

Digitalisation and its impact on the quality of administrative performance of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Combating of Corruption

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Abstract:

This study aims to observe, analyse and highlight the impact of digitalization on the quality of administrative performance of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Fight Against Corruption, which was established under Article 204 of the 2020 Constitutional Amendment. This authority serves as a specialised constitutional oversight body that strives to achieve the highest indicators of integrity and transparency, supporting the legislative approach to the fight against corruption in Algeria, as regulated by Law No. 22-08 of 5 May 2022, which defines its organisation, structure and powers. This authority replaces the National Authority for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption, established by Law 06/01 of 20 February 2006 on the prevention and combating of corruption, as amended, within the framework of Algeria's commitments following its accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003, in particular the provisions of Article 6.

The study begins by highlighting the conceptual framework of digitisation, as well as the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Fight against Corruption and the constitutional and legal powers granted to it. It then discusses the impact of this authority's use of digital media in its transactions with other bodies and individuals, focusing on the manifestations of digitalisation and the extent to which it contributes to the development and improvement of its administrative work, both in its internal organisation and in its interactions with stakeholders.

The significance of the study lies in the fact that digitisation has become an essential tool in the fight against corruption and a prominent indicator in measuring the effectiveness and seriousness of government policies to modernise administration and improve public services within the framework of what is known as open government. It supports integrity and transparency in the administration's dealings with citizens and facilitates access to public data, as part of the pillars of digital governance and the rule of law.

The study concludes that this institution has made significant progress in using the digital environment to improve its administrative work, with a clear vision to consolidate these achievements in the future, benefiting from the experience gained over many years in its previous version, as well as from the pioneering experiences of similar institutions in other countries in this field.

Keywords: Anti-corruption, supreme authority, digital environment, transparency.

Introduction.

The phenomenon of corruption, in its various forms, has become increasingly widespread at both international and local levels, with serious consequences such as undermining development efforts and affecting the pillars of good governance. This has forced countries to unite their efforts to combat corruption, culminating in the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003, which is considered the only binding international instrument in this field. The Convention contains several mechanisms to combat corruption, including the provision in Article 6 that ensures that each State Party shall establish, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, one or more bodies to prevent corruption and shall provide them with the necessary independence to carry out their functions effectively and free from any influence, as well as the necessary material resources and specialised personnel, and any training such personnel may require to carry out their duties.

After ratifying the Convention in 2004, Algeria created the “National Authority for the Prevention of and Fight against Corruption” under Law 06/01 of 20 February 2006 on the prevention and fight against corruption, as amended and supplemented. However, this authority did not achieve the desired results, which led to its replacement by the Supreme Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Fight against Corruption, under Article 204 of the Constitutional Amendment, as a constitutional oversight institution with broader powers and greater independence. Subsequently, Law No. 22-08 of 5 May 2022 was enacted to define its organisation, structure and powers.

Immediately after its establishment, this institution began to exercise the powers granted to it by the Constitution and the law, in order to achieve its objectives of achieving the highest standards of integrity and transparency, using all the resources, financial means and human skills available for its operation.

In order to improve its administrative performance, both internally and in fostering dynamic relationships with other entities and individuals, this Authority has worked to harness the digital environment as part of its efforts towards e-government and digital inclusion. This is in the context of the reform of public administration management models, which includes the elimination of the physical nature of various administrative documents and public services, and the development of an information society in Algeria. The country’s highest authorities have consistently emphasised this, both in the content of government programmes and in the results of successive Cabinet meetings, which have highlighted the personal follow-up given by the President of the Republic to the progress of this agenda¹.

This is the issue we aim to highlight in this study by clarifying the aspects of the utilization of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Fight Against Corruption in terms of digitization in its operations and the impact of this on its administrative performance and improvement of its services in its relations with others.

Importance of the Study: The significance of this study lies in the fact that digitization has become an important asset in combating corruption and a prominent indicator in measuring the effectiveness and seriousness of government policies in developing administration, enhancing the quality of administrative work, and achieving what is known as open government. It also aims to support integrity and transparency in the administration’s dealings with citizens, facilitating access to information as a

constitutionally guaranteed right, and providing access to governmental data to ensure the greatest possible transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in the work of public authorities, as part of supporting the pillars of e-governance, the rule of law, and bringing administration closer to the citizen.

Based on the above, the research problem is as follows:

To what extent does digitization contribute to the quality of administrative work of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Fight Against Corruption?

This leads to the following sub-problems:

- What is meant by digitization and the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Fight Against Corruption?

- Has digitization played a role in enhancing the administrative services provided by the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Fight Against Corruption in its dealings with others?

Research methodology: In order to comprehensively address all aspects of this topic, achieve the objectives of the research paper and answer its questions, the study adopted a descriptive approach, justified by the need to understand the digital environment and the emerging technical concepts surrounding it, as well as its role in the fight against corruption. It also involved a thorough analysis of the use of this digital environment by the High Authority, an in-depth study of the relevant legal texts and an exploration of the associated variables in order to arrive at accurate and objective results.

Research structure: Based on the above, this study is divided into two sections. The first section deals with the conceptual framework of digitisation and the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Fight against Corruption. The second section discusses the impact of digitisation on the quality of the administrative work of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Fight against Corruption. Finally, a conclusion summarises the main findings and recommendations.

Chapter One: The Conceptual Framework of Digitalization and the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Fight Against Corruption

Digitalization has imposed itself as an effective alternative to the shortcomings of classical administration in keeping pace with the accelerating volume of administrative transactions in its interactions with others while providing administrative services². The public sector has found in digitalization a means to enhance its administrative performance and improve efficiency. Achieving digital transformation to improve communication and widespread use of information and communication technologies, especially in public service administrations, has been at the core of the President's interests, both during his candidacy for the elections on December 12, 2019,³ and the upcoming elections on September 7, 2024.

Digitalisation is seen as an inevitable direction to achieve sustainable development goals and as a crucial pillar to support the foundations of public administration governance. It helps regulate the interactive environment associated with digital transformation, where a complex set of main and sub-components, such as supporting enterprises, business systems and interactive media, are directly or indirectly intertwined to complete administrative operations and procedures. It also enables citizen engagement in the governance process through interaction with policy makers, and enhances citizen participation in building public trust in government. This is linked to the commitment to increase transparency and accountability, which ultimately leads to the fight against corruption. The World Bank has noted this in

its definition of e-governance, considering it one of the mechanisms to combat corruption⁴. This is the same conviction that Algeria has adopted in its strategic approaches to modernising government institutions⁵. As a result, the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and the Fight against Corruption, created by the constitutional amendment of 2020, has been working since its creation to use the digital environment to bring administrative performance up to the required level.

Accordingly, this chapter will deal with the concept of digitalisation and its role in the fight against administrative corruption in the first subsection, followed by the concept of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Fight against Corruption and its tasks in the second subsection.

Section One: The Concept of Digitization and Its Role in Combating Administrative Corruption

The technological boom has led to the emergence of new concepts that were not prevalent before, appearing initially as technical terms in line with their originating environment, such as “digitization” and related concepts closely associated with information and communication technology. These concepts soon began to influence various fields and became active factors in governance, giving rise to terms like “digital management,” “digital economy,” “digital sovereignty,” and others. This rapid proliferation resulted from the increasing use of these concepts in various aspects of life, all aimed at achieving “digital governance,” realizing sustainable development goals, and combating debilitating phenomena, most notably administrative corruption.

Based on this, we will address in this section the concept of digitization and its related concepts in the first subsection, and then its role in combating corruption in the second subsection.

Subsection One: Digitization and Its Related Concepts

Numerous definitions of digitization have been observed, which vary according to the field in which they are applied, as they are seen as added value for development and achieving the necessary leap in that domain. However, the concept of digitization cannot be fully understood without recognizing the closely related concepts, which will facilitate the understanding of the study’s purpose and its branches.

First: Definition of digitisation

Digitisation is broadly defined as the use of digital technologies and consequently the use of digital information or data in the economy, society and the world of work. It requires the transformation of organisational structures and processes to increase efficiency, revenue and resilience, thereby redefining the parameters of work organisation. This has implications for the quantity and type of opportunities available, as well as for working conditions and worker protection⁶.

Digitisation is also defined as: “an advanced replication process that makes it possible to convert any document, regardless of its type and medium, into a digital series, accompanying this technical work with intellectual and administrative tasks to organise the post-information phase, for the purposes of indexing, planning and presenting the content of the digitised text”⁷.

As for digital transformation, it refers to the process of modifying work processes using digital technologies to make them more efficient and effective. The idea is not only to use technology to process a service available in digital form, but also to significantly improve that service through technology⁸.

It should be noted that the process of digital transformation can sometimes face challenges that undermine its smooth transition, such as a lack of technical skills among the human resources

responsible for delivering public services, as well as the prevailing culture of beliefs, values and standards, which can hinder the digital transformation process if it is not based on openness to change⁹.

In addition, a lack of coordination between different levels and a weak information and communication technology infrastructure can hamper digital transformation efforts, while an inappropriate legal and regulatory environment can also hinder the process.

Second - concepts related to digitisation

The digital revolution has led to the emergence of several concepts adjacent to the concept of digitisation, including:

1. Digital Management: The concept of digital management serves as a comprehensive guide to the fundamentals and concepts that define business development in the digital age. It revolves around the use of technology and data to improve administrative processes in organisations and to make strategic decisions based on accurate data analysis. This includes the use of technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing and big data analytics. Digital management is also defined as “the comprehensive transformation of traditional processes into an integrated digital system that enables effective collaboration and coordination between businesses, teams and different departments within the organisation”¹⁰.

2. Digital Inclusion: This refers to “equitable and secure access for everyone, everywhere, to digital technologies and to use and benefit from the services and opportunities they provide”¹¹.

3. Digital governance: This is “the use of information and communication technologies to enhance public value through government-led initiatives in the public sector, as well as through external collaboration between key stakeholders from the public”¹².

Digital governance helps to manage the impact of various changes to elements and components. It also provides a holistic analysis of changes resulting from features that can be modified and developed. In this way, clear foundations can be laid to facilitate business processes in line with developments, while ensuring a balanced relationship between stakeholders, the continuous achievement of strategies and objectives, and the creation of promising opportunities¹³.

Section Two: The Role of Digitization in Combating Administrative Corruption

The technical guide to the United Nations Convention against Corruption highlights the importance of using information technology in the public sector to enhance integrity, transparency, and justice, as well as efficiency in governmental operations by simplifying administrative procedures, ensuring continuous communication with the public, and standardizing administrative information through the creation of websites and the use of e-government systems for procurement, administration, and complaint handling¹⁴.

The significance of digitizing administration in preventing corruption is evident in several aspects, including enhancing the transparency of administrative work, strengthening oversight mechanisms for public service delivery, fostering interaction between citizens and government, providing access to laws and regulations governing administrative services, speeding up the analysis of big data, and reducing nepotism and favoritism.

First: Improving administrative transparency

Article 5 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption includes the principle of transparency among the practices and mechanisms that States Parties should adopt to combat corruption, defining it as

“the free flow of information, understood in its broadest sense, meaning the provision of information and operating in an open manner that allows stakeholders to access the necessary information to protect their interests and make informed decisions”¹⁵.

The proactive publication of information by government and the simplification of administrative procedures are additional factors that enhance transparency and go beyond traditional methods of accessing information. These methods are often activated by e-government systems that use the Internet to deliver public services and information, simplifying and increasing public access to administrative processes, such as public budgets and the way governments spend taxpayers' money, public service delivery, competition and election results. When this information is public, citizens, journalists, academics and watchdogs can scrutinise it for corrupt or suspicious behaviour, facilitating the detection of malpractice and bureaucratic inefficiency, and deterring illegal practices that may occur in secrecy¹⁶.

Secondly - Enhancing Oversight Mechanisms for Public Service Operation.

Digitalization enables oversight of the proper conduct of administrative transactions required in providing public services, whether from internal or external administrative oversight bodies, or from the recipients of the service or information seekers. This is achieved through direct communication between government employees and the beneficiaries of services or government information, thereby avoiding cases of influence on the work of government employees. Under e-government, employees interact with clients remotely, granting them the necessary space to accomplish a larger volume of work with greater precision in a transparent environment that ensures fairness among all service recipients¹⁷.

Digitalization also allows for the tracking of administrative processes and the management of files from start to finish, providing clear, reviewable records¹⁸. This contributes to ensuring the integrity of operations and reducing opportunities for manipulation by those responsible for delivering public services.

Thirdly - Enhancing Interaction Between Citizens and Government

Through digital platforms, citizens can easily submit complaints and report misconduct, which facilitates rapid responses and reduces the likelihood of administrative violations¹⁹. For example, the electronic complaints registry available on the website of the Ombudsman allows anyone to submit a complaint by filling out a form online if they are unable to register it in person at any administration or public body due to deficiencies in reception, guidance, treatment, or other shortcomings.

Fourth - Providing access to laws and regulations governing government services

Developed countries have made all relevant laws and government regulations available on the Internet for any user to consult²⁰. This is crucial for legal and regulatory awareness of the administrative procedures governing the services provided, and creates additional oversight of the effectiveness of these processes.

Fifth - Rapid analysis of big data

The analysis of big data using digital means and artificial intelligence helps to identify suspicious patterns, contributing to the early detection of corruption cases and the necessary measures to mitigate them.

Sixth - Reducing favouritism and nepotism

In a digital environment, applications are submitted electronically, fees are paid online and services are received automatically²¹. As a result, human intervention and influence in access to services is almost non-existent.

Section Two: Concept of the High Authority for Transparency and Its Tasks

In order to fulfil the obligations arising from its accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular the provisions of Article 6, and the relevant regional agreements, which urge member states to establish bodies to prevent corruption²², the National Authority for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption was established in 2006 under Article 17 of Law No. 06-01. However, it did not achieve the expected results in curbing corruption, which reached record levels despite its elevation to a constitutional advisory body in 2016²³. Consequently, the High Authority for Transparency and the Prevention and Fight against Corruption was created with broader powers and greater independence to remedy this failure and achieve efforts to ethify public life and combat corruption.

In order to truly assess the manifestations of this institution's use of the digital environment and to clarify its impact on the quality of its administrative work and the improvement of the public services it provides, we need to discuss its definition (section one) and the constitutional and legal tasks assigned to it (section two).

Section One: Definition of the High Authority for Transparency and the Prevention of and Fight against Corruption and its legal framework

The designation of this institution as a "High Authority" instead of a "body" represents a clear transition in terms of increasing its powers and independence, following its elevation to a regulatory body, after having been an advisory body under the 2016 constitutional amendment. In addition, the legal framework governing it is nearing completion following the issuance of some implementing texts for Law 22/08, while the implementing texts for Law 06/01 will remain in force until all eight texts are fully issued.

In this section, we will first define the High Authority for Transparency and the Prevention and Fight against Corruption and then review the legal framework governing it²⁴.

First: Definition of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat

Article 205 of the Constitutional Amendment 2020 defines it as "the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat as an independent institution".

Article 2 of Law 22/08 of 5 May 2022, which establishes the organisation, formation and powers of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat, defines it as follows: "The High Authority is an independent institution with legal personality and financial independence."

The content of these two articles indicates the legal nature of this institution as an independent administrative authority, reinforcing the shift towards mechanisms of independent administrative authorities.

The legislator has created many such authorities to regulate certain economic and financial activities or to guarantee rights, freedoms and transparency in public affairs, in response to the requirements of good governance and the rule of law²⁵.

Second: The Legal Framework of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Competencies

The United Nations Convention and the Arab and African Conventions against Corruption, to which Algeria has acceded, serve as a legislative reference framework for the establishment and operation of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its combat at the external level. At the internal level, the legal framework for this institution consists of:

The Constitution: The constitutional amendment of 2020²⁶ addresses the High Authority for Transparency and its powers within Chapter Four of Title Four, which concerns oversight institutions. These institutions are primarily tasked with “investigating the compliance of legislative and regulatory work with the Constitution and the methods of using material resources and public funds and managing them,”²⁷ as outlined in Articles 204 and 205, which refer to the Constitution for defining its organization, structuring, and powers.

Law 22/08:²⁸ This law contains five chapters. The first chapter addresses general provisions, the second chapter outlines the powers of the High Authority, the third chapter discusses the structure and organization of the High Authority, the fourth chapter contains financial provisions, and finally, the fifth chapter states the financial and final provisions that repeal, under Article 39, all provisions conflicting with this law, particularly Articles 17 to 24 of Law No. 06-01 concerning the prevention of corruption and its combat, as amended.

Presidential Decree No. 23/234:²⁹ This Decree was issued in implementation of Articles 17 and 18 of Law No. 22-08 and contains 13 articles. Its purpose is to define the structures of the High Authority for Transparency, the Prevention of Corruption and the Fight against Corruption, and its Article 12 repeals the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 06/413 of 22 November 2006, which defined the composition, organisation and operating methods of the National Authority for the Prevention of Corruption.

Executive Decree No. 24-56:³⁰ This decree was issued in implementation of Article 20 of Law No. 22-08, contains 55 articles and aims to define the basic law for the employees of the High Authority, in particular those related to the conditions for entering the various ranks and professional positions, the corresponding tasks, rights and duties, as well as the senior positions specific to it.

Presidential Decrees:

- The presidential decree signed on the 18th of Dhul-Hijjah 1443, corresponding to 17 July 2022, published in the Official Gazette No. 50 dated 29 Dhul-Hijjah 1443, appoints the head of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and Combating Corruption³¹.
- The Presidential Decree signed on the 18th of Dhul-Hijjah 1443, corresponding to 17 July 2022, published in the Official Gazette No. 50 of Dhul-Hijjah 29, 1443, appoints the members of the Council of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat³².

Second: The Tasks of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat

The Algerian legislator has granted the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its combat extensive tasks to achieve the highest indicators of integrity and transparency in managing public affairs³³. These tasks vary between prevention, oversight, and remediation through the constitutional amendment of 2020, as well as what is included in Law 22/08, which defines its powers, organization, and tasks.

First: The constitutional tasks of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and Combating Corruption

Article 205 of the Constitutional Amendment of 2020 lists eight tasks for which the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and Combating Corruption is specifically responsible. The constitutional legislator probably intended the term “in particular” to emphasise the exclusivity of these powers for the High Authority as a specialised anti-corruption body, as opposed to other prosecution bodies mentioned in Article 36 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003, which were created for specific tasks, such as the Central Office for the Suppression of Corruption³⁴. These tasks include:

1. Developing a national strategy for transparency, prevention of and fight against corruption and ensuring its implementation and monitoring.
2. Collecting, processing and disseminating information in its field of competence and making it available to the competent authorities.
3. Informing the Court of Auditors and the competent judicial authority when it detects infringements and, if necessary, issuing instructions to the institutions and bodies concerned.
4. Contribute to strengthening the capacity of civil society and other actors in the fight against corruption.
5. Promote and implement a culture of transparency, prevention and fight against corruption.
6. Provide opinions on legislative texts related to its area of competence.
7. Participating in the training of the staff of the bodies responsible for transparency, prevention and the fight against corruption.
8. Contribute to the ethical conduct of public life and promote the principles of transparency, good governance and the prevention and combating of corruption.

Second: The Legal Tasks of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat

In addition to the powers laid down in Article 205 of the Constitution, the second chapter of Law 22/08, from Article 4 to Article 16, deals with the powers of the High Authority for the Prevention of Corruption and the Fight against Corruption.

1. Preventive powers: These include:

- Collecting, centralising, exploiting and disseminating all information and recommendations that could help public administrations and any natural or legal person to prevent and detect acts of corruption. It also includes the periodic evaluation of legal instruments related to transparency, prevention and fight against corruption, as well as the effectiveness of administrative measures in this field, and proposing appropriate mechanisms for improvement.

- Ensure the coordination and monitoring of activities and actions related to the prevention of and fight against corruption, based on periodic and regular reports supported by statistics and analyses from relevant sectors and stakeholders. The Authority shall also establish an interactive network aimed at involving civil society and unifying and promoting its activities in the field of transparency and the prevention of and fight against corruption.

- To promote the principles of transparency and integrity in the organisation of charitable, religious, cultural and sports activities, as well as in public and private institutions, by developing and implementing appropriate systems to prevent and combat corruption. This includes the preparation of

regular reports on the implementation of transparency and anti-corruption measures in accordance with the provisions of the agreements³⁵.

- Promote cooperation with regional and international organisations specialising in the prevention and combating of corruption, and proactively cooperate in establishing a regular and systematic method of exchanging information with similar bodies at the international level, as well as with relevant agencies and services involved in the fight against corruption.

1. In the area of oversight, the High Authority is responsible for:

- Receiving declarations of assets and ensuring their processing and monitoring in accordance with applicable legislation. This includes conducting administrative and financial investigations into manifestations of unjust enrichment among public officials who cannot justify a significant increase in their financial status³⁶. These investigations may extend to any person who may be involved in concealing the unjustified wealth of a public official if it is found that the latter is the actual beneficiary, as defined by current legislation. Additionally, the Authority has the power to receive reports and/or notifications from any natural or legal person who has information, data, or evidence related to acts of corruption³⁷.

- Monitoring the compliance of public administrations, local authorities, public institutions, public economic institutions, associations, and other entities with the transparency and prevention of corruption regulations³⁸. In cases of violations affecting the quality and effectiveness of the procedures applied within the bodies under its jurisdiction, the Authority can issue recommendations aimed at taking measures to put an end to these violations within a specified timeframe³⁹.

- In the event of a breach of the integrity rules, the Authority may issue a warning to the party concerned. If the answers provided are unsatisfactory, it may issue orders if there are delays in the submission of declarations, or if their content is deficient or inaccurate, or if there is a failure to respond to requests for clarification⁴⁰.

2. The High Authority's powers to remedy acts of corruption include:

- Informing the Regional Public Prosecutor in cases of non-declaration, after warning the party concerned, or in cases of false declaration of assets⁴¹.

- Obtaining precautionary measures in cases of unjustified wealth of public officials to freeze banking operations or seize assets for a period of three months, through a court order issued by the head of the relevant court⁴².

- Informing the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office and the Court of Auditors when it discovers acts that fall within their jurisdiction, if the High Authority comes across facts that may justify criminal classification⁴³.

Finally, as part of its duties, the High Authority draws up an annual report on its activities, which it submits to the President of the Republic and makes available to the public.

Section Two: The Impact of Digitization on the Quality of Administrative Work of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat

The National Strategy for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat (2023-2027)⁴⁴, developed by the High Authority, includes measures aimed at achieving its primary goal of enhancing transparency and ethical conduct in public life. Among these measures is the reduction of administrative burdens, which entails simplifying administrative procedures for obtaining public services, digitizing

services and administrative procedures, improving the quality of public service, and facilitating access to public facilities.

In this context, the High Authority has worked to digitize its services and administrative procedures, which is reflected in several achievements, such as the launch of the official website of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat (first requirement), as well as the establishment of interactive platforms for the same authority (second requirement).

First Requirement: The Official Website of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat⁴⁵

The official website of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat has been launched as an interactive platform that allows everyone to participate in addressing various challenges and issues. It serves as a bridge to develop intercommunication with various stakeholders involved in preventing and combating corruption, and as a hub for the interactive networks and electronic platforms that the High Authority is preparing. These initiatives aim to improve mechanisms for reporting corruption, strengthen the pillars of transparency in governance, involve civil society in national anti-corruption efforts and promote a culture of rejection of corruption and cooperation in its fight⁴⁶.

Accordingly, this requirement will evaluate the performance of the official website of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat in terms of design and ease of use in the first sub-section and then assess its effectiveness in meeting the needs of the target audiences in the second sub-section.

First Sub-section: Evaluation of the Official Website of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat in Terms of Design and Ease of Use

There are several criteria for evaluating the quality of websites, such as those established by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), which develops standards for HTML, CSS, and others, referred to as W3C Recommendations. These standards aim to facilitate user access to websites, enhance browsing experiences, and ensure accessibility for all, including individuals with disabilities, both physical and cognitive. The official website of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat has been evaluated in terms of design and ease of use from several perspectives.

First: Compatibility of the Website Design with Various Devices

The design of the website and its user interface play a significant role in its success, as they help users access the required information directly and quickly⁴⁷. One of the critical factors related to website design and user interface is compatibility with various electronic devices.

It is noted that the Authority's website is compatible with electronic devices of different sizes, including smartphones, tablets, and desktop computers.

Second: Availability of Text-to-Speech Features and AI Tools to Enhance Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

The website lacks a text-to-speech feature that would allow users to listen to the written content. This feature typically involves selecting the desired text and pressing a microphone icon to have it read aloud. Users should also be able to adjust the reading speed and control the volume using settings available in the program

In addition, the site is not supported by artificial intelligence technologies that improve accessibility for people with disabilities through various tools, such as

- Text magnification feature: Allows users to increase the size of text.
- Link highlighting feature: Highlights all hyperlinks on the page to improve navigation.
- Text spacing feature: Increases the spacing between text in small, medium and large sizes.
- Animation Control Tool: Allows users to play or pause animations, which is useful for people with motor impairments, dyslexia, visual impairments, cognitive problems and those prone to seizures.
- Page structure feature: Displays the page structure in a simplified manner.
- Colour saturation adjustment: Adjusts the colour intensity to high, low or greyscale⁴⁸.

Third: Ease of use of the site, finding information and navigation

This indicator can be measured by the following criteria:⁴⁹

1. Ease of use and understanding of the site: the site organises information in a straightforward manner, from the most important to the least important, using menus that facilitate direct access to information.
2. Ease of finding information and navigating the site: The website does not have a search function that would allow users to search for information within the site, so users have to carry out manual searches.
3. Ease of finding the site using search engines: The website can be easily found by simply entering the name of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat.
4. Availability of hyperlinks to social media sites: The website includes hyperlinks to the official page of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat on the Facebook platform⁵⁰, which was created on 30 August 2022 and currently has 29,000 followers. In addition, there is an official channel of the High Authority on YouTube⁵¹, which was created on 14 November 2022 and currently has only 175 subscribers.

This evaluation aims to assess the media weight of the website; the higher the popularity of the website in discussions and opinions, the more effective and promotional the website is⁵².

Second sub-section: Evaluation of the performance of the official website of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat in meeting the needs of the target groups.

The content of websites must be in line with the nature of the target groups for their services and achieve the purpose for which they were created. Taking into account the nature of the tasks and objectives of this authority, the website provides its services to the following groups

First: The Civil Society and Media Sector

The website serves as a news source for citizens and various stakeholders regarding the activities of the Authority. It provides updated written and visual media content presented in a focused journalistic format that captures the necessary details for a comprehensive news report. This facilitates users in extracting key points and presenting them in a detailed media format.

Second: Researchers and Academics

Given the significant role of the Authority in preventing and combating corruption, and its status as an institutional pillar for promoting ethical public life, it is expected that the website will cater to the academic community. Despite the Authority's recent establishment and its constitutional status as a

regulatory institution expected to achieve high standards of integrity and transparency, the website has certain shortcomings after a considerable period of monitoring:

1. The website does not publish the proceedings and results of the scientific meetings in which the Authority participates, or at least the contributions of its representatives, despite their high academic quality, since they are highly qualified persons, particularly in the field of legal research. These contributions are only briefly mentioned.
2. There is no access to research papers from workshops and training sessions organised by the Authority for partners and stakeholders in the field of preventing and combating corruption, which could be of use to researchers.
3. The website does not publish the content and details of bilateral anti-corruption memoranda of understanding signed with other national bodies and their international counterparts, which constitute important scientific material as well as indicators of corruption.
4. The first issue of the Authority's magazine has not yet been published, although it is mentioned in the 2022 Annual Report⁵³.

Third: The Authority's international partners

The website is an essential tool for any government institution to introduce itself and provide an overview of its operations and activities. It adds value to international cooperation mechanisms with its counterparts at the international and regional levels. In this regard, paragraph three of the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003 states that "... each State Party shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the name and address of the authority or authorities that can assist other States Parties in developing and implementing specific measures to prevent corruption"⁵⁴.

With regard to international cooperation in the fight against corruption, Article 4 of Law 22/08, which regulates the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and the Fight against Corruption, establishes in paragraphs 7 and 9 the powers of the Authority to promote cooperation with regional and international organisations specialised in the prevention and fight against corruption. It also mandates proactive cooperation in establishing a systematic method for exchanging information with similar bodies at the international level, as well as with agencies and entities involved in the fight against corruption

Despite the availability of online search engines with automatic translation functions for various languages, it is essential that the website supports foreign languages, especially the most widely spoken ones, in order to enhance its credibility and facilitate the use of its various contents and documents by international partners active in the fight against corruption, including international and regional organisations and bodies.

Second requirement: The role of interactive platforms in improving the administrative performance of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat

Digital platforms are defined as any device or software that uses an application or service that runs under a specific operating system and program format, using a set of instructions for a specific processor. They refer to a structural software package based on the Internet that accelerates and facilitates interactions between users⁵⁵. There are several types of digital platforms, but all facilitate

services, interactions and transactions between users, which may be between two or more individuals, or between a user and the platform provider⁵⁶.

In this request, we will discuss the role of the digital platforms of the High Authority for Transparency, the Prevention of Corruption and the Fight against Corruption, focusing specifically on the electronic platform of the Algerian transparency network “Narakem” in the first sub-section, the electronic reporting and notification platform “Balaghna” in the second sub-section, and finally the digital assets declaration platform in the third sub-section.

First subsection: The role of the electronic platform of the Algerian transparency network “Narakem” in improving the administrative performance of the High Authority for Transparency⁵⁷, Prevention of Corruption and the Fight against Corruption.

One of the tasks assigned to the High Authority is to set up an interactive network aimed at involving civil society and uniting and promoting its activities in the field of transparency, the prevention of corruption and the fight against it⁵⁸. This was manifested in the launch of the electronic platform of the Algerian transparency network “Narakem”. In this sub-section, we will first present this platform and its missions, and then evaluate its performance in improving the administrative work of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and the Fight against Corruption.

First: The electronic platform of the Algerian transparency network “Narakem” and its missions

1. The electronic platform of the Algerian Transparency Network “Narakem” serves as a safe and secure reporting space for civil society actors to report corruption. It offers a simplified interface to facilitate remote reporting and serves as a means to access information and data related to the prevention and fight against corruption⁵⁹.

The general purpose of the network is to provide an integrated participatory space for the implementation and monitoring of the National Strategy for Transparency, Prevention and Combating Corruption by ensuring a supportive environment for civil society. This space allows for the exchange of knowledge, experience and information among its members and provides a framework for testimonies and reports on corruption⁶⁰. It is made up of representatives of civil society who voluntarily declare their commitment in accordance with the mechanisms and conditions set out in this Charter, without any financial obligations.

Second: Evaluation of the performance of the electronic platform of the Algerian Transparency Network “Narakem”.

Given the recent launch of this platform on 23 October 2023⁶¹ and the subsequent wait until 16 January 2024 to complete the installation procedures for the 96 members of the network - representing a coalition of civil society actors⁶², national associations, research institutions and media - as well as the election of its bureau members, it is currently impractical to evaluate the platform’s performance in improving the overall administrative quality of the authority in achieving its stated objectives. However, the tasks assigned to it in the Charter of Commitment allow us to assess its potential contribution to

improving administrative performance and cooperation with civil society in the fight against corruption, which the Authority aims to strengthen through this platform.

The creation of this network is one of the tools that have been established to achieve all the objectives that serve the public interest⁶³.

The platform performs various tasks and offers numerous services, such as the download of documents and forms related to the network, as well as articles and research published on the platform. It also facilitates the exchange of opinions and discussions in specialised forums on relevant topics under the title “Topics of the Week”.

In addition, the digital platform allows users to share experiences, knowledge and best practices on preventing and combating corruption in the workplace. It also enables the publication of announcements on various activities of the High Authority for Transparency, as well as the conduct of surveys, opinion polls and open digital investigations accessible to all members of the network.

Second subsection: The “Balaghna” Electronic Reporting and Notification Platform

The whistleblowing mechanism is one of the most effective and efficient means to reduce corruption crimes. However, it requires legal measures to protect the whistleblower. Consequently, international and regional conventions include specific provisions to establish a normative framework for the national legislation of the ratifying states⁶⁴.

The Algerian legislator has worked towards this by providing substantial protection through the criminalisation of acts of retaliation⁶⁵, intimidation or threats in any form against witnesses, experts, victims, whistleblowers or their family members, as well as any person closely associated with them, under the Law on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption. This is also reflected in the amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, where the 2015 amendment introduced a sixth chapter entitled “Protection of witnesses, experts and victims”⁶⁶.

Recognising the importance of this mechanism, the High Authority launched the electronic reporting and notification platform “Balaghna” to serve as a reliable and secure communication channel for whistleblowers reporting corruption crimes. In this sub-section, we will first introduce this platform and then assess its contribution to improving the quality of administrative services in the context of strengthening the corruption reporting mechanism within the High Authority.

First: Introduction to the “Balaghna” Electronic Reporting Platform

Article 06 of Law 22/08 states:⁶⁷ “Any natural or legal person with information, data or evidence related to acts of corruption may report and/or notify the High Authority”. Paragraph 02 of the same article further states: “The reporter or informant shall be protected in accordance with the legislation in force”.

The digital portal “Balaghna” was created to serve whistleblowers within the framework of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and its Combat, which aims to combat the phenomenon of corruption, limit its spread and promote a culture of rejection. It provides mechanisms and means to encourage citizens to report all forms of corruption, as well as to increase transparency in public affairs in order to bring citizens closer to the interests of the High Authority. The platform facilitates real-time, quick and secure reporting of corruption, while ensuring the protection and confidentiality of the identity of the reporters and the security of the data provided to the digital portal⁶⁸.

It is equipped with a user guide that explains the steps for reporting corruption, including options such as fax, mail and direct submission to the headquarters of the High Authority.

Second: Evaluation of the performance of the electronic reporting and whistleblowing platform “Balaghna”.

The “Whistleblower Space” available on this platform allows users to access and use it by creating a personal account, whether they are natural or legal persons. This space offers several possibilities, including:

- The ability to report corruption remotely and modify the content of the report within 15 days.
- Follow the progress of the report or notification.
- Access to all files submitted and details of each file.
- Responding to inquiries from the authority and providing additional information about the file, as well as informing the whistleblower of the final outcome of the report.

In terms of numbers, the platform has registered 376 users and received 59 reports, 57 of which are currently under investigation.

However, in its 2022 annual report, the High Authority for Transparency and Prevention of Corruption noted a weak response from electronic whistleblowers, with a preference for traditional mail. The number of reports submitted electronically in 2022 was 25 out of 551, or less than 5 per cent. This was attributed to several reasons, including the lack of a culture of reporting through modern means of communication⁶⁹.

Third subsection: The Digital Asset Declaration Platform⁷⁰

The High Authority for Transparency and the Prevention of Corruption is responsible for receiving the declarations of assets⁷¹ and ensuring that they are processed and monitored in accordance with the legislation in force, in particular for public officials covered by the provisions of Article 02 of Law 06/01⁷².

The financial declaration mechanism is a preventive tool in the fight against corruption and illicit enrichment, whether at the beginning or end of an official’s term of office, or in the event of a significant increase in a person’s financial status.

In view of the enormous burden of processing a large number of declarations and the challenges associated with this process, in particular with regard to the use of the content of the declarations and the way in which they are submitted, the High Authority has initiated the digitalisation of the asset declaration process through the development of a digital platform with a secure electronic system⁷³. We will discuss this platform by first introducing it and then evaluating its contribution to improving the administrative performance of the High Authority in receiving and processing asset declarations.

First: Definition of the Digital Asset Declaration Platform

Article 3 bis of Presidential Decree 24-215, which amends Presidential Decree 06-414 defining the model for asset declarations, states that “asset declarations can be submitted to the High Authority for Transparency⁷⁴, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat electronically, following the asset declaration model included within the digital platform prepared for this purpose.” Paragraph 02 of the same article specifies that the same model mentioned above is to be used for asset declarations in both paper and electronic forms.

Upon completing the declaration process and obtaining approval from the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat, the declarant can download a copy of their asset declaration through the digital platform, in accordance with Article 3 bis 1 of the same decree.

Second: Evaluation of the Contribution of the Digital Asset Declaration Platform to Enhancing the Administrative Performance of the High Authority

This platform serves as a digital space for “the real-time processing of declarations of assets by public officials, enhancing the technical capacity of the High Authority to collect and process the maximum number of declarations of assets, and ensuring optimal use and effective control of the data, with the potential for future interoperability with various public administrations that have their own databases”. This is expected to speed up the processing of these declarations and facilitate the availability of information, allowing human resources to be mobilised for other tasks, such as verifying the accuracy of the declarations and preserving them, as well as ensuring the security of the content of the asset declarations and preventing any leakage of information⁷⁵.

This electronic platform allows the declarant to personally engage by directly entering the data and information into the platform, thus facilitating and speeding up the asset declaration process and bringing the declarant closer to the High Authority.

In addition, the High Authority aims to integrate the National Identification Number (NIN)⁷⁶, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and local universities and urban planning, and to establish a framework for interoperability with various public administrations (tax authorities, state banks, commercial registry services, national housing card, grey card services for vehicles, national unified identification number card, etc.) in order to enable the High Authority to monitor and use the content of asset declarations and to speed up the processing of these declarations.

Conclusion

Through the preceding discussion, the study has reached the following results and recommendations:

Results:

Digitalization has become an essential requirement for supporting the pillars of public administration governance and achieving sustainable development. This is accomplished by enhancing civic participation in public affairs management, building public trust in the government, and creating an interactive space that connects key and subsidiary components, such as companies, business systems, and interactive media, to complete administrative processes and procedures. Therefore, Algeria has worked to accelerate the pace of public administration digitalization as part of its reform of management practices and the reduction of physical documentation in various administrative and public services, advancing the information society in Algeria.

Digitalisation plays an important role in preventing corruption in several respects, such as increasing the transparency of administrative work, improving mechanisms for monitoring the delivery of public services, facilitating interaction between citizens and the government, providing access to laws and regulations governing administrative services, speeding up the analysis of large amounts of data, and reducing favouritism and nepotism.

In line with its commitments arising from its accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in particular the provisions of Article 6, which urges member states to establish bodies to prevent corruption, Algeria established the National Authority for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption in 2006 under Article 17 of Law No. 06-01. However, it did not achieve the expected results

in reducing corruption. It was therefore replaced by the High Authority for Transparency, the Prevention of Corruption and the Fight against Corruption, in accordance with the constitutional amendment of 2020, which gave it greater powers and independence to remedy this shortcoming and achieve efforts towards ethical public life and the fight against corruption.

The United Nations Convention and the Arab and African conventions against corruption, to which Algeria is a party, provide the legal framework for the establishment and operation of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption and the Fight against Corruption at the external level. At the internal level, this is reflected in the constitutional amendment of 2020 and Law 22/08, which defines its powers, organisation and tasks, as well as the applicable texts pending their full adoption, estimated at eight implementing texts.

The Algerian legislator has granted the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat expanded responsibilities to achieve the highest indicators of integrity and transparency in managing public affairs. These responsibilities include preventive, supervisory, and remedial tasks, as stipulated in the constitutional amendment of 2020 and Law 22/08, which defines its powers, organization, and tasks.

In its pursuit to enhance its administrative performance and meet the requirements of modernizing public administration and improving public services, the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat has, since its establishment, utilized the digital environment by digitizing its services and administrative procedures. This has been manifested in several achievements, such as the launch of its official website, as well as the establishment of interactive platforms, including the electronic platform of the Algerian Transparency Network “Narakem,” the electronic reporting and notification platform “Balaghna,” and the digital asset declaration platform. These initiatives have positively contributed to the dynamism required for its work, despite the youth of the experience.

However, despite the efforts exerted by the High Authority in the field of digitization and the positives noted regarding the performance of its official website, some shortcomings have been observed. These include delays in completing some of its sub-windows, a lack of links to global social media platforms such as Twitter (now “X”), and an archival system that is not commensurate with the stature of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat.

Additionally, there is a noticeable absence of mobile applications or tablet applications specific to the digital platforms, which would simplify and facilitate communication and interaction with the management of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and its Combat

The National Strategy for the Prevention and Combat of Corruption for the years 2023-2027 represents an important reference framework and a serious and clear vision from the High Authority regarding improving public service and supporting digitization. This is in addition to the governmental efforts to achieve digital inclusion, which is personally monitored by the President of the Republic.

Recommendations

1. Strengthen the gains made by the High Authority for the Prevention of Corruption and its Combat in the field of digitization, while accelerating the pace of completing the digital transformation and eliminating the physical nature of all administrative documents, with the aim of achieving the target of “Zero Paper.”
2. Work on developing applications available for download on mobile phones and tablets to simplify access and usage, thereby achieving greater effectiveness for the existing digital platforms in asset

declaration and reporting corruption. This also includes activating the role of civil society in combating corruption and expanding the use of global social media platforms such as Twitter (now “X”).

3. Strengthen digital transformation efforts across all public administrations through a strategic vision that supports the completion and development of digital infrastructure and interoperability, facilitating collaboration among them and creating larger electronic monitoring mechanisms.

4. Promote comprehensive awareness of the importance of digitization in combating corruption and supporting integrity, transparency, and accountability, targeting both public sector employees and civil society.

5. Benefit from leading global experiences in digital transformation and enhance international cooperation while drawing inspiration from best practices related to digital transparency and combating corruption.

Footnotes:

¹- During the Cabinet meeting held on 22/09/2024, and on the occasion of presenting the interim report on the progress of the digitization process, the President directed the High Commission for Digitization to submit a detailed and accurate report at the next Cabinet meeting. This report should clarify the percentage of data connectivity among the ministerial sectors internally and between them, highlighting the progress in establishing the National Data Center and the timeline for its delivery.

²- The forms of e-government in providing services are as follows: government to citizens, government to businesses (traders), government to government, and government to employees.

³- See: The official website of the Presidency, available at the link: <https://www.el-mouradia.dz/ar/president/commitments> Access date: 10/04/2024.

⁴- Adnan Mustafa Al-Bar, Khaled Ali Al-Marhabi, "Digital Transformation: How and Why?" An article published on the Asbar International Forum website on December 3, 2024, available at the link: <https://www.awforum.org/index.php/ar> Access date: 22/10/2024.

⁵- The definition provided by the World Bank: "E-Government is a modern term referring to the use of information and communication technology to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of government services offered to citizens and the business community by empowering them with information, thus supporting all procedural systems of government and eliminating corruption."

⁶- Digitalization is understood in broad terms to mean: "the application of digital technologies, and thus digitized information or data, in the economy and society. In the world of work, digitalization entails the transformation of organizational structures and processes with the aim of improving efficiency, revenues, and resilience. Such application reshapes the organization of work, and thus has consequences for the amount and type of employment offered as well as working conditions and labor protection." (International Labour Organization, Challenges and Opportunities of Digitalization, 350th Session, Geneva, 4–14 March 2024 of the Governing Body, 20 February 2024, 03).

⁷- Bouatli Mohamed, Sami Liliya, "The Reality of Digital Platforms and Their Impact on Sustainable Development in Algeria: A Field and Quantitative Study," *Al-Mudabbir Journal*, Higher School of Management and Digital Economy, Qal'ah University Campus, Volume 09, Issue 02, 2022, p. 12.

⁸- Hadjarkhalfallah, Khaled Bendjelloul, "The Reality of Digital Transformation in Algeria: An Analysis of International Indicators," *Journal of Economic and Financial Research*, Oum El Bouaghi University, Volume: 10 Issue: 01 / June -2023, p. 779.

⁹- For more details, see:

ARRIBI, C., & Boutarfa, Soraya. (2024). "Digital Transformation: Opportunities and Challenges of Digitization in Algeria." *Economic Researcher Review*, 43, 12(1).

¹⁰- See: Sorbonne Academy for Training, "Concept of Digital Management: A Comprehensive Guide to Basic Concepts and Principles," Article available at the electronic link https://sorbonnetraining.com/blog-details Access date: 05/10/2024.

¹¹- *Roundtable on Digital Inclusion.* (n.d.). "Roundtable on Digital Inclusion." https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/general/Definition_Digital-Inclusion.pdf

¹²- Yucheng Chen, Digital Governance Management - Issues, Challenges, and Solutions, translated by Jaafar bin Ahmed Abdul Karim Al-Alwan and Talal bin Muslat Abdullah Al-Sharif, Research and Studies Center, General Administration Office, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2020, p. 24.

¹³- Adnan Mustafa Al-Bar, Khalid Ali Al-Marhabi, Digital Transformation: How and Why? An article published on the Asbar International Forum website on December 3, 2024, available at the link: [Asbar Forum](https://www.awforum.org/index.php/ar), date accessed: October 22, 2024.

¹⁴- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vlassis, D., Justice, Protection and Ethics Unit of UNICRI, Patrignani, A., Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC, Justice, Protection and Ethics Unit of UNICRI, Expert Group Meetings, UNODC, UNICRI, U.S. State Department, & Fondazione CRT. (2009). TECHNICAL GUIDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

¹⁵- Article 5 of the United Nations Convention adopted by the UN General Assembly on October 31, 2003, which entered into force on December 4, 2005, and was ratified by Presidential Decree No. 04-128 dated April 19, 2004, Official Gazette No. 26, issued on April 25, 2024.

¹⁶- For more details, see: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Transparency as a Precondition, available at the link: [UNODC](https://www.unodc.org/e4j/ar/anti-corruption/module-6/key-issues/transparency-as-a-precondition.html), date accessed: October 23, 2024.

¹⁷- Al-Hashimi Mazhoud, Mustafa Rabahi, The Role of E-Government in Establishing Administrative Transparency and Combating Administrative and Financial Corruption, *Journal of Human Sciences*, Mohammed Kheider University of Biskra, Volume 31, Issue 4, December 2020, p. 184.

¹⁸- This is referred to as the Digital Footprint feature.

¹⁹- You can access this record via the following link: https://mediateur.el-mouradia.dz/complaint

²⁰- Rania Hdar, "The Role of E-Governance in Combating Administrative Corruption," *Algerian Journal of Security and Development*, Department of Political Science, University of Batna, Issue 09, July 2016, p. 251.

²¹- Amjad Ghanem, "E-Governance as a Key Means to Promote Integrity, Transparency, Justice, and Efficiency in the Public Sector: The Case of Palestine," research paper presented at the Third International Conference on Preventive Measures Against Corruption, Governance-Compliance-Effectiveness, November 10, 2021, p. 11.

²²- See: Article 10, Paragraph 10 of the Arab Convention Against Corruption ratified by Algeria under Presidential Decree No. 14-249 dated September 8, 2014, which includes the ratification of the Arab Convention Against Corruption, drafted in Cairo on December 21, 2010, Official Gazette No. 55, dated September 21, 2014.

²³- Law No. 16-01, dated March 6, 2016, which includes the constitutional amendment, Official Gazette No. 14, issued on March 7, 2016.

²⁴- See: Article 40, Paragraph 2 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022, which defines the organization of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption and its formation and powers.

²⁵- *Zouaimia Rashid*, "The Legal Status of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption," *Academic Journal of Legal Research*, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Abdel Rahman Mira University, Volume 14, Issue 01, June 2023, p. 12.

²⁶- The constitutional amendment ratified in the referendum of November 1, 2020, issued under Presidential Decree No. 20-442, dated December 30, 2020, Official Gazette No. 82, issued on December 30, 2020.

²⁷- See: Text of Article 184 of the 2020 constitutional amendment.

²⁸- Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022, defines the organization of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption and its formation and powers, Official Gazette No. 32, issued on May 14, 2022.

- ²⁹- Presidential Decree No. 23/234 dated June 27, 2023, defines the structures of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption, Official Gazette No. 45, issued on July 6, 2023.
- ³⁰- Executive Decree No. 24-56: Dated 11 Rajab 1445 corresponding to January 23, 2024, includes the basic law for employees of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption.
- ³¹- The presidential decree signed on 18 Dhul-Hijjah 1443 corresponding to July 17, 2022, Official Gazette No. 50 dated 29 Dhul-Hijjah 1443, includes the appointment of the president of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption.
- ³²- The presidential decree signed on 18 Dhul-Hijjah 1443 corresponding to July 17, 2022, Official Gazette No. 50 dated 29 Dhul-Hijjah 1443, includes the appointment of members of the Council of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption.
- ³³- See: Article 02 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022, which defines the organization of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption and its formation and powers.
- ³⁴- The Central Office for the Suppression of Corruption is a central operational unit of the judicial police, tasked with investigating and documenting crimes within the framework of combating corruption. It was established under Article 24 bis of Law No. 06-01, concerning the prevention and suppression of corruption, as amended and supplemented.
- ³⁵- See: Article 04 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022, which defines the organization, formation, and powers of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Fight Against Corruption.
- ³⁶- See: Article 05 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022.
- ³⁷- See: Article 06 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022.
- ³⁸- See: Article 07 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022.
- ³⁹- See: Article 09 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022.
- ⁴⁰- See: Article 10 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022.
- ⁴¹- See: Article 10, Paragraph 3 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022.
- ⁴²- See: Article 11 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022.
- ⁴³- See: Article 12 of Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022.
- ⁴⁴- This strategy was launched on July 15, 2023, under the supervision of the Prime Minister, Ayman Ben Abdel Rahman, coinciding with the celebration of the African Anti-Corruption Day on July 11 each year, which was commemorated this year under the theme "20 Years of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption: Achievements and Prospects." It also coincided with the first anniversary of the establishment of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Fight Against Corruption.
- ⁴⁵- The official electronic link to the website of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption: <https://hatplc.dz/>
- ⁴⁶- Excerpt from a speech by Ms. Mesrati Salima, President of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption, on the occasion of the official launch of the Authority's website, coinciding with the International Anti-Corruption Day, observed annually on December 9th.
- ⁴⁷- Web Accessibility Standards Overview, Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI): <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/> (accessed on 10/10/2024).
- ⁴⁸- Example Websites: Features can be tested on sites like the UAE Government's official portal: <https://u.ae/ar-AE/>.
- ⁴⁹- Study Reference: Firas Mohammed Al-Azza, "Study No. 5: Website Quality Standards and Classification," available at: <https://www.zuj.edu.jo/Arabic/pdf/Quality/study5.pdf> (accessed on 24/10/2024).
- ⁵⁰- Facebook Official Page: [https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085245763587&ref=embed_page](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085245763587&ref=embed_page).
- ⁵¹- YouTube Official Channel:* <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEAx0FKBd7ig-tmcvW6fepQ>.
- ⁵²- Evaluation of Website Quality: Ibrahim Bekhti and Rabia Ben Zaid, "Evaluation of the Website Quality of the University of Ouargla," Al-Bahith Journal, Kasdi Merbah University Ouargla, Issue 13, 2013, p. 149.

- ⁵³- Internal Work Group Initiative: A thematic task force comprising members of the High Authority's Council and staff was formed to publish a special magazine for the Authority. For more details, refer to the 2022 Annual Report of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption, published in 2023, p. 162.
- Legal Reference Article 03 of the United Nations Convention adopted by the General Assembly on October 31, 2003.
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- ⁵⁵- . Digital Platforms: Patrizio, A. (2023, September 25). Digital Platform, Search CIO.
- ⁵⁶- References and Links Related to Transparency and Anti-Corruption in Algeria:
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- ⁵⁸- Algerian Transparency Network "Naracom" Platform:
<https://naracom.hatplc.dz/>.
- ⁵⁹- Legal References:
- Article 04, Paragraph 05, Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022, defining the organization, composition, and powers of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption (Official Gazette No. 32, May 14, 2022).
- ⁶⁰- Articles 01 and 04 of the Membership Charter of the Algerian Transparency Network "Naracom."
- ⁶¹- Algerian Transparency Network Launch Event:
- Official website of the Ministry of Interior, Local Communities, and Urban Development:
<https://www.interieur.gov.dz/index.php/ar> (published on November 2, 2023, accessed October 20, 2024).
- ⁶²- - Inauguration ceremony details: <https://hatplc.dz/?p=6737> (published January 16, 2024, accessed October 12, 2024).
- ⁶³- Academic Study:
Akouche Fathi and Chouireb Djilali, "The Role of the Algerian Transparency Network 'Naracom' in the Prevention and Combating of Corruption," Academic Journal for Legal and Political Research, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Amar Telidji University Laghouat, Vol. 01, Issue 01, March 2024, p. 752.
- ⁶⁴- References and Links Related to Transparency and Anti-Corruption in Algeria:
- ⁶⁵- Digital Platform Definition:
[Search CIO - Digital Platform](<https://www.techtarget.com/searchcio/definition/digital-platform>).
- ⁶⁶- Algerian Transparency Network "Naracom" Platform:
<https://naracom.hatplc.dz/>.
- ⁶⁷- Legal References:
- Article 04, Paragraph 05, Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022, defining the organization, composition, and powers of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Combating Corruption (Official Gazette No. 32, May 14, 2022).
- Articles 01 and 04 of the Membership Charter of the Algerian Transparency Network "Naracom."
- ⁶⁸- Algerian Transparency Network Launch Event:
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<https://www.interieur.gov.dz/index.php/ar> (published on November 2, 2023, accessed October 20, 2024).
- Inauguration ceremony details: <https://hatplc.dz/?p=6737> (published January 16, 2024, accessed October 12, 2024).
- ⁶⁹- Academic Study:
Akouche Fathi and Chouireb Djilali, "The Role of the Algerian Transparency Network 'Naracom' in the Prevention and Combating of Corruption," Academic Journal for Legal and Political Research, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Amar Telidji University Laghouat, Vol. 01, Issue 01, March 2024, p. 752.
- ⁷⁰- Electronic Reporting and Notification Platform "Balighna":
- <https://balighna.hatplc.dz/>.
- User Guide: [Download the Manual](https://balighna.hatplc.dz/assets/manuel_balighna.pdf).
- ⁷¹- Legal Framework Updates:

- Article 14 of the Arab Convention Against Corruption (Cairo, December 21).
- Amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure by Ordinance No. 15/02 dated July 23, 2015, introducing Chapter VI: "Protection of Witnesses, Experts, and Victims."
- Law 22/08 dated May 5, 2022, Official Gazette No. 32, May 14, 2022.
- ⁷²- Public Asset Declaration Forms:
[Download Word and PDF Formats](https://hatplc.dz/?page_id=6095).
- ⁷³- Definition of "Public Official" under Law 06/01:
Article 02 defines public officials as:
 - Persons in legislative, executive, administrative, or judicial positions or elected local councils, whether permanent or temporary, paid or unpaid, regardless of rank or seniority.
 - Anyone temporarily assuming a function or agency, paid or unpaid, serving a public body, public institution, or entity partially or wholly owned by the state or providing a public service.
 - Individuals classified as public officials under applicable legislation and regulations.
- ⁷⁴- High Authority Annual Report 2022:
 - Referenced on p. 42 and p. 69.
- ⁷⁵- Presidential Decree No. 24-215 (June 27, 2024):
This decree amends Presidential Decree No. 06-414 (November 22, 2006), which defines the model for asset declarations. (Referenced on p. 45).
- ⁷⁶- Unique National Identification Number (NIN):
According to Article 2 of Executive Decree No. 23/316 (September 6, 2023), the Unique Identification Number is:
"A personal digital piece of information that represents a set of data linked to the identification of any natural or legal person, reflecting their identity and status in a reliable and secure manner."