CONTRIBUTION FOR SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGAINST
CORRUPTION 2021

TECHNOLOGY AS BASE OF A NEW ACCOUNTABILITY OF DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNANCE

The members of the iberoamerican network “EL DERECHO INFORMATICO”
welcome the resolution 74/226 of the General Assembly entitled, in which it decided to
encourage different stakeholders to make contributions for the preparation process of the
general assembly against corruption 2021.

In this context, as collective of professionals and technicians specialized in law and
new technologies since 2008, we feel extremely grateful for the possibility of pointing out
the importance of using digital tools in the fight against corruption.

For the states parties and for the rest of the actors related to them, a new reality
has been developing, changed by the covid-19 pandemic. In this new scenario, the
governments were forced to use digital tools as mechanism for making purchases of
medical supplies, official communications, and accountability systems to their citizens.

This situation has generated a great concentration of information about decisions
and actions made in the framework of the pandemic in the public powers. Also, this
concentration was characterized for not having a public and satisfactory accountability1.

1 “…the response to the virus is creating new opportunities to exploit weak oversight and inadequate
transparency, diverting funds away from people in their hour of greatest need…”. https://bit.ly/319KzvH.
Visited 12-08-2020.
In this sense, reinforcing the government’s accountability is an urgent need, as secretary Guterres said on October 2020\(^2\).

For all this, as a group, we´re highly recommend the promotion and use of new technologies as one of the main axes to take in consideration for the states parties in favor of guaranteeing the transparency in middle of covid-19 pandemic.

Also, we recommended the promotion and incentive to the governments for having open data and digital platforms for the processes of this data, as well as other digital tools, not just to measure and guaranteeing the transparency of the information, but also to add additional strength to the checks and balances system. From this perspective, all those tools could play a decisive role in the reduction of the time and upscaling the quality on the investigations and prosecution of corruption cases both in criminal and administrative jurisdictions, and even increase the public trust in institutions.

Finally, as group we recommended the creation of specific guidelines and making methods of measures from monitoring their use, level of guarantee of human rights and ethics principles in their implementations an execution and measures the impact on the use of digital tools for the prevention and prosecution phases in cases of high-level corruption.

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\(^2\) “...we must create more robust systems for accountability & transparency without delay...”. https://twitter.com/antonioguterres/status/1316710419017289731. Visited 12-08-2020.