

**THE REGIONAL CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE  
OF  
THE FINANCIAL SERVICES  
COMMISSION  
IN  
COLLABORATION WITH  
THE ORGANISATION FOR  
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
AND  
DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



## **Virtual Workshop Details**

**SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO TACKLE CORRUPTION AND  
OTHER FINANCIAL CRIMES DURING COVID-19**

**7 APRIL 2022**

**TIME  
MAURITIUS TIME: 13:30-16:30 HRS  
UTC +2: 11:30 - 14:30 HRS**



More information on the workshop can be obtained on the FSC website [www.fscmauritius.org](http://www.fscmauritius.org)  
For any queries, you may contact us on 403 7000 (Ext 7367)/404 5652 or drop us an email on [rcemauritius@fsc.org](mailto:rcemauritius@fsc.org)

## OVERVIEW OF THE WORKSHOP

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the lives of many people worldwide and required governments to introduce sweeping public procurement and economic support packages to address the health and economic crisis faced by their citizens. In many instances, governments authorised significant public procurement packages through simplified and accelerated procedures.

The significant public expenditures, in combination with simplified procedures and less oversight by traditional public procurement safeguards, created integrity risks for corruption and other misconduct in the award of health and infrastructure projects to address COVID-19. Simultaneously, governments introduced extensive lockdown measures, limited the delivery of in-person government services and judiciary functions, and restricted movements across national borders in response to the spread of COVID-19, which posed unique challenges to law enforcement's ability to detect, investigate and prosecute corruption cases. In particular, law enforcement, procurement agencies, Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and other reporting entities faced logistical challenges in their efforts to detect the indices of corruption and other financial crimes. In fact, as outlined in a study conducted by the OECD's Anti-Corruption Division, an enduring challenge seen in the fight against corruption and foreign bribery continues to be the ability of law enforcement and other relevant stakeholders to detect such offences.

Nevertheless, there has been a number of high profile cases globally, including in Africa, related to public procurement of medical supplies and personal protection equipment, as well as, economic support packages. Emerging corruption-related case typologies show the involvement of Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), opaque beneficial ownership structures and corresponding money laundering and asset forfeiture cases related to emergency procurement and COVID-19 funding.

This upcoming workshop, in association with the OECD, will cover the work conducted by the OECD, relevant international organisations and countries in the region, to support anti-corruption efforts during COVID-19.

The **first session** will provide a general overview of the OECD's work and legal instruments, including the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and the related 2021 OECD Recommendation, as well as, outline the Anti-Corruption Division's (ACD) support of regional law enforcement networks during COVID-19. The session will also highlight the importance of co-operation and co-ordination between a variety of national, regional and international stakeholders to support national reforms and tackle corruption, foreign bribery and other related financial crimes.

The **second session** will explore national approaches to preventing, detecting, investigating and prosecuting corruption and financial crime cases. Additionally, speakers will reflect on the key challenges, as well as, the solutions identified to facilitate anti-corruption efforts during COVID-19.

### **OECD CONVENTION ON COMBATING BRIBERY OF FOREIGN PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS AND OECD RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER COMBATING BRIBERY OF FOREIGN PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS**

The OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (Anti-Bribery Convention) establishes legally binding standards to criminalise bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions and provides for a host of related measures that make this effective. It is the first and only international anti-corruption instrument focused on the 'supply side' of the bribery transaction. The OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions (Working Group) is responsible for monitoring the implementation and enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and related instruments. As of 2022, there are 38 Parties to the Convention.

The OECD's Recommendation of the Council for Further Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions was adopted on 26 November 2021 (2021 Recommendation). It complements the Anti-Bribery Convention with a view to further strengthening and supporting its implementation. In addition to enhancing the provisions already included in the 2009 Anti-Bribery Recommendation, the 2021 Recommendation includes sections on key topics that have emerged or significantly evolved in the anti-corruption area, including, *inter alia*, on strengthening enforcement of foreign bribery laws, addressing the demand side of foreign bribery, enhancing international co-operation, introducing principles on the use of non-trial resolutions in foreign bribery cases, incentivizing anti-corruption compliance by companies, and providing comprehensive and effective protection for reporting persons. It is one of the five OECD Recommendations which makes up the strong OECD anti-corruption framework, covering areas such as tax, official development assistance, export credits and state-owned enterprises.



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