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Corruption and Tourism Sector

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Corruption and Tourism Sector

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CONTENTS

1 Introduction 1

2 Role of Institutional Integrity in Advancing Tourism Industry.....2

3 Challenges of Good Governance in Key Tourism Sectors 5

4 Selected Policies and Practices for Addressing Corruption in Tourism Sector 7

5 Conclusion and Policy Recommendations.....12

References 14

1 Introduction

Tourism plays a crucial role in the global sustainable development and prosperity. In 2024, the tourism industry generated US$ 11.1 trillion globally, accounting for 10% of the world's GDP, while employing 348 million people corresponding to 10.4% of the total employment. OIC countries received approximately $921 billion in income from the tourism sector, which accounted for 7.3% of their total GDP in the same year. The tourism sector employed more than 50 million people, representing 7.2% of total employment in OIC countries, and its importance has been growing steadily. The annual growth rate of the sector's contribution to GDP was estimated to be around 12% in 2024, while employment in the sector grew at 5.5%, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council estimates (WTTC, 2024).

Tourism is a vital economic sector and essential for sustainable development, as well as it is a cornerstone of cultural exchange that enables connections between peoples and nations worldwide. The abundant historic, cultural, and natural heritage of OIC countries provides numerous opportunities to develop sustainable, ethical, and inclusive tourism, which is essential for social wellbeing and economic progress. However, it is important to recognise that the success of the tourism industry is greatly influenced by people's choice to travel to a destination, which is significantly impacted by safety, security and the rule of law. Countries that have embraced good governance principles, or are in the process of doing so, have been notably successful in harnessing their tourism potential (Ekine, 2018; Bayar, 2023; Abu, 2024).

In this context, besides improving infrastructure and connectivity, widespread use of digitalisation and information technologies, ensuring security and safety and the efficiency and integrity of public institutions are crucial for the sector's growth. Notably, among various economic sectors, tourism is particularly sensitive to the quality of governance, effectiveness of institutional frameworks, and control of corruption. This brief study aims to explore how institutional integrity can contribute to the growth of the tourism industry, highlighting the importance of sustainable tourism and good governance. It then examines the challenges to good governance in key tourism sectors, explores proven strategies and practices for reducing corruption in the tourism sector, and finally presents policy recommendations based on the findings.

2 Role of Institutional Integrity in Advancing Tourism Industry

Maintaining institutional integrity is crucial for tourism development as it increases the demand for tourism services and products, stimulates foreign investment, enhances private sector competitiveness, and promotes heritage preservation. Institutional integrity and corruption control are interconnected aspects of good governance, along with transparency, accountability, rule of law and others, shaping the overall societal and institutional culture.

2.1 Importance of good governance

Governance refers to the process of directing and managing public institutions through regulations and various mechanisms. It is exemplified by the active involvement of public officers and government employees in these processes. Good governance does not only involve integrating normative principles into governance, but also focuses on enhancing its effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. There is no universal definition of good governance, but it is commonly characterised by accountability, transparency, the rule of law, government effectiveness, equity and inclusivity, and effective minimisation of corruption.

Good governance is an important determinant of social and economic development in a country. The majority of studies in the field put forward the importance of effective institutions and overall good governance for socioeconomic development. Particularly, academic research has shown a positive impact of the quality of institutions or control of corruption on economic growth. However, due to limitations in measuring, estimating, defining and identifying the impact of corruption, there are also some studies that were unable to find a clear connection between the two indicators. Primarily, scholars argue that corruption reduces tourism demand. From an economic perspective, corruption impedes economic growth, resulting in lower levels of development in the tourism sector (Dossou et al., 2021; Ehigiamusoe, 2021; Oh, 2005). Effective analysis of the tourism sector requires acknowledging the multiple (direct and indirect) pathways through which corruption negatively affects tourism performance and how anti-corruption efforts positively impact it.

Corruption acts as a barrier to developing the tourism sector particularly because it negatively affects private sector companies. Corruption hinders foreign direct investment, and innovative practices in the tourism sector. Foreign and domestic investors as well as multinational companies are less likely to invest in the sector due to low investment protection, ineffective institutions, and underperformance in other dimensions of good governance. Furthermore, private sector companies operating in the tourism sector will be less motivated to invest in innovation, digitalisation, and introducing more sustainable practices. In other words, corruption

undermines private sector growth and suppresses innovation, both of which are critical for the advancement of the tourism industry.

2.2 Sustainable tourism: preserving cultural and natural heritage sites, protected areas and national parks

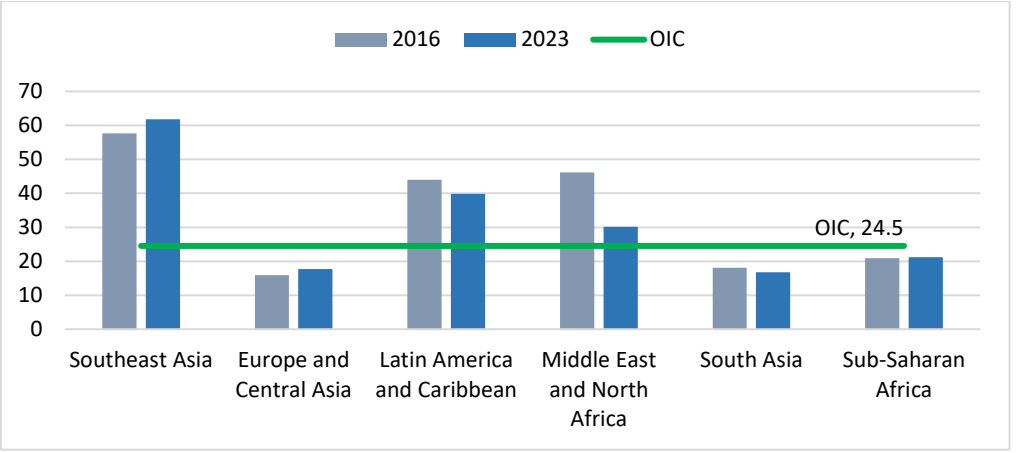
Developing sustainable tourism in the OIC is crucial. The importance of sustainable tourism lies in its ability to address economic, environmental, cultural, and social concerns. According to leading global institutions in the field, UNEP and UNWTO (2005), sustainable tourism should focus on responsible utilisation of environmental resources, preserving the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities by protecting cultural heritage, traditional values, and fostering intercultural cooperation and tolerance; and ensuring the long-term viability of economic operations by providing fairly distributed socio-economic benefits to host communities.

OIC countries possess immense untapped potential for sustainable tourism development, given their rich cultural heritage and abundant natural resources. With 231 UNESCO World Heritage sites, representing about one-fifth (19%) of the world total (1,199; as recorded between 1978 and 2023), OIC countries are well positioned to lead in this sector.

Developing sustainable tourism requires principles of good governance, including institutional integrity, informed participation of people and businesses as key stakeholders, political leadership for effective consensus-building, control of corruption to ensure fairness and equality in decision-making, and continuous monitoring and evaluation of the tourism sector's impact. OIC countries are abundant with Cross-Border National Parks and Protected Areas particularly in West Africa, where several ongoing projects aim to develop sustainable practices by preserving protected areas and national parks flora and fauna, empowering local communities and attracting more visitors.

Despite its significant potential, tourism development remains slow in many OIC countries due to various reasons. For example, Adeola et al. (2018), Ofori et al. (2021), Xu et al. (2021), and Osinubi et al. (2021) attribute the underperformance of the tourism sector in Africa to poor infrastructure, political instability, weak policy implementation, insecurity, and a lack of commitment to address corruption. In additions, Schoeberlein (2020) highlights that corruption remains a major challenge, while Osinubi et al. (2021) further categorise different types of corruption affecting the continent such as bribery, fraud, embezzlement, smuggling, money laundering, election rigging and forgery.

Figure 1. *Worldwide Governance Indicators: Median Percentile Rank of Control of Corruption in OIC Sub-regions*



Source: SESRIC Staff calculations based on the Worldwide Governance Indicators, 2024 Update, World Bank (www.govindicators.org).

The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) offer insights into patterns and perceptions of governance quality across 200 economies from 1996 to 2023. The WGI is an aggregate indicator based on six dimensions of governance, including; voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence/terrorism, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, and control of corruption. Control of corruption measures the extent of public power used for private gain, covering both minor and major forms of corruption, and considering the influence of elites on state policies and actions. The percentile rank indicates a country's rank among all globally covered countries by the aggregate indicator, with 0 being the lowest rank, and 100 the highest rank (World Bank WGI, 2024).

Overall, Southeast Asian OIC nations performed relatively well in 2023, with a regional median value of over 60 in 2023, and with significant progress achieved since 2016. The Europe and Central Asia region as well as the Sub-Saharan Africa region, also showed visible progress in regional median values over the same period. However, these two regions along with the South Asia region remain below the OIC median of 24.5 and are positioned in the lowest quantile of countries globally (Figure 1). At the individual member country level, 31 OIC countries showed improvement in the control of corruption. Among them, 9 OIC countries—including Gambia, Kazakhstan, Brunei Darussalam, Benin, Kuwait, Uzbekistan, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone—portrayed the most significant progress, with a two-digit improvement. The top 5 OIC countries as of 2023 were Brunei Darussalam (88.7), United Arab Emirates (82.5), Qatar (75), Saudi Arabia (66.5), and Malaysia (61.8), three of them being in the top quintile of countries globally.

3 Challenges of Good Governance in Key Tourism Sectors

The lack of effective governance and corruption control consistently creates issues for tourists, particularly in medical, educational, and cultural tourism. This ultimately damages the country's reputation as a tourist destination and hinders the overall development of its tourism industry. Let's explore some examples from key tourism sectors.

3.1 Educational tourism

Educational tourism is a significant contributor to the tourism industry, but it also faces challenges. The lack of strong regulations allows private educational institutions to operate without proper accreditation, leading to issuance of illegitimate degrees. This not only wastes students' financial resources and time but also harms their future prospects due to unrecognised educational qualifications. Additionally, various forms of fraud and corruption exist in educational tourism, such as bribery for documentation, the sale of diplomas, fraudulent campaigns by non-existent educational institutions, and exploitation in exchange for high grades. (UNODC, 2021). Corrupt practices in administrative procedures can further complicate these challenges, as students may be pressured into making unofficial payments in exchange for services. Moreover, a lack of adequate support from university personnel can leave students vulnerable to fraud or mismanagement, impacting their academic progress and financial stability (Attaalla, 2020).

Another prevalent form of misconduct involves visa procedures and university admissions. Corrupt practices in visa issuance and university admissions have been reported, leading to the exploitation of resources. Such fraud can result in students enrolling in substandard institutions or even falling victim to human trafficking under the pretence of education.

3.2 Human trafficking and Smuggling

Lack of good governance practices including ineffective public institutions, and the presence of corruption, can create an environment for criminal networks to exploit legal gaps and ineffective audit mechanisms, allowing them to engage in major crimes such as human trafficking, forced labour, smuggling, drug trafficking, and money laundering. Corruption facilitates organised crime, enabling human trafficking networks to operate, illicit goods to flow through tourist routes, and money laundering schemes to thrive. (TRACIT, 2019).

In the case of human trafficking networks, trafficker's often target tourism hubs where they can easily blend in, and where the demand for cheap labour and exploitation is high. Victims are often promised employment in hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues, only to be subjected to forced labour or exploitation upon arrival. Reports indicate that traffickers exploit women and children in popular tourist hubs, especially in financially leading cities known for luxury in the Southeast Asia and Middle East. Victims are forced into exploitative labour, commit crimes such as drug smuggling and are involved in financial fraud. Child trafficking is a major issue in the tourism industry, as the human trafficking network target both adults and children. In some cases, hotels been complicit in these crimes, with local authorities being bribed to turn a blind eye. Investigations have revealed several human trafficking networks where traffickers abduct children from rural areas for exploitation (UNODC, 2024).

Other forms of corruption in tourism include forced and unpaid labour by criminal networks. Migrant workers in hotels, restaurants, and cruise ships often face exploitative working conditions, including wage theft, excessive working hours, and restrictions on movement. Smuggling illicit goods through tourism routes and using tourism services is another common practice associated with corruption. For instance, the transfer of illicit goods, especially exotic ones, has been observed through some African tourist routes. Corruption at seaports and airports allows these goods to be transported to international black markets. (TRACIT, 2019). Additionally, drug cartels exploit international tourism routes for trafficking narcotics through popular tourist destinations. Criminal groups use beachfront resorts, nightclubs, and tour agencies as fronts for drug distribution. There have been cases where cruise employees or passengers were caught trying to transport drugs across continents (Flaherty, 2017).

Finally, the revenue obtained from these practices often appears as cash, leading to the laundering of black money through high-profile luxury services, especially in luxury tourist hubs (UNODC, 2010). There is a need for regulations on expenditure records, particularly in these areas. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts, including strict regulations, enhanced international cooperation, and greater transparency in the tourism sector.

3.3 Health tourism

Health tourism is one of the most promising sectors that requires significant investments, regulatory framework and monitoring. Many studies have highlighted the need for standardisation of regulations and monitoring including issues such as the sterilisation of medical tools, regular checks of medical equipment and post-surgery health services. Medical tourists require healthcare services that meet international standards during the post-surgery period (Jun, Mi Oh 2015). This would allow them to purchase medication and enrol in post-surgery medical treatment back in their home country conveniently, at affordable prices and at international standards. Without standardised licensing, regulations and monitoring, treatments and surgeries by unlicensed clinics and doctors poses risks to patients due to substandard quality of care and practitioners services. These establishments often operate without proper accreditation, leading to potential hazards for medical tourists (Davison, 2018).

3.4 Cultural tourism

Corruption significantly undermines sustainable tourism management, especially in regions with weak regulatory frameworks and ineffective enforcement. In the cultural tourism sector, corruption takes on various forms such as bribery, misallocation of funds, inefficient regulatory frameworks and audits, marginalisation of local communities, and widespread unlicensed activity (Towner, 2016). Additionally, incomplete regulatory framework lead to unforeseen issues, giving certain companies an unfair advantage. For instance, certain resorts manipulate policies to block charter boats from accessing prime surf breaks, while simultaneously excluding local communities from decision-making and creating nearly insurmountable legal barriers for operating through restrictive licensing (Towner, 2016). This exclusion discourages entrepreneurship among local communities and encourages unlicensed practices in tourism; as many local operators struggle to meet unfair financial and legal requirements.

4 Selected Policies and Practices for Addressing Corruption in Tourism Sector

The only legally enforceable international anti-corruption instrument in terms of the legal framework is the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Ratified by the United Nations General Assembly on October 31, 2003, it was written and negotiated in Vienna, Austria, from 2002 to 2003 (UNCAC, 2003).

Combating corruption is also a crucial issue also on the agenda of OIC countries. To address this, the first Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities of the Member States of the OIC was held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 20-21 December 2022. The meeting endorsed the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention.

The Convention consists of 23 Articles and aims to achieve two primary objectives:

- Enhance information and intelligence sharing amongst law enforcement authorities in an efficient and timely manner for the purpose of facilitating the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of offences covered by this Convention which could contribute to the recovery and return of stolen assets.
- Promote the exchange of technical assistance, expertise and training amongst States Parties to enhance their capacities to share information and intelligence on offences covered by this Convention

The second session of the Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies in the Member States of the OIC was held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 27 November 2024. Presented below are selected benchmark examples of anti-corruption strategies and practices from OIC countries and the experience of the EU in the field.

4.1 Saudi Arabia

The key national-level strategy document in Saudi Arabia – Saudi Vision 2030 – aims to diversify the economy, develop service sectors such as tourism and create a trustworthy environment to attract investors by promoting transparency and controlling corruption. The Saudi Arabian government has initiated the Digital Government Strategy (2023-2030) in line with Vision 2030 as a tool to reduce corruption. This reform is supported by numerous e-government initiatives and programs that enable and assist government agencies and authorities. It includes making all government services conveniently accessible online, with a unified appearance and feel for citizens, based on life events. The change, which is being carried out using digital tools, talents, and capabilities, has been planned to be appropriate for the digital age, according to the National Digital Platform of Saudi Arabia - GOV.SA. It is estimated that these digital reforms could reduce instances of nepotism, known locally as "Wasta," by up to 86%, leading to a more sustainable and transparent Saudi economy in the long run (Rahman, 2020, p. 8).

Another strategy is the strengthening of institutional frameworks aimed at combating corruption. The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NAZAHA) and the General Bureau for Auditing (GAB) were established to enhance oversight of state assets and eradicate corruption. NAZAHA operates on public reports of corruption via three channels: fax, website, and phone. It uses these reports to inform its investigations and make arrests in compliance with the Criminal Procedure Law. During its existence, NAZAHA has successfully uncovered several instances of corruption, including nepotism within various government sectors (Rahman, 2020, p. 8).

The GAB was established to safeguard and monitor the use of public funds and has roles such as monitoring appropriate usage, management, and preservation of public funds, and post-audit of all state revenues and expenditures. It includes controls whether revenues from assets and services have been deposited in relevant accounts, taxes are paid to relevant institutions, and funds are used for the purposes for which the appropriate authority allocated them. GAB is responsible for overseeing and closely monitoring the execution of privatisation initiatives. It examines whether the accounting and financial systems and regulations are appropriate, sufficient, and applied to the changes taking place in the Kingdom; highlights any inadequacies in this area; and makes the required recommendations to improve or modify these systems and regulations.

The Tourism Development Fund's accreditation by the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) is another illustration of the kingdom's accomplishments in fostering a reliable economic environment, especially in the tourism industry. The management framework of the EFQM helps organisations manage change and boost productivity. EFQM's aim is to provide training as one of its primary activities to enable organisations to create a more sustainable future, have a lasting effect, and provide significant advantages to all parties involved. This recognition further demonstrates Saudi Arabia's commitment to eliminating corruption and promoting economic growth by demonstrating its continued excellence in governance and operational standards.

4.2 Türkiye

Türkiye is among the first countries to sign the UNCAC on December 10, 2003. Türkiye also ratified the Council of Europe Civil and Criminal Law Conventions on Corruption in 2004 and the Council of Europe's Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime (1990) in July 2004. Türkiye is a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and a party to the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the OECD Working Group on Bribery.

The 12th Development Plan (2024-2028) is the main national level strategy document of the Republic of Türkiye. It covers 5 key objectives and policies; 1) stable growth, strong economy, 2) competitive production with green and digital transformation, 3) qualified people, strong family, healthy society, 4) disaster resilient living areas, sustainable environment, and 5) democratic good governance based on justice. Along with economic objectives the development plan aims to placing Türkiye among countries with the highest level of human development, strengthening the rule of law, democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms, reinforcing and institutionalising the understanding of good governance, strengthening the family, human and social structure to the highest level.

Digital transformation is one of the cornerstone elements of the development plan concerning anti-corruption measures. Turkey's digital government services combat corruption by increasing transparency and accountability in public service provision. Türkiye's experience in the area of digital transformation of the government services is comprehensive, replicable, and effective. The Republic is currently in the process of transition from "e-government" to "digital government" as a part of its new Digital Government Strategy which was incorporated into the 12th Development Plan discussed above. The new Digital Government Strategy is a successor of the Information Society Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2018) and the National e-Government Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2019). Priority areas of the strategy document includes; strategic alignment and governance, digital skills, data governance in the public sector, technological infrastructures, service design and delivery, digital inclusion and participation.

4.3 Maldives

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) was established in 2008 as one of the first modern forms of democratic institutions with the major functions to prevent and prohibit corruption within the public sector in Maldives. Particularly, it is tasked with investigating the misuse of state funds, bribery, abuse of office for personal gain, and other illegal activities that result in undue advantage. The ACC's five-year strategic action plan 2020-2024 focusses on four areas; employee engagement, proactive prevention, investigative excellence, and policy, behaviour and attitude reform. It is the third five-year strategic action plan of the ACC. The first one covered 2009 – 2014 and the second action plan was developed for the period 2015 – 2019.

Another strategy of the Maldives's government to reduce corruption potential is by embracing information age technologies to offer government services digitally. This enables transparency and integrity in the provision of public services. For example, public service providers are required to deliver services and goods directly to citizens at their preferred location (ACC, National Anti-Corruption Policy Corruption Prevention Agenda Government of the Maldives, 2021, p. 27). In addition to reactive measures like finding and fighting corruption, preventative measures are also essential. The ACC provides trainings on the importance of institutional integrity to both public and private sector institutions. It is important to integrate anticorruption education starting from schools as this proactive approach aims to equip future generations with the knowledge, skills, and ethical values necessary to prevent and combat corruption.

4.4 Malaysia

The National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) was prepared by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in 2019, presenting a comprehensive and integrated approach to preventing and minimising corruption. It helped Malaysia achieve the most significant improvement in Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ratings in 2019, compared to its performance over the last two decades. Out of 111 initiatives proposed under the NACP, 85 were implemented. The NACP concluded in 2023 and has since evolved into National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). The following are some key elements of the strategy:

a) Law enforcement: The MACC investigates and prosecutes corruption cases, particularly those involving the travel and tourism industry. Strict legal action is taken against people or organisations engaged in corrupt activities to prevent future crimes.

b) Utilising ICT to enhance accountability and transparency: The strategy aims to promote transparency and accountability in the management of the travel and tourism sector. This includes utilising an end-to-end integrated procurement system that incorporates new technologies like cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and digital finance platforms. Information technology is used to manage business licenses, permits, and tax reporting (MACC, Strategy Plan, p. 37).

c) Prevention through Education and Training: In addition to law enforcement, Malaysia focuses on prevention through education and training on ethics and integrity for government officials involved in tourism and industry stakeholders. This training aims to enhance ethics, good governance values and principles of anti-corruption from the ground up to ensure all parties understand the detrimental negative effects of corruption (MACC, Strategy Plan, p. 35).

d) Inter-Agency Collaboration: The Ministry of Tourism, MACC, and other relevant national bodies coordinate efforts to address corruption in the tourism sector more effectively. This collaboration ensures that prevention and law enforcement efforts are comprehensive and well-coordinated, involving not only domestic agencies but also bilateral and international partners.

e) Monitoring and Auditing: Relevant agencies regularly conduct audits and monitoring of tourism-related projects involving public funds or large investments to prevent misuse of funds or corrupt practices in project management.

4.5 European Union (EU)

There are 3 anti-corruption legislations in the EU:

- The 1997 Convention on fighting corruption involving officials of the EU or officials of EU countries,
- The 2003 Council Framework Decision on combating corruption in the private sector, which criminalises both active and passive bribery, and
- The 2008 Council Decision 2008/852/JHA on a contact-point network against corruption.

The EU has been reviewing its anti-corruption framework to better prevent and fight corruption across the member states. As of the EU Commission proposal presented on 3 May 2023, the key changes in the framework include objectives such as raising awareness of the negative impact of corruption among citizens and societies in order to stimulate a culture of integrity. Another important change was extending the definition of criminal corruption offences beyond bribery and other classical offences such as misappropriation, trading in influence, abuse of functions, as well as obstruction of justice and illicit enrichment related to corruption offences. Also, revision includes an article on ensuring that law enforcement agencies and prosecutors have appropriate investigative tools to fight corruption (European Commission, 2023).

The EU actively promotes institutions in charge of monitoring its funds and implementing anti-corruption policy. Particularly, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) investigates fraud against the EU budget, corruption and serious misconduct within European institutions as well as develops anti-fraud policies. The EU also works to enhance its financial management capabilities through the European Court of Auditors (ECA). Although the ECA is an independent institution, its existence is vital for improving the European Commission's ability to manage the EU's budget and report on its finances effectively. By auditing the EU's revenue and expenditures, verifying any individual or organisation handling EU funds, compiling findings and recommendations in audit reports, and reporting suspected fraud, corruption, or other unlawful activities to OLAF, the ECA serves as assisting institution in preventing or detecting corruption.

5 Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Institutional reforms are necessary, along with a strong commitment to combat corruption in the tourism sector. The study reveals that a comprehensive strategy in the tourism sector that includes promotion of good governance principles is necessary. The policies and measures have to include key elements such as improving digital infrastructure and accessibility to digital services, developing an anti-corruption framework, and facilitating international and intra-OIC cooperation for the exchange of information and proven strategies.

1. Strengthening Legal and Institutional Framework: Ensure the implementation of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention of the OIC Anti- Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Establish anti-corruption institutions or specialised units within tourism ministries to monitor, determine and prosecute corruption related activities in tourism sector.

2. Monitoring and Auditing: Relevant agencies should regularly conduct audits and monitoring of tourism-related projects that involve public funds or large investments. This step aims to ensure that there is no misuse of funds or corrupt practices in the management of such projects.

3. Digital Governance and Transparency: Ensure access to the services of public institutions related to receiving licenses, applying for accreditation and necessary registration of their companies in a unified and transparent manner. Establish E-Government Portals to facilitate the digitalisation of all transactions to minimise cases of fraudulent paperwork and bribery.

4. Developing digital infrastructure: A robust digital infrastructure is needed for tourists and tourism-related businesses to effectively leverage technological solutions. Improved digital accessibility promotes inclusivity, allowing a broader range of tourists to engage with tourism services, contributing to economic growth and fostering a more connected and digitally literate society. As tourism becomes increasingly intertwined with digital platforms, investing in infrastructure and accessibility is imperative for staying competitive and meeting the expectations of the contemporary traveller.

5. Promote international and Intra-OIC cooperation: Facilitate collaboration among relevant national institutions in OIC countries to share proven practices, strategies, expertise and intelligence on detecting fraudulent operations and anti-corruption measures in the tourism sector. Establish joint investigative teams and different forms of technical partnerships within the OIC and with other regional and international specialised organs such as the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

6. Institutional Capacity Building and Rising Public Awareness: Provide training and capacity building activities for public officials, tourism officials, law enforcement experts and hospitality industry stakeholders on preventing, detecting and fighting corruption. Raise awareness among the public, private sector and tourists on the availability of reporting mechanisms. Encourage the implementation of anti-corruption certification programs for private sector enterprises to promote and facilitate compliance with ethical and legal standards.

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