



## **G7 Key Messages on Public Integrity**

We acknowledge that a public integrity system that promotes a culture of integrity across the public sector at large is a major requirement in combatting corruption. Leveraging our common values and high standards, we resolve to play a leading role in advocating, at home and abroad, for a culture of public integrity that ensures a proper use of public resources, accountability as well as effective multi-stakeholder initiatives. Preventing corruption and promoting integrity can help shape a more efficient public sector with respect to the allocation and management of financial and human resources, delivery of quality services and the creation of job opportunities, thus contributing also to the reduction of social inequalities. Integrity-based policies to prevent corruption can also improve the public governance system and induce renewed public confidence in government, notably in institutions performing the state's core administrative and regulatory functions, as well as encourage democratic participation. Strengthening public integrity is also a key issue for the business environment and for sustainable development.

We emphasize that the United Nations Convention against Corruption provides an important baseline for international cooperation to combat corruption. We reiterate the G7's call for all States to become State Parties to the Convention and to effectively implement its provisions.

We will promote, in our own systems and through our engagement with other Countries, values of integrity, openness and fairness in order to continue preventing corruption and malfeasance in the public sector, especially through:

- a) Encouraging other Countries to strengthen public integrity and implement the related policies and practices, consistent with the main internationally agreed standards, such as the OECD Recommendation on Public Integrity adopted in January 2017.
- b) Sharing best practices in innovative solutions and peer-to peer learning, for example in the fields of training and of codes of conduct for public officials, ethics commissions, risk assessment capacity and mitigating measures to address corruption risks. Investing in integrity leadership is as crucial as championing anti-corruption standards at all levels of public administrations and among public officials.
- c) Supporting anti-corruption technical assistance that can include preventative measures and enforcement mechanisms, inter alia harnessing a merit-based professional public sector, transparent and accountable institutions, effective control and risk management.

We recognize that an effective public integrity system also requires engagement with business and civil society. In adherence to the main international frameworks, as well as the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16, we will foster a multi-stakeholder approach, especially through:

- a) Promoting a “whole-of-society” culture of public integrity by acknowledging the important roles that the private sector, professionals, academia, civil society and media can play in affirming integrity values and standards, both in their interactions with the public sector and with each other, and in holding governments accountable. We will lead by example in this regard and will engage other Countries to support their pursuit of the same approach, inter alia advocating the appropriate involvement of civil society organizations in anti-corruption peer-review processes.
- b) Carrying out training and awareness-raising campaigns, exposing the benefits of anticorruption behaviors that include commitment to open, transparent and accountable governments, reduced tolerance of corruption and impunity, lower levels of integrity violations and rule breaking.

In addition, we recognize the need for increased accountability and for upholding the public interest by promoting transparency and stakeholder engagement. The Open Government Partnership is a valuable example in this regard. We resolve to promote open and accountable governments around the world, to foster access to information and open data and to encourage engagement with the private sector, civil society and individuals in designing and implementing public policies to combat corruption domestically and globally. Finally, we will work to strengthen and promote these principles in international anticorruption fora and through technical assistance and capacity building programs.