

3 Ways to Fight Corruption

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Overview

- Introduction of the UNCAC Coalition
- Introduction to the UN Convention against Corruption

3 ways to fight corruption and the harm it causes:

- 1) Ending Opaque Company Ownership
- 2) Making Public Contracting Truly Public
- 3) Returning Stolen Assets to Repair Damages Caused by Corruption



About the UNCAC Coalition

- Global civil society network of over <u>140 CSOs</u>, individual members and an additional <u>200+ groups in its wider network</u> in more than 100 countries
- Our role:
 - To advance the implementation and monitoring of the <u>UN Convention</u> against Corruption (UNCAC);
 - Facilitate and support civil society participation around UNCAC fora, including national review mechanism
 - Raise the bar of the international anti-corruption framework, address gaps in the legal framework and its implementation
 - Support networking and peer-learning of CSOs to advance anti-corruption efforts



The UNCAC - Introduction

- Only binding, comprehensive global anti-corruption treaty
- Adopted by the UN GA in October 2003
- Entered into force in December 2005
 - UNODC in Vienna serves as Secretariat

UNCAC covers

- criminalization of corruption (it defines specific offenses)
- prevention of corruption
- international cooperation
- technical assistance
- asset recovery

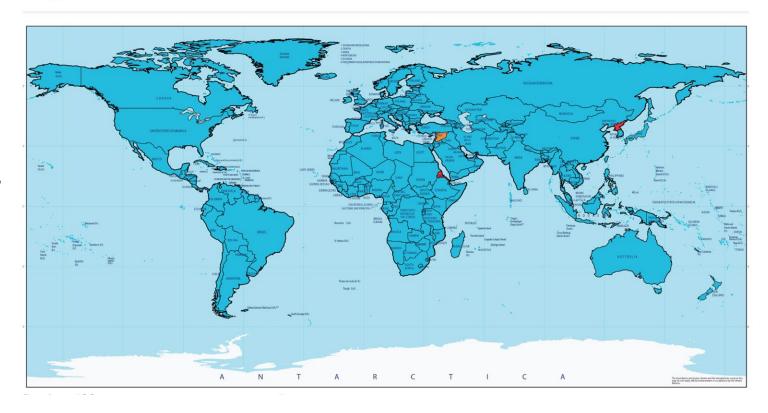




Only global anti-corruption instrument

- 189 Parties
 - 188 States & EU
- Missing:
 - Andorra,
 - Barbados (Signatory),
 - Eritrea,
 - Monaco, North Korea,
 - Saint Kitts and Nevis,
 - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,
 - San Marino,
 - Syria (Signatory)

Signature and Ratification Status





The UNCAC - Introduction

- Some overlap with regional Anti-Corruption Conventions (Council of Europe, Organisation of American States, African Union) and other mechanisms (UNTOC, FATF, OECD Anti-Bribery Convention)
- Other fora where anti-corruption commitments are made:
 - UNGASS against Corruption, G7, G20, Open Government Partnership, Summit for Democracy (U.S., 2021/22)

1) Ending Opaque Company Ownership



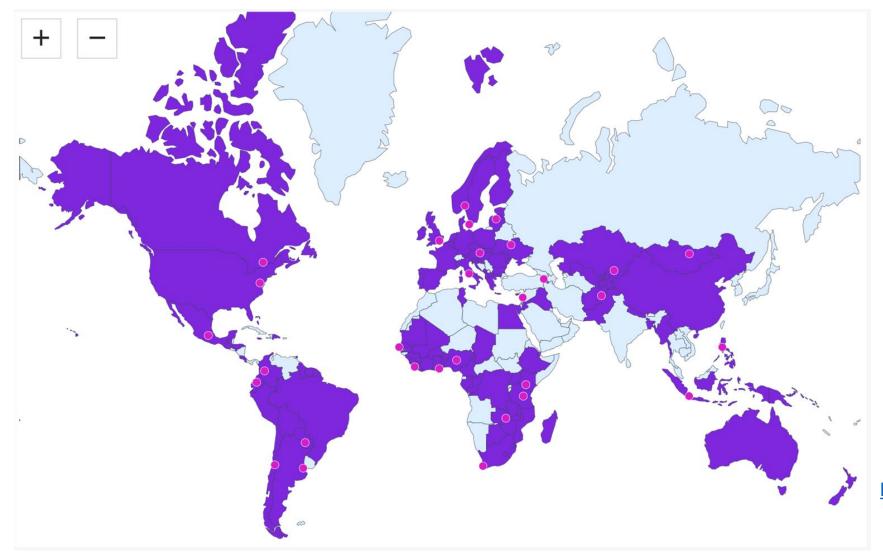
Beneficial Ownership Transparency:

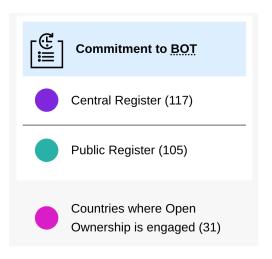
- To ensure that corrupt individuals cannot hide behind anonymous shell companies and complex corporate structures any more
- States establish freely accessible central registries with accurate (verified) and timely BO information
- Enables law enforcement (domestic and foreign), businesses, journalists and civil society to understand who the ultimate owners of a company, trust or foundation are (not the direct owners of a company).

Beneficial Ownership Transparency Ociety

- Reduces cost of doing business
- Many countries are fully committed to implementing BO transparency
- UK was first mover in 2016: created a freely accessible public registry of beneficial owners
 - UK gov estimates GBP 1-3bn estimated total benefit created by freely accessible public register (GBP 2,000 per user)
- EU standard (4th AML Directive: Central registries; 5th AML Directive: Public access)

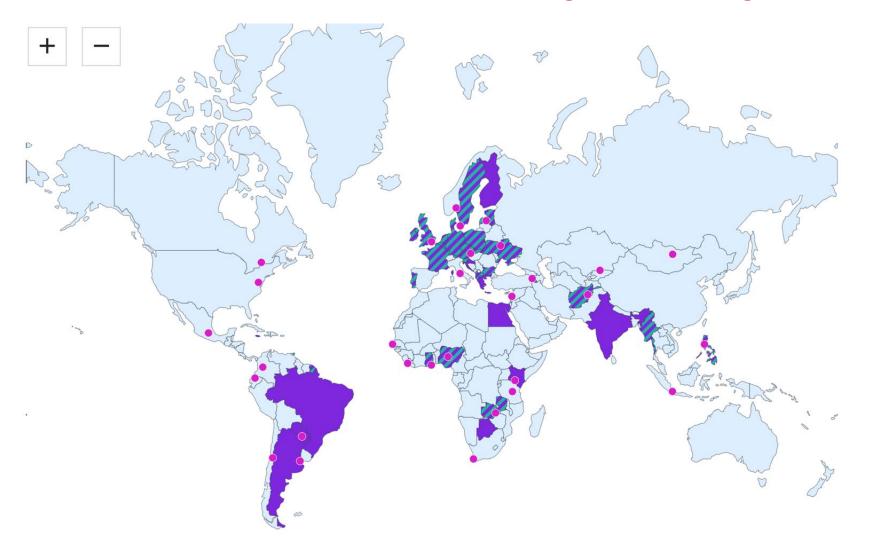
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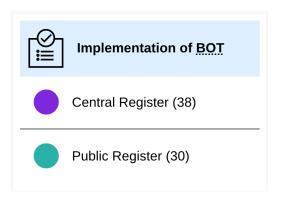




https://www.openownership.org/en/map/

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https://www.openownership.org/en/map/

2) Making Public Contracting Truly Public



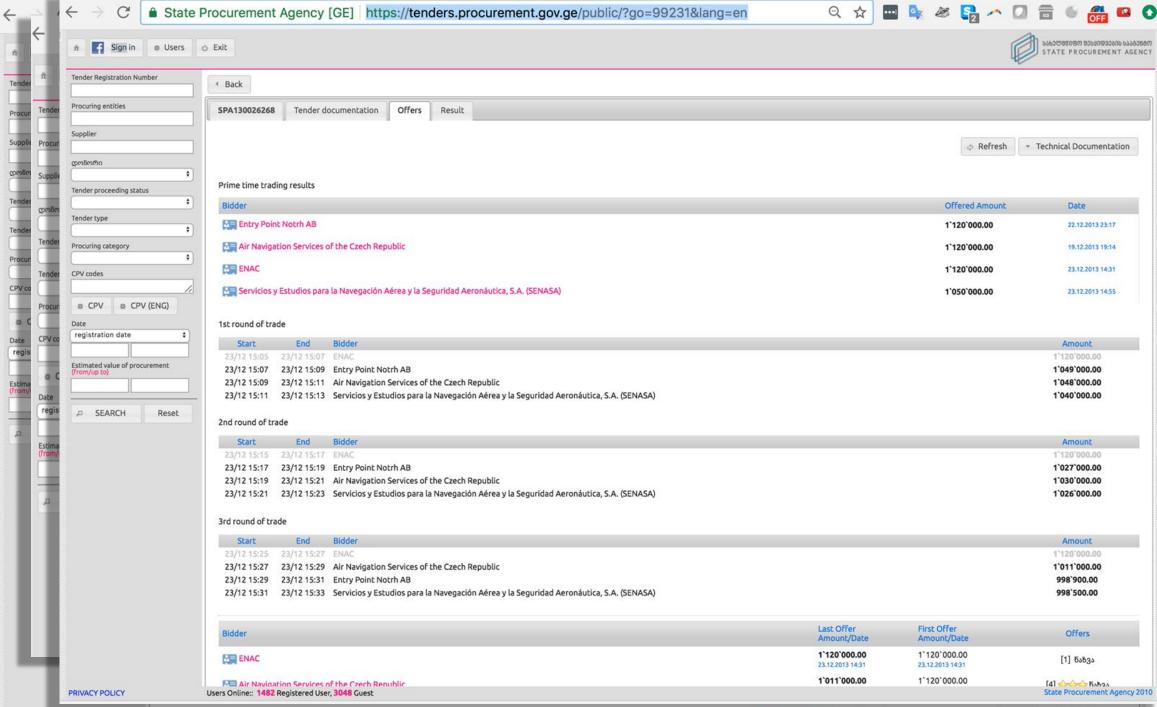


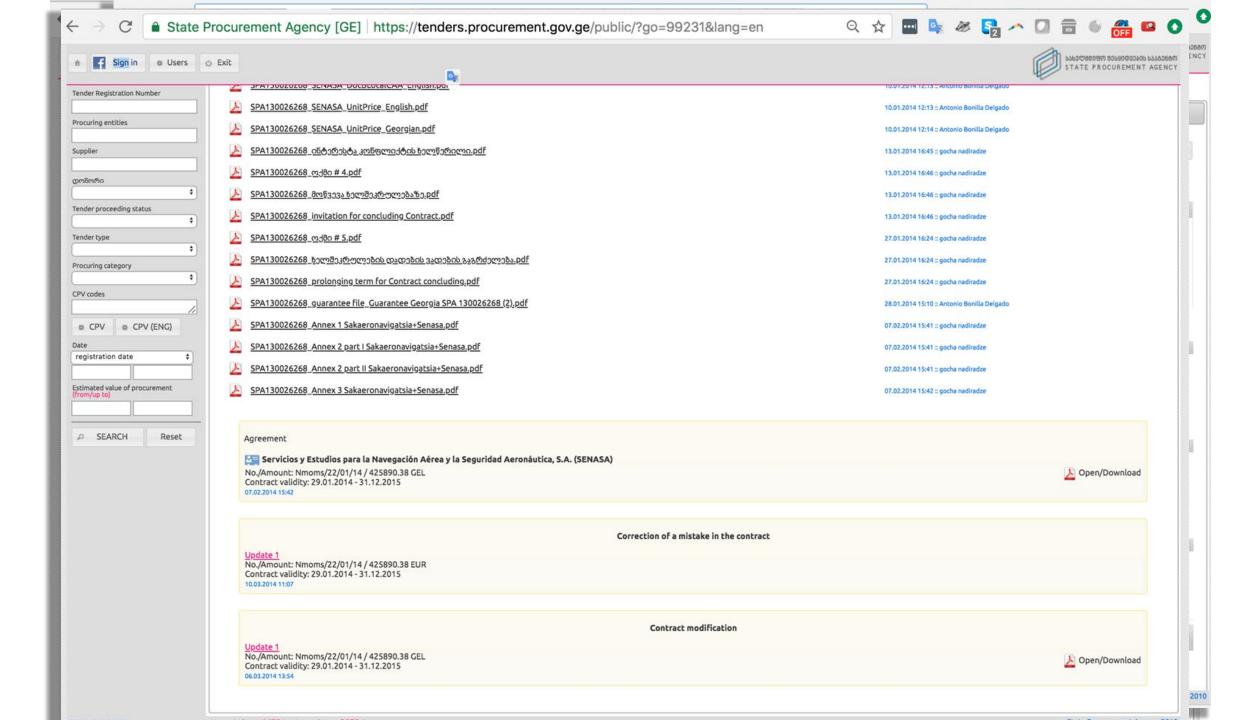
Public Procurement

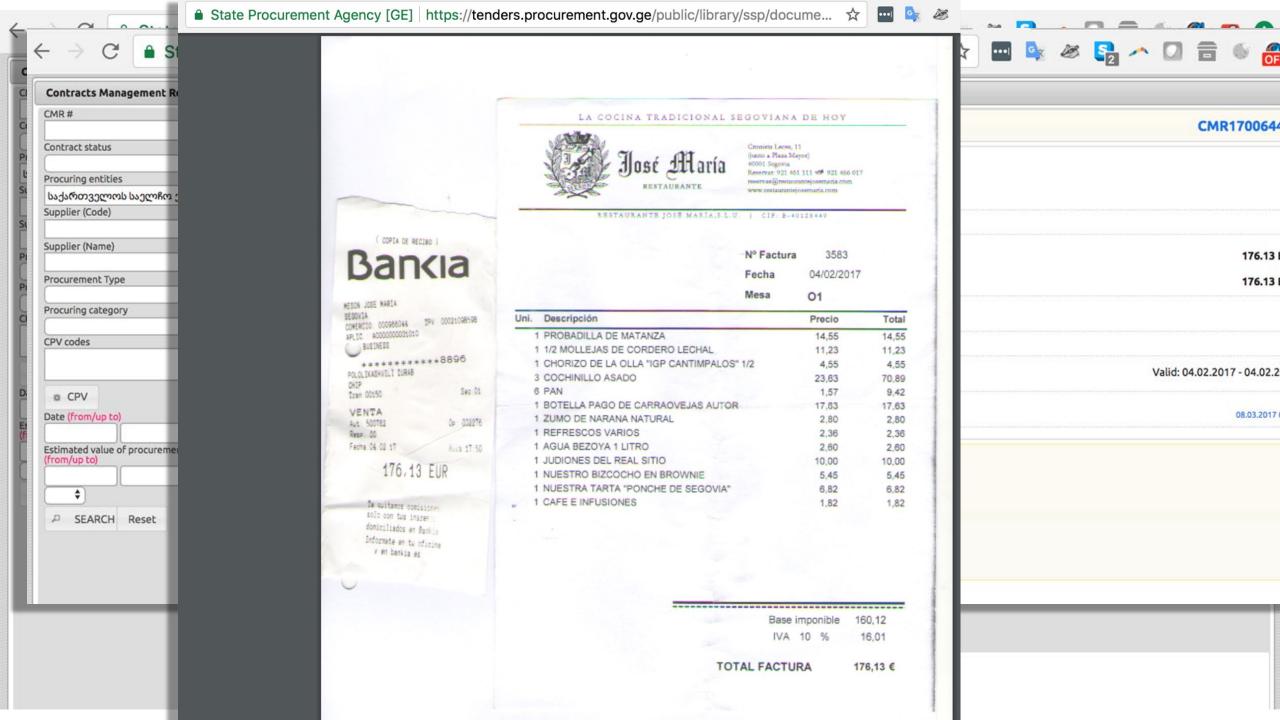
Entrance hallway of the Georgian State Procurement Agency, 2010

E-procurement reforms using "Radical transparency" approach



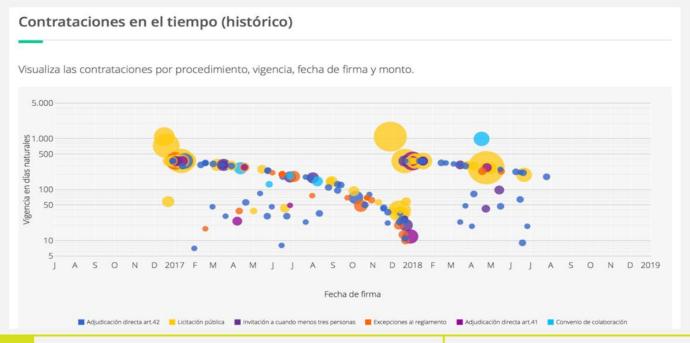








3. Proactive, timely disclosure creates highly valuable insights for government



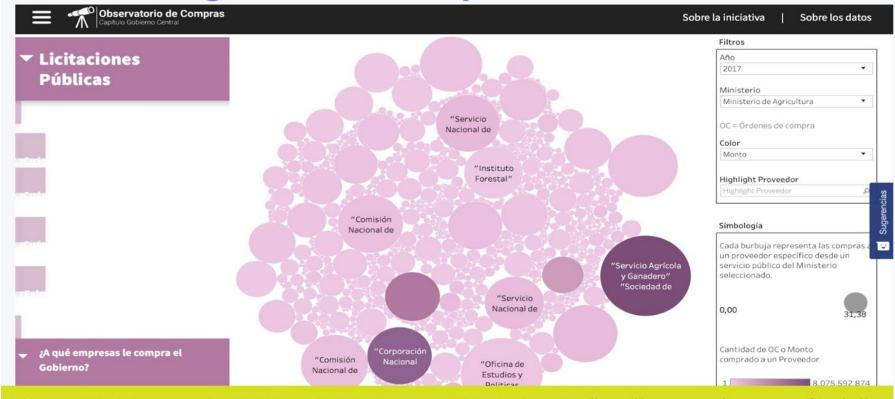
MEXICO

VISUALIZES CONTRACTS BY TYPE, TIME FRAME, DATE SIGNED, AMOUNT

http://contratacionesabiertas.inai.org.mx/contratacionesabiertas/contratos/



4. Multistakeholder engagement strengthens monitoring & market competition



CHILE: TOOL TO EXPLORE RELATION BETWEEN CONTRACTS AND COMPANIES [http://compras.observatoriofiscal.cl]



5. Linking open contracting data to other data sources improves broader anticorruption efforts



Beneficial ownership & company data



Land registry data



Natural resource data



Transparent Public Procurement

Impact when Public Procurement is done right:

- up to 20% savings on the overall procurement value (World Bank)
 - About 30% of government spending (USD 9.5+ trillion/year)
- Georgia: estimated USD 400 millions saved within 5 years
 - o Cost of initial procurement system reform was under 1 million USD
- Slovakia: state contracts not in force until published online since 2011: average number of bidders doubled within 3 years; single-bidder tenders plummeted (TI Slovakia)
- Ukraine: CSO-developed procurement portal <u>ProZorro</u> has saved them 6bn USD so far

3) Returning Stolen Assets to UNCA Coalition Repair Damages Caused by Corruption

- To ensure stolen assets are returned to the country of origin in an accountable and transparent manner
 - Used to compensate the victims of corruption and benefit the country's development
- Only a tiny percentage of the estimated USD 400 bn of proceeds of corruption has been recovered and returned in the last 10 years
- Need to increase and advance asset recovery
 - Only few States return assets in several cases, incl.: CH, USA, UK; F starting
- Role for civil society (legal standing in court, monitoring of the return process)



Asset Recovery

- Refers to the process by which the proceeds of corruption transferred abroad are recovered and repatriated to the country from which they were taken or to their rightful owners
- UNCAC was the first international instrument to explicitly address recovery and the return of proceeds of crime located in another country
 - Provides the legal basis for international asset recovery
- States shall afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance in the return of assets (UNCAC Art. 51)



Asset Recovery – technical details

- UNCAC compels states to return proceeds of corruption to a requesting state if certain conditions hold:
 - in the case of embezzlement of public funds, when a final judgment in the state requesting the return exists, return of confiscated assets is obligatory
- For other corruption offenses (incl. bribery): if there is a final
 judgment in the state requesting the return, confiscated assets shall
 be returned on the basis of the state requesting the return proving
 prior ownership or on the basis of recognition of damages caused to
 a requesting state



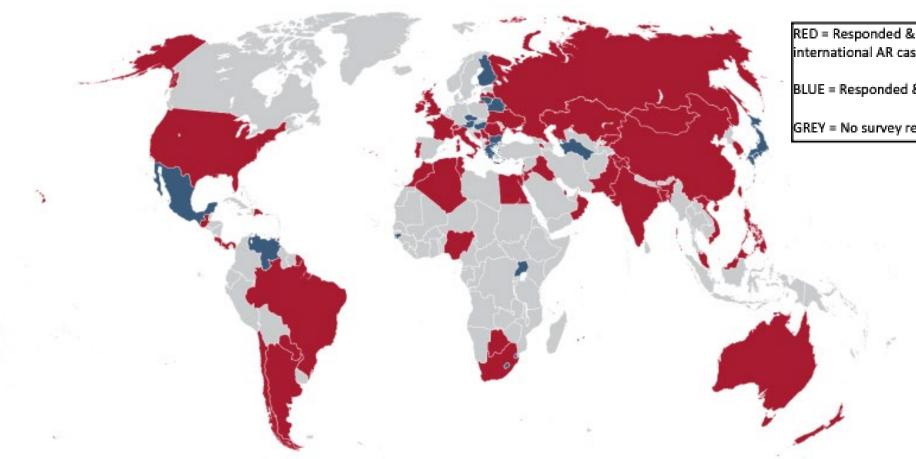


- Asset recovery and return process can take many different forms:
 - Depending on the corruption offense
 - Who initiated the return process, and how
 - Criminal conviction or non-conviction (civil process)
 - Available legal mechanisms in destination country to constrain assets
 - Who was harmed by the corruption (State or others)



Slow progress in Asset Recovery

States that have been involved in cross-border asset recovery efforts



RED = Responded & reported involvement in at least one international AR case since 2010 (freeze/confiscation/return)

BLUE = Responded & did not report involvement in any cases

GREY = No survey response received

StAR: Mapping international recoveries and returns of stolen assets under UNCAC

https://www.unodc.org/docu ments/treaties/UNCAC/COS P/session9/CAC-COSP-2021-CRP.12 E.pdf, p.9<





 Cases reported by countries since 2010:

StAR: Mapping international recoveries and returns of stolen assets under UNCAC – https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session9/CAC-COSP-2021-CRP.12 E.pdf, p.14

Table 7 - Involvement	
in Asset Returns	
	No of
	Cases
Reporting Country	Reported
Nigeria	19
USA	11
Malaysia	6
Latvia	
Singapore	
South Africa	5
South Korea	
Tunisia	
Russian Federation	4
United Kingdom	4
Australia	
Bangladesh	
Brazil	
India	3
Lebanon	
Switzerland ²⁵	

Table 8 - Involvement in Asset Confiscations	
	No of Cases
Reporting Country	Reported
USA	7
United Kingdom	5
Brunei	<u> </u>
Italy	
Latvia	
China (incl. Hong	4
Kong SAR and	
Macao SAR)	
Australia	3
Liechtenstein	3
Nigeria	
South Africa	2
South Korea	





- **Key observations**
- Not many international asset recovery cases
- No two asset recovery cases are the same
- Cases take many years to process and resolve highly complex!
 - Different languages, procedures, judicial systems, capacity challenges in the administration, unclear competences, channels of communication with competent authorities in other countries
 - In several prominent cases, there is no final conviction in the country of origin
 - Corrupt individual / leader died (Nigeria Abacha loots)
 - Corrupt leader and family is still in power (Equatorial Guinea Obiang)



Key observations

- How to ensure that returned assets are not re-looted
 - GFAR Principles provide important guidance
- Unconditional return vs conditionality
- Limited public information on asset recovery cases
- Role of civil society in the process is crucial
- Compensation of victims of corruption

In case you have any questions, please feel free reach out:

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Thank you

8th Economic Development Days – May 2022

Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU Wien)