



Anti-Corruption Sector Package

Open data is **emerging as an important tool in the fight back against corruption**, by empowering citizens, the private sector and governments to work together to prevent, expose and prosecute acts of corruption.

The global open data movement has proven that the true potential of data as a powerful weapon to tackle corruption can only be achieved if relevant data is made accessible, comparable and timely, and multilateral action drives its use. By encouraging governments around the world to implement ambitious open data initiatives, we can together unlock essential data that may provide invaluable insight into the causes, impacts, and potential responses to corruption.

The international [Open Data Charter](http://www.opendatacharter.net)¹ sets out six foundational principles for governments to make their data open by default. As a participatory, and multi-stakeholder initiative, the international Open Data Charter is inviting collaboration in developing and implementing the Anti-Corruption sector package: a practical resource and guiding framework that sets out the core datasets that should be made available and interoperable, and that outlines key use cases to prevent, detect, investigate and sanction corruption , as part of a global anti-corruption open data infrastructure.

Find out more at <http://www.opendatacharter.net>

What is open data?

Open data is digital data that is made available with the technical and legal characteristics necessary for it to be freely used, reused, and redistributed by anyone, anytime, anywhere.

What kinds of data are important in anti-corruption work?

To develop the Anti-Corruption Sector Package we are inviting input to identify the most important datasets. Key datasets identified so far include:

- **Corporate registers** - including shareholder and beneficial ownership information;
- **Public contracting information** - with details of all stages of the process, from planning and tender, through to award, contract and implementation;
- **Information on public officials** - including lists of senior officials, asset declarations, registers of interests and gifts and hospitality registers;
- **Land registration information** - particularly corporate land ownership;
- **Government budget and spending data** - at national and local level;
- **Courts data** - used to track corruption cases.

The use of common corporate identifiers in these datasets is particularly important. In many countries, most of the information in the list above is already made available in the form of public registers and announcements. However, it is often hard to access, with legal or technical barriers put in the way of it's use. Different countries also publish data in different ways, making it difficult to follow complex corruption networks.

¹ Adopted by 21 governments and endorsed by more than 30 international, private and civil society institutions.

How can data support anti-corruption work?

Greater access to reusable data can make it easier for:

- Civil society to scrutinise public contracting - joining the dots between contracting and corporate records, and looking for patterns that might raise red-flags;
- Investigators to follow money flows across borders, avoiding excessive delays in accessing information, and routing around local interference;
- Private firms to build better due diligence and Know Your Client (KYC) systems.

These are just a few examples. With access structured and standardised data anti-corruption practitioners can focus on finding facts and spotting patterns, instead of searching through stacks of documents and PDF files.

What is the international Open Data Charter?

During 2015, open data experts from governments, multilateral organizations, civil society and private sector, worked together to develop an international Open Data Charter, with six principles for the release of data:

- Open by Default;
- Timely and Comprehensive;
- Accessible and Useable;
- Comparable and Interoperable;
- For Improved Governance and Citizen Engagement; and
- For Inclusive Development and Innovation.

The international Open Data Charter has built on previous efforts and new findings in a number of important ways:

- It is available for adoption by all national and subnational governments
- It promotes the comparability and interoperability of data for increased usage and impact;
- It acknowledges global challenges such as the digital divide, and the significant opportunities of open data for inclusive development;
- It encourages cultural change;
- It recognizes the importance of safeguarding the privacy of citizens and their right to influence the collection and use of their own personal data;
- It fosters increased engagement with citizens and civil society promotes increased focus on data literacy, training programs, and entrepreneurship.
- It welcomes the adoption by other organizations, such as those from civil society or the private sector.

Get involved

To learn more about the Open Data Charter, including how to adopt or endorse the Charter and the latest updates on the anti-corruption sector package, go to: opendatacharter.net

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