



Resilient institutions in times of crisis: transparency, accountability and participation at the national level key to effective response to COVID-19

National institutions are strongly impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19). The pandemic has disrupted to varying extents the regular functioning of state institutions, such as parliaments and justice systems, and affected key government functions and processes, undermining the effectiveness of government action. The need to respond quickly and with drastic measures has also created additional risks for institutional processes and organisations. Beyond individual institutions, the pandemic has increasingly affected whole institutional systems and the way public institutions interact with people.

This brief discusses the challenges of the COVID-19 emergency along key dimensions of national institutions highlighted in Sustainable Development Goal 16 (transparency, access to information, accountability and anti-corruption, participation and engagement). It also explores how government institutions and civil society have innovatively responded to ensure that transparent, accountable, responsive and equitable mechanisms continue to govern the functioning of government processes and organizations, thus increasing the resilience of institutions to shocks such as the coronavirus pandemic.

THE CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC HAS IMPACTED KEY DIMENSIONS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS

The coronavirus pandemic has affected national institutions through different channels. In response to the epidemic, 140 countries have implemented changes in rules and processes that

political and institutional systems (such as the adoption of emergency laws that allow to rule by decree, and the suspension of individual liberties), which may have longer-term negative consequences for public institutions and human rights, particularly of marginalized groups.

Among other effects, such changes have modified balances that existed prior to the coronavirus pandemic in terms of accountability, transparency and participation.

state of emergency and explain how to exercise the right of access to information.

Participation, engagement and representation

on public procurement. The Brazilian Court of Accounts has launched a special programme (Coopera), including a monitoring plan to identify risks, weaknesses and deviations in the government response to COVID-19.