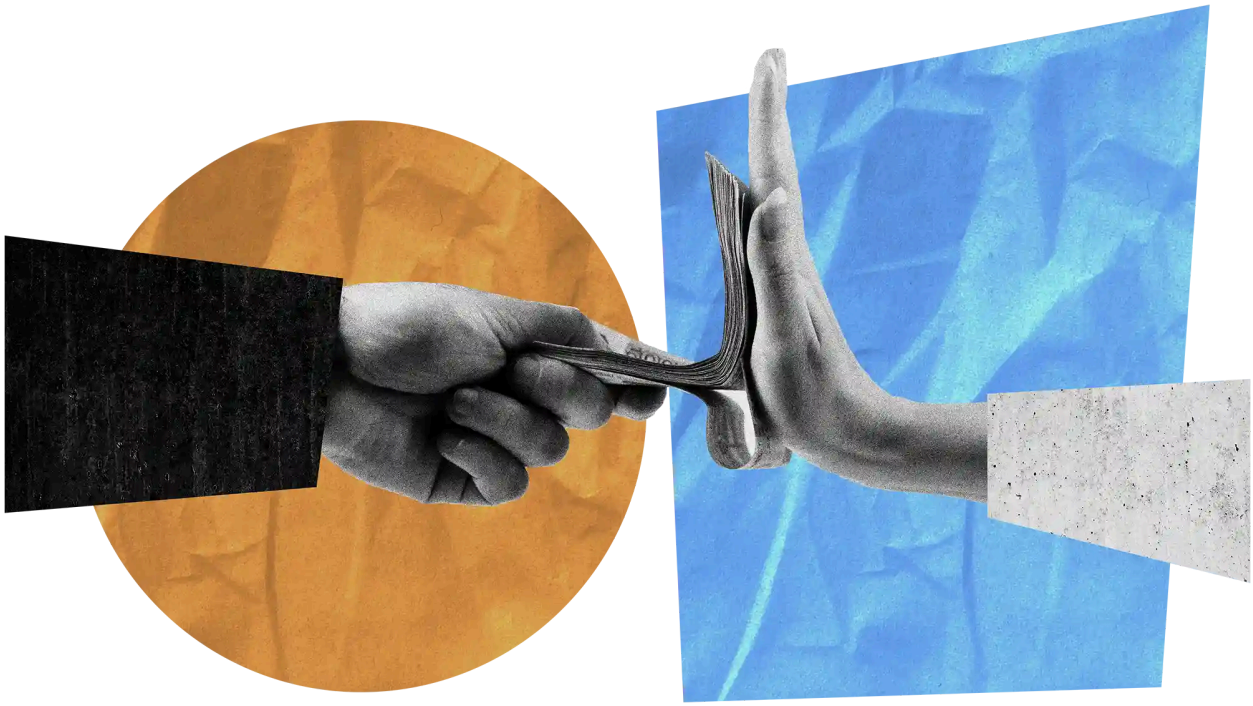


HLRM

High Level Reporting Mechanism

A channel to raise and quickly resolve alerts about suspected bribery or unfair business practices in public tenders

The High Level Reporting Mechanism (HLRM) enables alerts about suspected bribery or unfair business practices in public tenders to be raised and quickly resolved. Independent yet authoritative, it acts like an escape valve, defusing potential corruption-related issues before they cause damage.

the government as a whole.

Developed by the Basel Institute on Governance, OECD and Transparency International, the HLRM is designed to meet private sector demands for a fast, independent and effective mechanism to address bribe solicitation by public officials. The concept is supported by the G20 and B20 business leaders around the world.

The Basel Institute on Governance and OECD offer comprehensive support to governments in developing, implementing and monitoring an effective HLRM. Contact the team for more information.

KEY BENEFITS

How High Level Reporting Mechanisms will benefit you

Good for governments

- Demonstrates high-level political commitment to fight corruption
- Sends a strong message that public procurement processes will be clean and fair
- Flexible and easy to set up within existing institutions
- Reinforces existing anti-corruption measures

Good for business

- Fast, effective way to raise concerns
- Levels the playing field in public procurement processes
- Gives new players the confidence to bid for public projects, boosting competition and innovation
- Greater peace of mind regarding compliance
- Cuts delays in the procurement process and final awarding of the contract

Good for citizens

- Gives confidence that public resources are being used responsibly
- Public works contracts are more likely to be awarded to the bidder offering the best value for money
- Smooth procurement process means projects should start on schedule
- If appropriate, HLRMs can allow for citizens or civil society groups to raise alerts
- Less likely that public funds will be needed to pay for lengthy legal investigations into corruption

Colombia

Colombia has led the way in adopting and expanding the HLRM concept. It developed the first HLRM in 2013 to ensure a smooth and fair public tender process for the national 4G road infrastructure project.

Read case study

Argentina

Argentina launched an HLRM in January 2018. In the pilot phase launched in April 2018, it applied to public-private partnership (PPP) contracts under a National Highways Directorate (Dirección Nacional de Vialidad, DNV) project to develop 7,500 km of new highways and safe routes.

Read case study

Ukraine

Ukraine's Business Ombudsman Council (BOC) is now the primary channel for companies to report unfair business practices. It was formally established in May 2015 as a result of discussions with various stakeholders.

Read case study

The Government of Panama originally envisaged the HLRM to apply to tenders in the infrastructure, but in 2015, decided to change the focus and apply the HLRM to oversee public procurement by the national Social Security Fund.

Read case study

HOW THE HLRM WORKS

The concept is simple and designed to be tailored to each country and project.

Collaborative Design

Representatives of the public sector, business and civil society contribute to designing a HLRM that meets the needs of all stakeholders.

Easy implementation

The HLRM is simple to implement in new or existing projects. It complements existing anti-corruption measures and is not weighed down by bureaucracy.

situations through secure, easily accessible channels.

Rapid response

The designated independent panel of experts quickly analyses the alert and gathers all necessary information.

Transparent resolution

Through open discussion and mediation with all relevant actors, the issue is resolved with minimal loss of time and money.

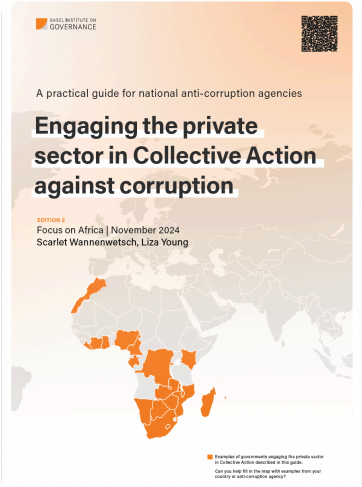
Process protected

The project can then continue smoothly, with enhanced levels of trust between public and private stakeholders.

Continuous improvement

As an independent mechanism with a close-up view of corruption issues in public tenders, the HLRM is a useful source of analysis and advice for governments.

Related publications



GUIDELINES, REPORT

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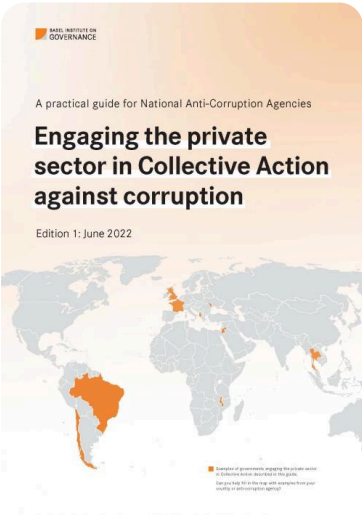

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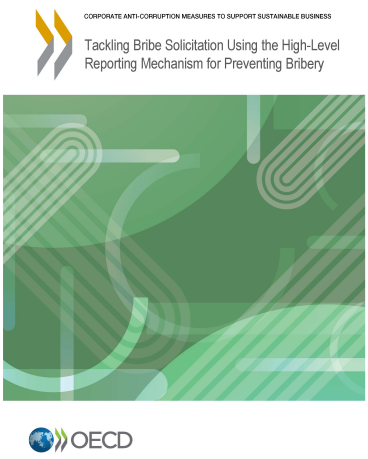

REPORT

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2020 | OECD

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Gemma Aiolfi, Kyle Forness, Monica Guy

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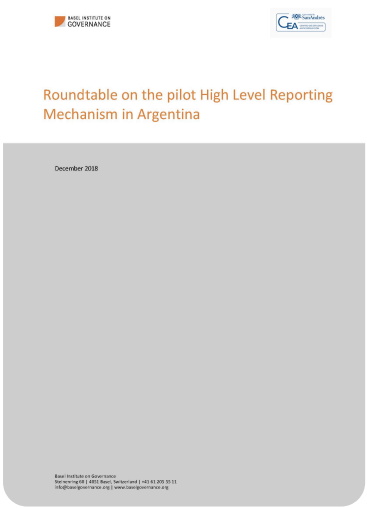

REPORT

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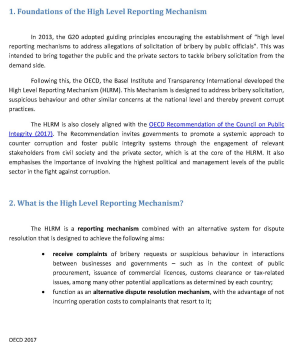

1. Foundations of the High Level Reporting Mechanism

In 2013, the G20 adopted guiding principles encouraging the establishment of "high level reporting mechanisms to address allegations of solicitation of bribery by public officials". This was intended to bring together the public and the private sectors to tackle bribery solicitation from the demand side.

Following this, the OECD, the Basel Institute and Transparency International developed the High Level Reporting Mechanism (HLRM). This Mechanism is designed to address bribery solicitation, suspicious behaviour and other similar concerns at the national level and thereby prevent corrupt practices.

The HLRM is also closely aligned with the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Public Integrity (2017). The Recommendation invites governments to promote a systemic approach to counter corruption and foster public integrity systems through the engagement of relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector, which is at the core of the HLRM. It also emphasises the importance of involving the highest political and management levels of the public sector in the fight against corruption.

2. What is the High Level Reporting Mechanism?

The HLRM is a **reporting mechanism** combined with an alternative system for dispute resolution that is designed to achieve the following aims:

- **receive complaints** of bribery requests or suspicious behaviour in interactions between businesses and governments – such as in the context of public procurement, issuance of commercial licences, customs clearance or tax-related issues, among many other potential applications as determined by each country;
- function as an **alternative dispute resolution mechanism**, with the advantage of not incurring operation costs to complainants that resort to it;

OECD 2017

A tool to help prevent bribery and related practices

2017 | OECD, Basel Institute on Governance

WORKING PAPER

Working Paper 19: High Level Reporting Mechanisms in Colombia and Ukraine

2015 | Basel Institute on Governance

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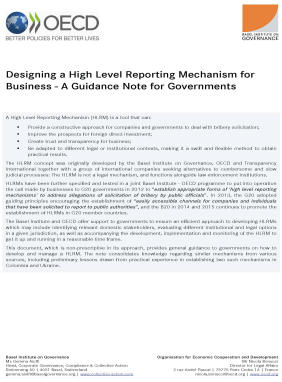

GUIDELINES

Designing a High Level Reporting Mechanism for Business - A Guidance Note for Governments

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