



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Regional Office for Central Asia

# TRENDS CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES IN STRENGTHENING BUSINESS INTEGRITY AND ANTI- CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN CENTRAL ASIA

Seventh North and Central Asia  
Multistakeholder Forum on the  
Implementation of the Sustainable  
Development Goals

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 1-2 November 2023

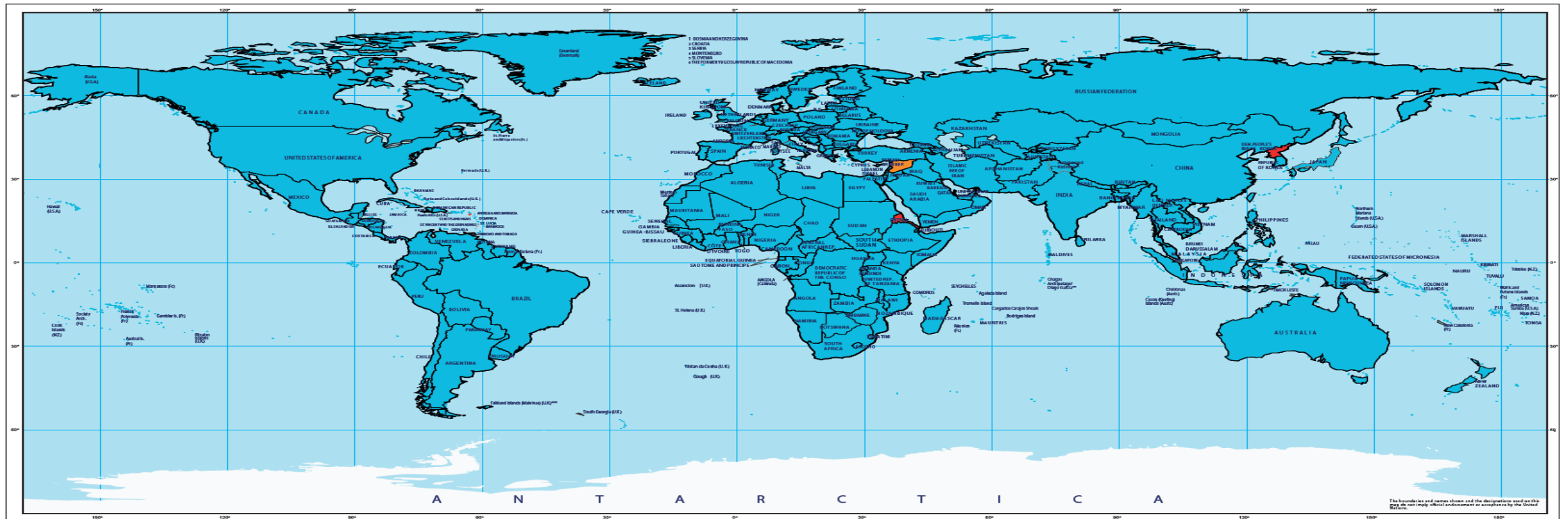
Ashita Mittal

UNODC  
Regional Representative

# Nations Convention against Corruption

Adopted by the General Assembly: Resolution 58/4, 31 October 2003  
Entry into Force: 14 December 2005

## UNCAC Signature and Ratification Status



- States Parties
- Signatories
- Countries that have not signed or ratified the UNCAC

**Parties: 190**

# THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION



# CORRUPTION CHALLENGES IN THE REGION

## GENERAL ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

### **Particularly affected areas**

Healthcare, Education, Infrastructure

### **Obstacles to resource allocation**

Resources are lost to corruption instead of for achieving SDGs

### **National Compact**

Combined efforts of the government, civil society and the private sector are necessary.

### **Specific dimensions**

Gender dimension of corruption and its disproportional effects on vulnerable groups

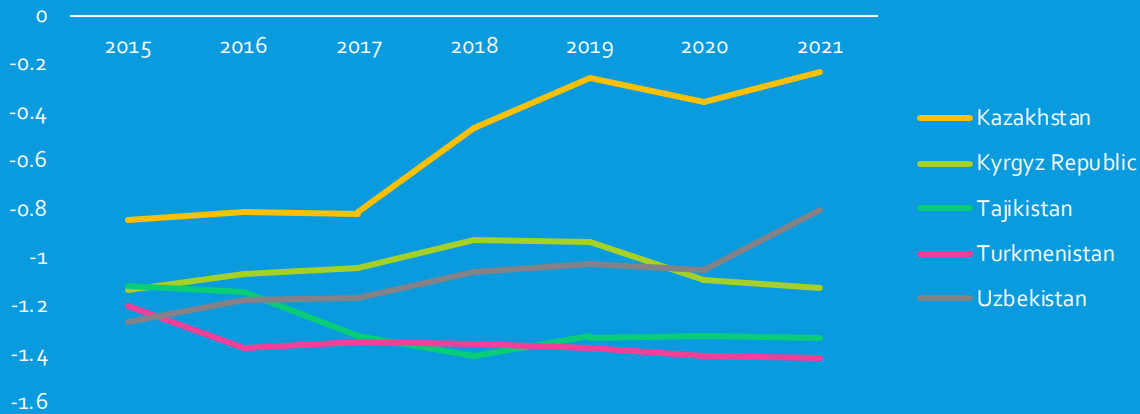


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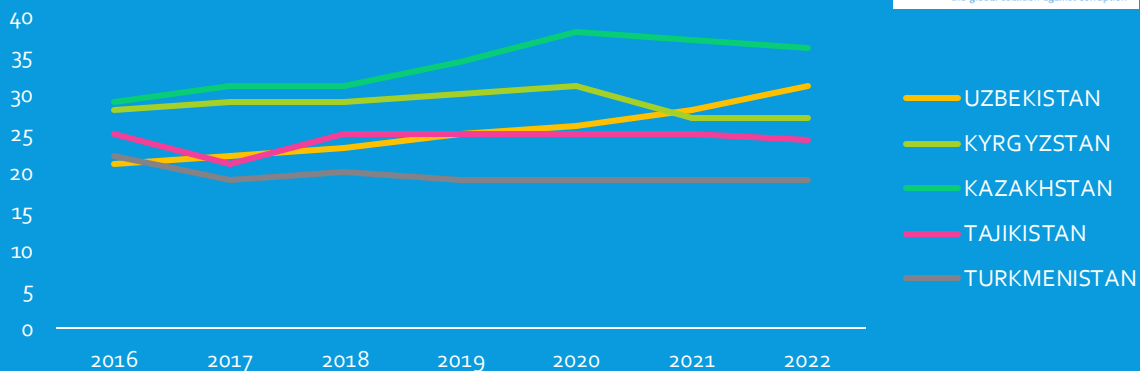
Управление Организации Объединенных Наций по наркотикам и преступности  
Региональное представительство в Центральной Азии

# REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION SNAPSHOT DATA

### Control of Corruption (WB)



### TI Corruption Perceptions Index



## Key Trends

- **Kazakhstan** continues to build up its capacities to fight corruption. The legislative base and anti-corruption practices contain a lot of good international practices, as well as the level of competence of the anti-corruption practitioners is constantly improving.
- **Uzbekistan** is focusing on the digitalization of services as a tool to prevent and minimize corruption risks. The legislative base is rapidly developing, but gaps in some areas. Further investments need to be made in capacity building of practitioners
- Institutional reforms in **Kyrgyzstan** are strengthening the role of Prosecutor's General Office. The government attempts to establish new modus operandi of cooperation with the civil society with the focus on the private sector.
- **Tajikistan** remains focused on reducing the losses due to corrupt practices through stronger penalties and improved investigation. The greater capacities of anti-corruption practitioners are seen as the key to success.
- **Turkmenistan** is also working on the remodeling of its anti-corruption policies and more actively looks to learn from advanced international practices.

# INSTITUTIONAL SETUP AND ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICIES :

## CURRENTTRENDS

### **Institutional Setup:**

Anti-Corruption Agencies in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Anti-Corruption Coordination Committees with the major roles of General Prosecutor's Offices in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan – these agencies are also in charge of coordinating activities related to integrity and anti-corruption in the private sector.

### **Digital Transformation:**

Different approaches to anti-corruption efforts, but digitalization of public services is recognized as a universal integrity tool.

**Compliance with UNCAC** is important. The Convention covers integrity in the private sector and serves as an entry point for countering corruption in this area.

# ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICIES RELATED TO BUSINESS INTEGRITY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR: GENERAL ISSUES AND PRIORITIES TO BE ADDRESSED

## **Private Sector Compliance:**

Limited development of prevention mechanisms in the private sector. Companies, especially small and medium enterprises, have minimal incentives to invest in internal compliance.

**Normative Challenges:** The absence of a comprehensive system of liability for corruption offences in the private sector, mechanisms for corporate liability, and whistleblower protection hampers the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in the private sector.

## **Beneficial Ownership Registries:**

There is a need for setting up transparent registries of private companies ownership structures that would provide means for preventing conflict of interest and verification of assets of public officials.

## **Enforcement Challenges:**

For example, sanctions, like blacklisting violators in public procurement, exist (in some countries) but are inconsistently enforced.

## **Corruption within state inspection systems undermines their effectiveness:**

Lack of transparency and accountability in the state inspection systems. Corruption distorts incentives for businesses, leading to non-compliance with legal, technical, and safety norms.

# BUSINESS INTEGRITY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR: WAY FORWARD

- **Strengthening anti-corruption analysis and corruption risks assessment & monitoring.**
- **Harmonization of legislation with the UNCAC and its systematic enforcement in relation to the private sector.**
- **Promoting incentives for strengthening internal compliance mechanisms in the private sector.**
- **Capacity building of the corporate and private sectors on the detection of fraud and corruption.**
- **Professional associations of accountants and auditors to uphold professional ethics standards and function as self-regulating sectoral bodies.**
- **Promoting meaningful public-private dialogue: engage in attentive listening, validate concerns, and be open to regulatory improvements.**



# ADVANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND COHERENCE UNCAC FAST TRACK IMPLEMENTATION PLATFORM IN CENTRAL ASIA

## THEMATIC AREAS

## KEY OUTPUTS



### Prevention of corruption

(identifying and managing of conflict of interest, asset declarations, detection of illicit enrichment, and beneficial ownership)



### Corruption in private sector

(liability of legal entities, compensation to victims, fraud and corruption prevention and in the corporate and private sectors)



### Asset recovery

(strategies, specialized legislation, domestic intergovernmental cooperation mechanisms and specialized units)



### Regional best practices

Sharing success stories and best practices of regional countries

CONSULTANCY, LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING, AND POLICY ANALYSIS DOCUMENTS

EASY-TO-ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

COORDINATION OF DONORS' ASSISTANCE

1: Peer learning & regional cooperation. 2. Anti-Corruption initiatives and donor coordination. 3. Civil society engagement. 4. Gender equality. 5. IT & data collection.