**<u>Recommendations for the G20 from the Anti-Corruption Academic Roundtable
held on 12 October 2020</u>**

On 12 October 2020, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership
with the University of Sussex convened an Anti-Corruption Academic Roundtable on behalf
of the G20 Saudi Presidency. The meeting provided esteemed corruption researchers from
the G20 countries with an opportunity to discuss what G20 countries can do to advance the
fight against corruption in three concrete areas: cooperation among law enforcement,
corruption in public procurement, and measuring corruption and the impact of anti-
corruption policy. Following the meeting, the University of Sussex and UNODC, in consultation
with the participants at the roundtable, drafted the following recommendations for
presentation at the pre-meeting session of the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting on
22 October 2020.

STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION

To reduce implementation gaps in their anti-corruption architecture by enhancing
cooperation of anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners, G20 countries should:

1. **Establish peer-to-peer knowledge exchange on anti-corruption issues between
   national law enforcement agencies.** This should take a multilateral approach that
   invites all partners to the table and focus on sharing challenges and good practices,
   seeking to overcome disparities in experience and resources and treat all partners as
   equal members.

2. **Establish national and transnational interagency task forces or working groups
   focused on particular cases or emerging issues.** This will help build capacity, transfer
   knowledge and foster peer-to-peer exchange.

3. **Leverage technology and data analytics to provide additional resources.** Share non-
   sensitive data with researchers, for example university academics, so that they can
   identify patterns, typologies, and techniques of wrongdoing to inform law
   enforcement activity. This could involve the creation of a platform where
   practitioners could access the latest research in a digestible format.

4. **Create a secure platform to exchange data on corruption investigations.** This
   should be accessible to anti-corruption agencies and others who do not currently
   have access to existing databases which are necessary for their work.

The host of the Riyadh Initiative towards the creation of a Global Operational Network of
Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities should:
- Set out a monitoring and evaluation system at its launch;
- Draw on academic support to construct a baseline, so that progress can be traced
  and the initiative held to account;
- Identify realistic and achievable goals and celebrate success; and
- Leverage existing networks and infrastructure wherever possible to avoid
  duplication, enhance synergies, reduce costs, delays and challenges.

TARGETING CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Public procurement is critical to detecting and preventing corruption and yet key agencies - anti-corruption agencies, anti-trust authorities, public procurement agencies and organised crime agencies - have not sufficiently prioritised this area. Given the large share of public spending through public procurement, its vulnerabilities to corruption and the importance of the topic to the COVID-19 response, the G20 governments should help prevent and detect corruption in public procurement by:

1. **Making corruption in public procurement a key focus of national security strategies and of the work of anti-corruption agencies, anti-trust authorities, public procurement authorities and organised crime agencies**. This would recognise that systemic corruption in public procurement is often linked to organised criminal networks and can be a major hindrance to economic development.

2. **Publishing detailed public procurement data encompassing all stages of procurement in an open data format**. This would enable big data analytics to identify corruption risks and estimate the impact of corruption on public finances.

3. **Creating a typology of procurement corruption risks at different stages of the procurement process, by government sector.** This would support the development of anti-corruption strategies beyond mitigating risks at the bidding stage.

4. **Introducing and maintaining public registers of the beneficial ownership of companies**. Coordination should also be encouraged among relevant authorities to enable this information to be linked to public procurement oversight and to other data useful to preventing conflicts of interest and elite capture, including asset declarations and politically exposed persons lists.

5. **Developing a consistent G20 approach to debarment policy and information sharing.**

6. **Promoting multi-stakeholder collective action.** This can empower companies to resist and expose corruption in government contracting, and civil society in holding government agencies to account for their management of contracting.

DISTILLING LEARNING ON MEASURING CORRUPTION AND EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

To promote a consistent and accurate approach to measuring corruption and corruption control, the G20 should:

1. **Support a stocktaking of typologies of corruption and existing metrics.** This could be updated regularly and should assess what support would allow additional diagnostics of corruption risks.

2. **Utilise its leadership role to call for governments to collect and publish comparable open data in key areas relevant to corruption**. These areas should be identified in consultation with academia, drawing on the considerable body of work which critiques existing measures and on recent innovations to develop proxy indicators.

3. **Recognise that any measure will be subject to methodological bias and hence should encourage users of corruption measures to be alert to its limitations**. For example, efforts to measure corruption control may draw on administrative data about prosecutions, asset recovery and extradition, but these provide an incomplete picture since they cannot be compared to baseline levels of corruption; big data analytics can provide information about patterns of risk but are not a substitute for investigation of individual cases.

4. **Ensure that national anti-corruption strategies are accompanied by robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms**. These should incorporate multi-method approaches and balance precisely identifying causal relationships with assessing the generalizability of findings. This will support the measurement of effectiveness and encourage accountability.

5. **Encourage measurement surrounding the costs of corruption and how they are distributed**. This will facilitate a discussion about equity concerns in addressing corruption, and is a current gap in corruption measurement.