

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

UNDP and Ministry of Justice Launch UNCAC Self-Assessment Exercise

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ), with technical and financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will conduct a self-assessment exercise on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in Romania. The objective of this partnership is to strengthen the capacity of the MoJ for the UNCAC Self-Assessment process (Going beyond the Minimum Approach). This national exercise seeks to achieve a comparative analysis of the extent to which a country's national anti-corruption systems, notably its laws, regulations, policies, institutions and programs are complying with the requirements of UNCAC, both de jure and de facto.

UNCAC has four main areas that will be covered by this review: prevention in Chapter II, criminalization and law enforcement in Chapter III, international cooperation in Chapter IV, and asset recovery in Chapter V. The Self-Assessment Checklist, a computer-based application, requests countries to indicate whether they have complied with each provision of UNCAC and to provide or attach detailed information to substantiate their responses. The UNCAC self-assessment is an opportunity to engage in national dialogue on anti-corruption policies and programmes and stimulate reforms to curb corruption. By agreeing to implement the UNDP "going beyond the minimum" review methodology, Romania has committed to achieve more than just the minimum standards. In practice, this is a sign of political will and openness and a commitment to create opportunities to engage with civil society and to building trust.

The Ministry of Justice will lead and coordinate the entire process, while the UNDP will have a supporting role to the Secretariat. The total funding for this exercise is USD 20.000 covered entirely by UNDP.

This partnership is carried out in the framework of Romania's evaluation within the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of UNCAC. The implementation of the Convention by States Parties is reviewed in two successive cycles of five years each. Under this system, each State Party examines and shall be further examined once every five years. Romania is scheduled to be reviewed for 2012-2013 by France and Estonia, on Chapters III and IV.

Moreover, this exercise is a result of the National Anticorruption Strategy 2012-2015, that provides, among its measures, "*Implementing international standards and promoting an active role of Romania within the regional and international anticorruption initiatives*".

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.