter on preventive measures, aimed at reducing the likelihood of corrupt practices by ensuring proper management of public affairs and public property, and the respect of principles of integrity, transparency and accountability in public affairs;
- a chapter on criminalization and law enforcement which requires the establishment of a wide range of offences;
- a chapter on international cooperation, which strengthens in particular the provision of mutual legal assistance; and
- a chapter on asset recovery, which deals with asset recovery and sets the principle that confiscated proceeds of corrupt activities should be returned to the state of origin.

### **Ratification of the Convention**

Over 130 delegations have taken part in the negotiations which were completed in less than two years, a record time for an instrument of this scope. The negotiation and adoption of the Convention have manifested the political will of the international community to equip itself with an adequate legal framework to combat corruption. The next step is now for the Convention to become a functioning instrument, which begins with its entry into force.

The Convention requires 30 ratifications for its entry into force. Currently (27 May 2005), 123 States have signed the Convention and 24 have become parties to it. Among the parties are Belarus, Croatia, Romania, and Turkmenistan. Among the signatories are Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro. A number of ACN States are neither parties nor signatories: Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia (FYROM), Tajikistan and Slovenia.

A treaty event will be held at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005 to mark the 60th anniversary of the United Nations and it is expected that additional ratifications will be made on this occasion. It seems likely that the 6 ratifications necessary to trigger entry into force will be deposited before the end of 2005.

UNODC is currently developing a legislative guide for the ratification and implementation of the Convention. Following the experience of the Legislative Guides for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, UNODC has established a group of experts from all regions who were involved in the negotiation process and thus have an intimate knowledge of the

Convention. A first draft of the legislative guide has been prepared and is being widely circulated to obtain comments from Governments and ensure maximum transparency. The objective of the guide is to help States identify legislative requirements, issues arising from these requirements and options available to them as they draft legislation to implement the Convention.

UNODC also plans to organize a series of pre-ratification seminars for policy makers and practitioners, with the aim on the one hand to make sure that the legislative and regulatory requirements of the Convention are clearly understood by drafters of legislation and policy makers and are met in the most adequate way, and, on the other hand, to sustain the political commitment that made the negotiation of the Convention possible, as ratification is primarily a political decision.

### **Monitoring of Implementation**

The entry into force of the Convention will set into motion the implementation mechanism provided for under it: the Conference of the States Parties.

The mandate of the Conference of the Parties is to review implementation by States Parties, to make recommendations to improve the Convention, to make recommendations on how to meet the needs for technical assistance of States parties, to facilitate exchange of information among parties on patterns and trends of corruption and successful practices in combating it. The issue of collection and analysis of reliable and accurate data and information on corruption, which is on tomorrow's agenda, will be a crucial challenge of the Conference of the Parties.

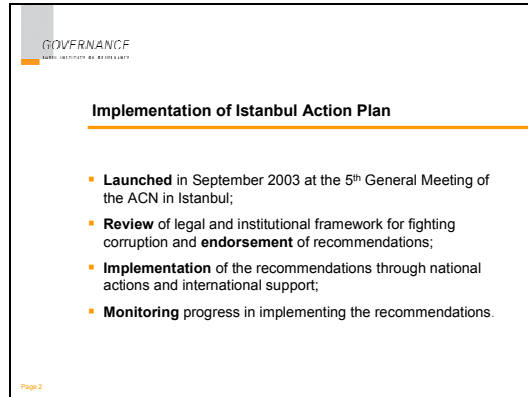
To be effective, the Conference of the States Parties will need to enjoy a broad and balanced participation by States. The Convention has so far been ratified by developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Ratification procedures tend to be longer and more complex in developed countries, with the requirement that provisions are incorporated and enforced before ratification can be effected. There is therefore good hope that this imbalance will be corrected before the Conference of the Parties begins its work (within one year of entry into force).

The effective implementation of the Convention also relies on the provision of technical assistance to requesting countries, including legal assistance to adopt adequate legislation and assistance to combat corruption in a variety of areas, in line with the provisions of the Convention. Various projects have or are being carried out by UNODC, e.g. helping States to develop national anti-corruption policies, strategies and to establish anti-corruption bodies in accordance with articles 5 and 6 of the Convention; promoting judicial integrity in accordance with article 11 of the Convention which recognizes that the integrity of the justice system is a central component of any strategy to counter corruption; or building local capacity in asset recovery, as the Convention places emphasis on effective mechanisms to prevent the laundering of the proceeds of corruption and on asset recovery.

## **Istanbul Action Plan Recommendations and Glossary of International Anti-Corruption Standards**

**Ms Gemma Aiolfi**, Basel Institute on Governance, Switzerland

Slide 1



GOVERNANCE  
BASEL INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE

### **Implementation of Istanbul Action Plan**

- **Launched** in September 2003 at the 5<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the ACN in Istanbul;
- **Review** of legal and institutional framework for fighting corruption and **endorsement** of recommendations;
- **Implementation** of the recommendations through national actions and international support;
- **Monitoring** progress in implementing the recommendations.

Page 2

Slide 2



GOVERNANCE  
BASEL INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE

### **Recommendations are country specific**

**The recommendations address:**

- anti-corruption strategies & institutions
- criminalization of corruption & anti-corruption legislation
- transparency of civil service & financial control issues

Page 3

Slide 3

GOVERNANCE  
WORLD INSTITUTE ON INTEGRITY

---

**Criminalization of corruption & anti-corruption legislation**

- **Common recommendation:**  
reform national legislation to bring it in line with international anti-corruption standards, established by the OECD, Council of Europe and UN anti-corruption conventions

Page 4

Slide 4

GOVERNANCE  
WORLD INSTITUTE ON INTEGRITY

---

**Some common issues**

- Criminalisation of the offer and promise of a bribe
- Sanctions for active bribery
- Foreign bribery
- Pecuniary and non-pecuniary benefits
- Bribery through intermediaries
- Responsibility of legal persons
- Rules for lifting immunities
- Value-based confiscation and confiscation from third persons

Page 5

Slide 5

GOVERNANCE  
WORLD INSTITUTE ON INTEGRITY

---

**International Anti-Corruption Standards**

- **Glossary of International Anti-Corruption Standards**
  - Compares Conventions (relevant for the region):
    - OECD, Council of Europe, UN
    - Illustrates implementation of the international standards in other countries
    - Discusses the 'problem areas' in the Istanbul Action Plan countries
- **Expert seminar to discuss the draft, 21-23 February, Kyiv, Ukraine**

Page 6

Slide 6

**GOVERNANCE**  
WORLD INSTITUTE ON INTEGRITY

---

**Completion and Use of Glossary**

- **Comments and inputs** to the draft Glossary from ACN countries
- **User-friendly amendments and publication** of the Glossary in English and Russian
- **Dissemination**
  - ⇒ as a reference tool for reform of national legislation
  - ⇒ for the monitoring of implementation of the international recommendations

Page 7

Slide 7

**GOVERNANCE**  
WORLD INSTITUTE ON INTEGRITY

---

**Follow-up**

- Written inputs from the ACN Countries (comments and examples): within one month after this meeting
- Follow up workshops in specific areas: responsibility of legal persons, other issues

Page 8

## **Experience of Norway in Implementing the OECD and the Council of Europe Conventions, Lessons Learned from the International Monitoring**

**Mr Atle Roaldsøy**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Justice of Norway

Slide 1

### **Implementation at National Level**

- General policy – zero tolerance
- Ratification status – International legal instruments
- Political will – endorsement of international standards and support for monitoring mechanisms
- Acknowledging that monitoring is an important contribution to building an efficient global anti-corruption regime
- National Action Plan Against Economic Crime

Slide 2

### **International Monitoring**

- Establishing the standards
- Peer pressure
- Mutual benefit – learning from each other
- Political commitment

Slide 3

### **Role of International Monitoring in Norway**

- Anticorruption- and Money Laundering Project
- Senior officials committee on Economic Crime – Responsible for overseeing and coordinating the measures of the Action Plan
- Media coverage

Slide 4

### **Implementation of Recommendations - Examples**

- Penal Code provisions on corruption
- Changes prompted by the OECD-Convention and the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention
- Adjustments to ratify the OECD-convention in 1999.
- OECD Phase one Review
- GRECO First Round Evaluation Report on Norway , Recommendation iii: "to extend as far as possible, the use of special investigative means to cases of corruption, in line with the principle of Proportionality and existing safeguards"

Slide 5

### **Examples: Penal Code, sec. 276a**

- Any person shall be liable to a penalty for corruption who
    - a) for himself or other persons, requests or receives an improper advantage or accepts an offer of an improper advantage in connection with a post, office or commission, or
    - b) gives or offers anyone an improper advantage in connection with a post, office or commission.
- By post, office or commission in the first paragraph is also meant a post, office or commission in a foreign country.
- The penalty for corruption shall be fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years. Complicity is punishable in the same manner

Slide 6

**Examples: Penal Code sec. 276b**

- Gross corruption is punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years. Complicity is punishable in the same manner.

In deciding whether the corruption is gross, special regard shall inter alia be paid to whether the act has been committed by or in relation to a public official or any other person in breach of the special confidence placed in him as a consequence of his post, office or commission, whether it has resulted in a considerable economic advantage, whether there was a risk of significant economic or other damage or whether false accounting information has been recorded or false accounting documents or false annual accounts have been prepared.

Slide 7

**Examples: Penal Code 276c**

- Any person shall be liable to a penalty for trading in influence who
    - a) for himself or other persons, requests or receives an improper advantage or accepts an offer of an improper advantage in return for influencing the performance of a post, office or commission, or
    - b) gives or offers anyone an improper advantage in return for influencing the performance of a post, office or commission.
- By post, office or commission in the first paragraph is also meant a post, office or commission in a foreign country.
- The penalty for trading in influence shall be fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years. Complicity is punishable in the same manner.

Slide 8

**Examples:  
Role of Auditor General**

- Rec. iv of GRECO First round Evaluation:
- "...to review regulatory framework applicable to cooperation between OAG and relevant law enforcement bodies. OAG should be allowed to report any suspicions to the police immediately and confidentially upon discovery whilst the audit is continuing."

Slide 9

**Examples:  
Office of Auditor General**

- New provisions in State Audit Act as direct follow up to recommendation, allowing for:
- Informing police immediately where there is basis for suspicion of a criminal act, while the audit continues.
- The audited entity or superior ministry does not have to be notified.
- Regular cooperation now being established (Public Procurement).
- Training on forensic accounting

Slide 10

**Monitoring -  
Possible Improvements**

- Clarify standards and criteria
- Examine and improve procedures
- Avoid overlapping mechanisms and "evaluation fatigue"
- Relevant training and high standard of evaluators
- Better understanding of national legal systems and tradition
- Avoid overly theoretical approach
- Bad quality undermines authority of reports

Slide 11

**Monitoring - Future Role**

- Monitoring still have an important role to fill
- Collective responsibility to create adequate and credible mechanisms that are well coordinated.
- Role of the new UN Convention against corruption?

## **Experience of Georgia in Implementing the Council of Europe Convention Recommendations, Lessons Learned from the International Monitoring**

**Mr Levan Khetsuriani**, Senior Advisor, Anti-Corruption Policy Department, National Security Council, Georgia

Fight against corruption has the highest priority for the present Georgian government. Low level of the corruption is an important element for the successful development of the countries political, economical and social reforms. Understanding all the above said, we try our best to minimize the scope of the corruption in the country as far as it is possible and in the shortest period of time.

Since the well-known events that have taken place in November 2003, Georgian government has accomplished a lot in this direction. In the time frame of a year and half corruption rate in the public service has been radically reduced. Publicizing well know corruption cases, from the previous and present high rank public officials, has decreased the feeling of impunity in the governmental sector and public in general.

This has been achieved with the firm position of the government to fight corruption wherever possible and their willingness to make radical changes for accomplishing a low-level corruption rate in the country.

Changes were made in the regulation of the fiscal policy. With the government initiative, the new Taxation Law has been adopted by the parliament of Georgia. According to the new law, small (so called 'one man') businesses have been liberated from taxes, various taxes have been merged and reduced which made it more understandable and payable for the public and left less room to the tax authority for corruptive manipulations.

For the same reason amendments were made to the regulation of licensing policy, where number of licensees have been either abolished or made free of charge. That helped businesses to pass the bureaucracy of getting the license without getting into the labyrinth of corruptive deals.

Radical changes have been made also in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Security. The wages of the people working in this Ministry have been at least doubled. Georgian Traffic Police, which previously was one of the most corrupt institutions in the country, has been reformed. The officers were selected in an open competition, and they have undergone extra training courses. They were equipped with the new equipment, and provided with high wages. Their work is systematically monitored by the media and NGO's.

Another important reform made in Georgia is the establishment of a completely new institution within the Ministry of Finance. The Financial Police was set up with the status of the structural unit supervised by the Ministry of Finance. By the changes introduced in the Criminal law Procedural Code, the functions of detection and pre-investigation of economic crimes were transferred from different entities to the Financial Police. The fact that only one entity has the function of detecting and investigating the crimes committed in the economic sphere (among them tax evasion and smuggling) makes it possible to improve the coordination of fight against financial crimes. It must be noted, that previously this function was distributed among the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Security of Georgia, Tax and Customs Departments.

Here we only looked at few examples of reforms made by the Georgian government as regards the fight against corruption. The scope of the success of reforms already accomplished in this short period of time would be easier to recognize if we look at the Budget of the country. It has been raised from nearly 500 thousands to 2 million US dollars in year and a half.

Corruption is an international phenomenon as well. It occurs in every country in different ways and reaches a different level. To overcome the problem of corruption, dealing with it on the international level is very important. International organizations, anti-corruption conventions and monitoring help Georgia to reform its national anti-corruption legislation and law enforcement in many different ways.

Georgia is the member of the Council of Europe's anti-corruption organization, the GRECO, and is now undergoing its first Evaluation Round. We have signed and ratified the EU Civil Law Convention and are now working also on the ratification of the EU Criminal Law Convention and the UN Convention against Corruption, which will be accomplished by the end of the year.

In working with these institutions some important changes have been made in the legislation of our country, such as:

- Amendment of the immunity system  
The number of the officials enjoying immunity has been reduced; Laws and Regulations of lifting of immunity have been clarified; According to the new amendments, immunity doesn't save a person enjoying it, if he/she will be caught "in flagrant delicto" (on the spot of committing the crime);
- Introduction of General inspection unites in all Governmental organizations;
- Involvement of the NGO's more actively in the monitoring of public services;
- Improvement of system of the Property and Financial Declaration for public officials  
Public Officials must submit all the supporting documents of the property owned by him and his family members; Information is public and the media and NGO's usually monitor the information of the Information Agency on Property and Financial Declarations;
- Elaboration of the National Anti-corruption Strategy  
The strategy is in the process of preparation and will be finished at the end of June and presented to the Government for its approval; NGO's as well as the various representatives of the ministries and international organizations are taking an active part in the elaboration process.

Participation in the work of the International Organizations helps the members and the representatives to see the problem of corruption from a different prospective. Exchanging of the experience in fighting corruption, from the different counties and systems is highly valuable for planning a new, more efficient one.

Joining and implementing the anti-corruption conventions and their monitoring makes it possible for the country to be up to date and fight corruption more effectively. Monitoring of the implementation is an important mechanism to see if the recommendation made to the country has been understood and dealt in the right manner.