

BELIZE

Belize has taken steps, outlined below, to implement de Convention.

1. First, legislatively, the Belize Constitution, in section 121, prescribes a code of conduct for persons in public life. The code prescribes conduct (a) that results in conflict of interest, or places an office into disrepute or embarrassment, (b) enriches an officer for private gain by performing the duties of his office.
2. Belize also has a Prevention of Corruption Act that prohibits specified acts which are defined as a constitutive of corrupt practices. This Act applies to private persons, including corporations.
3. Belize also has a Prevention of Corruption in Public Life Act that (a) prohibits certain conduct by persons in public life (i-e. public officers) and defines the prohibited acts as constituting corruption, (b) requires senior public officers to furnish annually a statement of their income, assets and liabilities for publication in the Gazette.
4. A meeting was held in Belize City in 2003, funded jointly by the OAS and the Government of Belize (a) to train and sensitize senior government officials and members of civil society against the adverse effects of corruption.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Belize was the keynote speaker, and he committed the Government to observe good governance principles, and to fight against corruption.

5. At the said meeting, a Bill was discussed which sought to amend the laws of Belize to ensure compliance with the Convention.
6. The Cabinet of Belize adopted a decision to observe principles of good governance, and specifically condemned corruption.
7. The Government of Belize is working towards the completion of the Questionnaire relating to the Convention. This will be done before the next meeting of the Committee.
8. There are also financial guidelines for public officers in the handling of public funds, which establish a tenders committee to oversee the award of contracts by public officers of a value of over US\$5,000.

Attorney General's Ministry
BELIZE
February 4, 2004.