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# THE WAY FORWARD



# Chapter 4 - The way forward

**The research conducted for the present guide has revealed great potential for meaningful youth engagement by anti-corruption authorities.** Engaging young people can help anti-corruption authorities overcome some of the challenges they are facing, thus actively contributing to their success. Although youth engagement is already widely practised by many anti-corruption authorities, there is ample room for improvement. More agencies can start to engage young people and those already doing so can improve their efforts by adopting meaningful youth engagement-focused approaches. This will significantly increase capacity and resources to support the fight against corruption.

**A policy guide is not the ultimate solution, but a stepping stone on the global journey of meaningfully engaging young people in the work of anti-corruption authorities.** The topic is high on the agenda of organizations around the world, including anti-corruption authorities. However, there is a gap between the high levels of willingness and the low levels of research, knowledge and capacity available to anti-corruption authorities. Based on an analysis of the current situation, the present guide provides initial guidance on how anti-corruption authorities should approach the topic. Meaningful youth engagement in other fields and institutions may be more advanced. Transferring and adapting knowledge and good practices will help improve youth engagement in the work of anti-corruption authorities.





## A call to action: More is needed

### **Technical resources:**

Agencies that want to engage young people need guidance and support in the form of practical contextualized implementation tools for carrying out institutional readiness assessments and improvements; establishing “go-to” youth networks; creating case studies and examples of good practice, and training and capacity-building programmes; and facilitating intergenerational sharing of good practices and lessons learned. Additionally, more research is needed to foster a better understanding of the key factors needed for successful meaningful youth engagement and for measuring performance, supported by data from anti-corruption work and the work of anti-corruption authorities.

The core principle underpinning theme 4 is that the opportunities for young people must be relevant to anti-corruption work, sustained and aligned with their capabilities.



### **Financial resources and technical assistance:**

In addition to capacity building, many anti-corruption authorities require financial support and technical assistance, particularly at the onset of their meaningful youth engagement journeys, in order to implement meaningful youth engagement in their operations. As described in the present guide, meaningful youth engagement requires agencies to apply significant initial efforts, which will pay dividends later. This is a challenge that many anti-corruption authorities are unlikely to be able to overcome without external assistance.

The project partners and the organizations engaged in the research and development of the present guide are committed to further building on the momentum relating to this important topic and to supporting the journey of the anti-corruption authorities toward the stronger engagement of young people in their work.

ICAC has set up a [web portal](#) to accompany the present guide and to serve as a global knowledge hub for meaningful youth engagement by anti-corruption authorities. The portal will act as a central landing platform for anti-corruption authorities and other anti-corruption practitioners through which they can share resources, experiences, expertise, good practices and tools. ICAC also actively shares its experience in young engagement with anti-corruption authorities around the world through seminars, workshops and training programmes.

UNODC supports anti-corruption authorities in their efforts in relation to holistic and comprehensive anti-corruption approaches by providing tools to develop the capacity of different stakeholders, including educators and young people. The Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment initiative is aimed at promoting the role of education and youth empowerment in preventing and countering corruption by bringing knowledge and experience working with educators, academics, young people and anti-corruption authorities to the international community in order to foster a culture of rejection corruption.





National anti-corruption authorities have expressed a keen interest in starting to engage young people and strengthening their efforts to do so, and many have already contributed their lessons learned as case studies for peer learning.

The Youth Advisory Board was created as a global forum to support the development of the present guide, ensuring that young people are part of this journey from the beginning, both at the national and international levels. Expanding this forum, and in particular creating similar structures at the national level, is vital. The Youth Advisory Board has welcomed the development of the present guide and prepared a call to action for following up on its implementation (see page vii). Young people have consistently confirmed their willingness and enthusiasm in pursuing meaningful intergenerational partnerships with anti-corruption authorities on their youth engagement journeys.

An expert group of 18 professionals with extensive knowledge of the subject and 9 Youth Advisory Board members was set up at the start of this project. This intergenerational group constitutes another important component of an international community on meaningful youth engagement brought together by this project. The group is keen to cooperate with and support anti-corruption authorities that are eager to support the implementation of the guidance created by this project.

Hopefully, the present guide is the first step in a journey that leads to anti-corruption authorities around the world meaningfully engaging young people to support their organizations in the fight against corruption. The interest and enthusiasm that these partners, including anti-corruption authorities, have expressed in the topic, in sharing their experience, in learning more and in actively engaging has been inspiring. They give reason to hope that this guide will be the catalyst for the creation of a broad and diverse international intergenerational community dedicated to increasing and improving meaningful youth engagement at anti-corruption authorities, and that this guide will be the first document in a growing body of knowledge and guidance on this important topic.

