

Key Documents

The following are selected historical and modern documents about combating corruption to promote examples from around the world:

United States

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 1974

<http://www.usdoj.gov/04foia/foiastat.htm>

Requires federal agencies to publish descriptions of their procedures and operations to make certain categories of documents available upon request.

The Government in the Sunshine Act, 1976

<http://www.usdoj.gov/04foia/gisastat.pdf>

Requires that meetings of federal agencies be open and observable by the public, with limited exemptions.

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), 1977

<http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud/fcpa.html>

Imposes criminal penalties on American enterprises that bribe officials of foreign governments.

Inspector General Act of 1978

http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title5a/5a_2_.html

Creates the Office of the Inspector General to promote government efficiency and combat corruption through audits, investigations and inspections

Presidential Proclamation 7750, Denial of Safe Haven to Corrupt Officials, 2004

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/01/20040112-3.html>

Authorizes the Secretary of State to deny entry into the U.S. to persons engaged in public corruption that harms American national interests or “the stability of democratic nations and institutions.”

National Strategy to Internationalize Efforts to Combat Kleptocracy, 2006

<http://www.state.gov/p/inl/corr/>

A package of policy initiatives designed to institutionalize cross-boarder cooperation to combat bribery and other forms of corruption, deny safe-havens to kleptocrats and to facilitate the repatriation of recovered assets.

International

African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, 2003

<http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/treaties.htm>

Establishes measures to identify and combat corruption through legislation and enforcement within the African Union.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Anticorruption and Transparency Initiative, 2004

http://www.apec.org/apec/apec_groups/som_special_task_groups/anti-corruption.html

Strengthens APEC's measures to prevent and fight corruption.

Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, 1999

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/173.htm>

Identifies acts of corruption to be criminalized in member countries such as bribery, money laundering and bank fraud.

Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption, 1999

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/174.htm>

Outlines accountability in instances of corruption and creates a system to repair the damage, such as protecting victims rights and financial reparations.

Economic Community of West African States Protocol on the Fight Against Corruption, 2001

http://www.transparency.org/global_priorities/international_conventions/regional_coverage/list/ecowas_protocol

Calls upon member states to harmonize criminal laws related to the practice of corruption across national boundaries.

Good Governance for Development in Arab States (GfD) Initiative, 2004

<http://www.arabgov-initiative.org/english/>

Asserts that political, economic, social and cultural reforms can foster transparent and effective government.

Group of Eight (G8), St. Petersburg Statement on Fighting High-Level Corruption, 2006

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/corruption.html>

Statement signed by G8 leaders committing to fighting corruption at the highest levels.

Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACAC), 1996

<http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/Treaties/b-58.html>

Establishes measures to detect, combat and eradicate corruption.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, 1997

http://www.oecd.org/document/21/0,2340,en_2649_37447_2017813_1_1_1_37447,00.html;

Calls for the criminalization and effective prevention of the bribery within global financial market.

Southern African Development Community Protocol Against Corruption, 2001

<http://www.sadc.int/english/documents/legal/protocols/corruption.php>

Outlines a system of self-evaluation, with the group expected to reconvene every two years to measure success and reform the protocol.

Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative for South Eastern Europe, 2000

http://spai-rslo.org/documents/spai_related/Compact%20and%20Action%20Plan.pdf

Member states commit to complying with major international measures on corruption including those by the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations. Creates an Anti-Corruption Steering Group to monitor corruption and target problem areas.

United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), 2003

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime_convention_corruption.html

Outlines the responsibilities and tasks of states, private corporations and public officials in the fight against corruption.