

APPENDIX

FORMAT FOR STATES TO PRESENT THEIR EXPERIENCES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LESSONS LEARNED IN PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION, AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

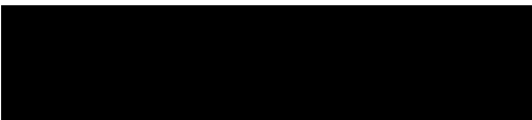
1. Title: Title for the issue to be discussed and Convention subject area to which it relates:

[Corruption Control and Mitigation in a time of Crisis – Building Effective Systems – The Jamaican Experience](#)

2. Institution: Name of the institution, body, or authority responsible for the issue and of the person who will deliver the oral presentation at the special session of the Committee, with contact information (e-mail and direct phone number to reach that person):

[Integrity Commission – Jamaica](#)

[Maurice Barrett](#)



3. Experience: Please provide a brief summary of your experience in terms of the issue at hand, detailing any obstacles, difficulties, and/or challenges encountered in this field as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has challenged many known norms, inclusive of the general conduct of business within the public and private sphere. The Integrity Commission, like many other anti-corruption bodies has been faced with the stark reality of providing oversight in the award and implementation of government contracts whilst also ensuring compliance with the systems for registering and declaring the income, assets and liabilities of public officers/officials.

Challenges have revolved around the quick pace for which service delivery is expected, if not demanded, whilst seeking to ensure the systems of transparency, accountability and equity hold true amidst the absence of clearly defined rules to treat with the novel circumstances of social distancing and remote and/or virtual conduct of activities.

In many regards, there has been an increase in the pace of activities directly related to the fight against COVID-19, whilst other, less directly related expenditure has been impacted due to delays due to reallocation of funds or the absence of personnel to facilitate activities such as timely reporting.

4. **Developments:** Please briefly outline what action was taken by the state to deal with the obstacles, difficulties, and/or challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic with respect to the experience in the area covered, including practical steps taken, e.g., those related to the use of new information and communication technologies (ICTs), adoption or amendment of laws, institutional reforms, or other measures:

Steps taken:

1. Sensitization and signaling to all stakeholders that the Integrity Commission remained vigilant whilst actively providing oversight for Government Procurement and contract related activities, particularly those which were directly related to the health sector and key sectors involved in tackling the pandemic.
2. The development of a decentralized submission facility to ensure that Declarants can safely and conveniently meet reporting obligations in regard to Asset Declarations without fear of jeopardizing their health and well-being.
3. Actively pursuing the development of the Commission's Information Technology Systems and processes to facilitate the digitization of records and access to information remotely.
4. Securing exemptions for Staff from work from home and curfew restrictions, via the mechanisms of the relevant legislation and Ministerial Orders, in an effort to maintain presence and business continuity.
5. Reliance on ICT to continue delivery of sensitization and training sessions to relevant stakeholders.

5. **Lessons:** Please briefly describe the lessons learned from the experience discussed and the steps that had to be taken to address the obstacles, difficulties, and/or related challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Innovation and proactivity is a key component of addressing the challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Partnership and stakeholder engagement is critical to bridging the gap between pre-existing norms and the challenges stemming from the pandemic.

6. **Action needed:** Please briefly state whether you feel that, besides the steps already taken, other measures are needed to effectively deal with the obstacles, difficulties, and/or challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic as regards the Convention subject area to which your experience relates, and what those actions might be:

7. Contact: Please state whom to contact for further information, and the contact details (name, email, and direct phone number to reach that person):

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