



Organization  
*for*  
Responsible  
Governance

# **SUMMARY PAPER:**

## **A Proposed Integrated Anti Corruption Framework for The Bahamas:**

**Reducing the Instance and Perception of Corruption and Promoting Integrity**

**Version 1**

**Last Edited: November 2024**

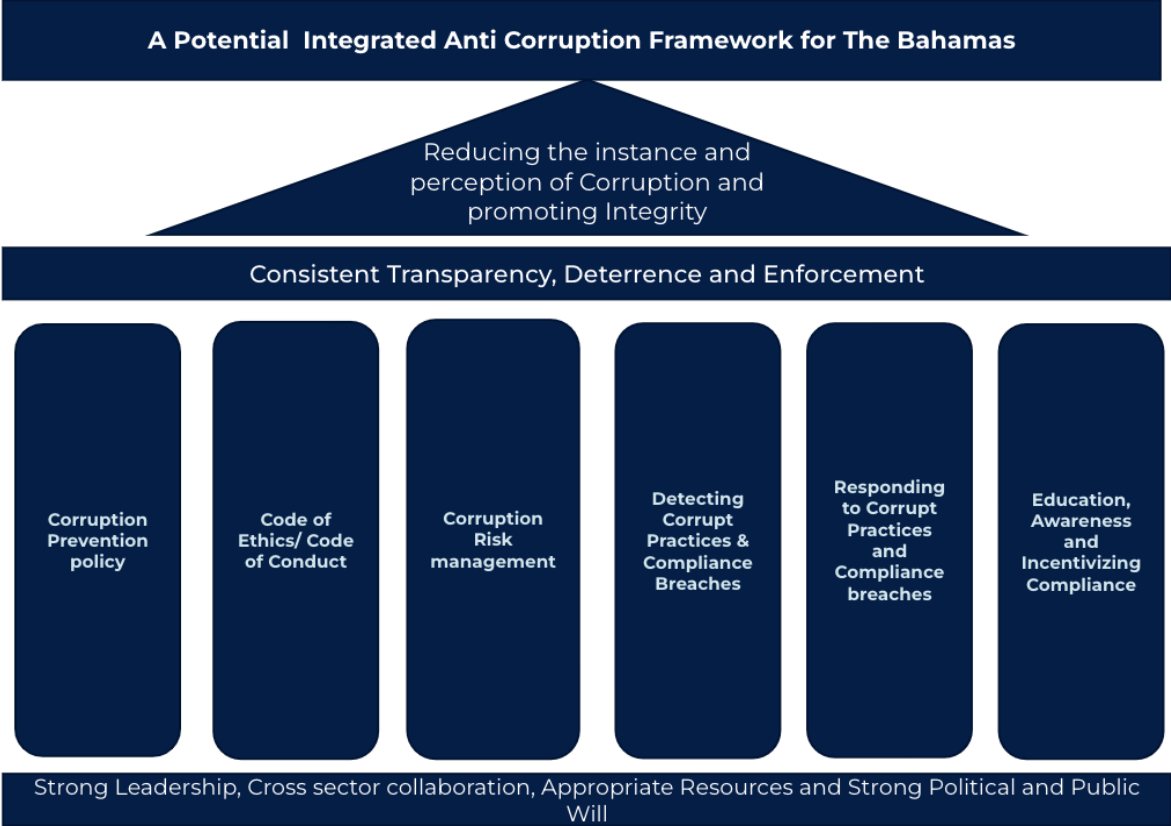
# Introduction

Corruption is a global issue that threatens the fabrics of systems of governance around the world, transcending social and political boundaries and degrading public trust, fiscal responsibility and the rule of law. It describes the act of a person in a position of power of authority, utilizing their position to acquire benefits for their personal gain through the abuse of power. Corruption can disrupt entire institutions and structures of governance across the public sector, private sector and civil society.

Since 2015, the Organization for Responsible Governance (ORG) has highlighted that a key to well-governed Bahamas is the promotion and integration of the the 8 principles of good governance: accountability, transparency, rule of law, participation, inclusion & equity, effectiveness & efficiency, responsiveness, and consensus. The benchmarks of each of these standards, as endorsed by the UN, World Bank and other multilateral and inter-governmental organizations around the world, affirm that corruption is a viable threat to the attainment of good governance within a society.

ORG is committed to supporting The Bahamas’ fight against corruption, and is putting forth “A Proposed Integrated Anti-Corruption for The Bahamas” that focuses on reducing the instances and perception of corruption in The Bahamas, while promoting integrity as a viable solution.

The framework suggests that consistent transparency, deterrence & enforcement enforcement of anti-corruption policies and measures be applied across six key areas:



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## Corruption Prevention Policies



Corruption prevention policies are regulations put in place to proactively identify operations that are at moderate-to-high risk of acts of corruption and implement measures to limit and mitigate against the risk.



Learn more in our full paper on [www.orgbahamas.com](http://www.orgbahamas.com)



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## Codes of Ethics & Conduct

Codes of Ethics & Codes of Conduct underscore accountable governance by ensuring that those that are in positions of power and authority have set expectations on ethical conduct and interactions with the public and other officials and staff agencies across sectors. These also establish a public understanding of the expected behavior of those in power, which is key to building and maintaining public trust.

Learn more in our full paper on [www.orgbahamas.com](http://www.orgbahamas.com)

## Corruption Risk Management

Corruption Risk Management measures and tools are implemented proactively to ensure ongoing measures for reporting and monitoring public resources, and persons in positions of power are effective.



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## Detecting Corrupt Practices



Mechanisms to detect corrupt practices and breaches in compliance are paramount to deterring acts of corruption and swiftly identifying and addressing acts that occur. When clearly communicated, these measures also strengthen public trust.



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## Responding to Corrupt Practices

Mechanisms to respond to corrupt practices and breaches in compliance provide the opportunity to restore and strengthen systems of governance after acts of corruption and rebuild public confidence in systems and sectors. These mechanisms are key in strengthening accountability and transparency in governance in The Bahamas and effective enforcement can deter future acts of corruption.

Learn more in our full paper on [www.orgbahamas.com](http://www.orgbahamas.com)

## Education, Awareness & Incentives

The education, engagement and collaboration of the citizenry of The Bahamas is essential to combatting corruption, reducing the perception of corruption where it is not happening and building a culture of integrity.



Learn more in our full paper on [www.orgbahamas.com](http://www.orgbahamas.com)

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## **General Recommendations & Next Steps**

ORG offers the following recommendations based on local experience, insights from previous initiatives, and feedback from our regional partners:

### **1. Strengthen Cross-Sector Dialogues**

ORG recommends ongoing, robust dialogue among citizens, civil society, the private sector, and government. Involving all sectors in meaningful conversations ensures that diverse perspectives are included in decision-making processes and that solutions reflect the lived experiences of citizens and businesses in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like The Bahamas.

### **2. Promote Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms**

Although the passage of legislation is a positive step, it is critical to enhance monitoring mechanisms that ensure compliance. ORG suggests the creation of an independent, publicly accessible framework to track government performance in areas such as procurement, public spending, and law enforcement.

### **3. Advance Anti-Corruption Laws and Frameworks**

ORG encourages the government to expedite the passing and implementation of an Integrity Commission Act, A revised Public Disclosures Act, fully enacted and resourced Freedom of Information, Procurement, and Ombudsman Acts, and strengthen the enforcement of existing anti-corruption laws.

### **4. National Annual Integrity Campaign**

ORG proposes the launch of an Annual National Integrity Campaign, a multi-sector initiative aimed at shifting cultural attitudes toward corruption. This campaign would unite stakeholders across civil society, media, and government to promote integrity as a national value.

### **5. Regional Cooperation and Capacity Building**

ORG advocates for the inclusion of Caribbean-specific challenges in the 2025 Summit of the Americas discussions. Enhanced regional cooperation is critical to addressing issues like government transparency and corruption in smaller economies. ORG calls for the establishment of a permanent **\*\*Regional Civil Society Forum\*\***, focusing on issues such as climate justice, disaster risk reduction, and anti-corruption efforts that are specific to SIDS.

### **6. Civil Society's Role in Governance**

Civil society organizations (CSOs) must play a more proactive role in governance and policy development. The full implementation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act is essential to empowering citizens and CSOs to hold the government accountable. Public consultation practices must also be institutionalized, ensuring citizens have a voice in governance.

The full Proposed Integrated Ant-Corruption Framework for The Bahamas can be found on our website at [www.orgbahamas.com](http://www.orgbahamas.com)