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IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUMMITS
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**REPORT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INFORMATION SESSIONS
WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS**

FOLLOW-UP ON THE EIGHTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(March to May 2019)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat, as part of the Eighth Summit of the Americas follow-up and implementation process, organized a second phase of virtual and face-to-face sessions with civil society and social actors. The Summits Secretariat achieved the successful participation of civil society and social actors in 32 of countries of the Americas, through 25 sessions¹ held in September 2018 and 7 sessions that took place from March to May 2019².

The sessions were held with the collaboration of OAS country offices. The aim of these sessions was to brief participating civil society organizations and social actors about the outcomes of the Eighth Summit, the Lima Commitment and the follow-up and implementation phase, as well as to provide a space for dialogue on their ongoing efforts in the prevention and fight against corruption. The meetings were attended by 70 civil society organizations, including social actors.

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. To consult the report of these sessions, please access the following link: http://www.summit-americas.org/Social_Actors_2018/Summit%20101_EN.doc

² Belize, Bolivia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, United States and Uruguay.

REPORT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INFORMATION SESSIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS OF THE AMERICAS BY COUNTRY

The main contributions coming out of the information sessions are as follows:

BELIZE

1. How country is perceived in terms of preventing and fighting corruption

- There is a need to work closely with civil society and social actors.
- It is necessary to include the topic of prevention and the fight against corruption and ethics to national curriculum in early learning education and universities.
- Lack of governmental efficiency; need to promote open government policies.
- Need to have more government oversight.
- The recommendations of MESICIC need to be taken into account in government work as well have this information made public/visible for civil society to be able to be aware and work to achieve these recommendations.
- Need for whistleblower protection.
- Close bridge between ignorance and innocence.

2. Awareness about initiatives or public policies on preventing and fighting corruption

- Ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention
- Prevention of Corruption Act
- Freedom Information Act
- The offices of the Public Prosecutor, Ombudsman and the Auditor General are in place in government.
- Existence of an Integrity Commission and a Labor Advisory Council.

3. Initiatives, projects, or best practices that could contribute at the Lima Commitment implementation and follow-up phase

- Public Service Union of Belize (PSU)
 - Whistle Blower Act
- Child Development Foundation
 - Sensitization and Awareness on issues such as trafficking, domestic violence and child abuse.
- Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (TASA)
 - Mentorship and training for fishers
 - Establishment of a code of conduct to maintain membership
 - Creating an app to report illegal activities
 - The use of drone technology

- Education on drug prevention in schools.
- National Drug Abuse Control Council
 - Legal Reforms (National Alcohol Policy, Labour Policy, National Substance Abuse Policy, Drug Observatory).
 - Promotion of adequate standards of care for rehabilitation and treatment centers.
 - Education on drug use prevention, with a particular emphasis in schools.
- Humana People to People Belize
 - Awareness and sensitization campaigns.
 - Child aid and community development.
 - Strengthening emergency and disaster response for vulnerable communities.
 - Promote accountability and good governance of youth development programs.
- Gale University
 - Education program on ethics.

4. Activities of interest to encourage civil society and social actors to participate in the Lima Commitment implementation and follow-up phase

- Space for dialogue that will allow awareness of work of other organizations and see how to create synergy among each other's effort.
- Awareness on several issues related to the Lima Commitment.
- Awareness of MESICIC recommendations in order for civil society and social actors to assist in the follow-up and implementation of it.
- Opportunity for dialogue between civil society and government officials.
- Funding for civil society and social actors to attend regional and Summit activities.
- Ability to engage with other colleagues in the region.

Participating organizations

- | | |
|---|---|
| • ARS Belize Sugars | • Belize Workers' Union |
| • Young Women's Christian Association | • ASR Belize Sugars |
| • Belize Peace Movement | • National AIDS Commission of Belize |
| • Humana People to People Belize | • Programme for Belize |
| • Child Development Foundation | • BCCI |
| • Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry | • Trust of the Americas |
| • National Drug Abuse Control Council | • Public Service Union |
| • KBH Security Systems and Services | • Galen University |
| • Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence | • National Kriol Council |
| | • National Trade Union Congress of Belize |

BOLIVIA

1. Country perception in terms of preventing and combating corruption

- A culture of corruption exists with anti-values and institutionalized corruption arrangements in evidence.
- Lack of government independence due to the control exerted by the executive over all three branches and governmental institutions.
- There are anticorruption laws in place but they are not enforced by the judiciary, resulting in impunity.
- There are no corruption prevention policies
- The laws designed to create transparency and anticorruption bodies do not function adequately.
- There are no laws in place on access to public information.
- Laws are not obeyed and that disobedience, therefore, paves the way for abuse in the area of procurement.
- The news media are muzzled.
- Corruption is not properly investigated. Corruption is protected, which prevents prosecution and just convictions.
- There are no oversight bodies that ensure judgments or penalties.
- The fight against corruption must begin at home, with parents and schools imparting appropriate values. Ethics and moral values must be encouraged and strengthened in future generations.

2. Knowledge of public anti-corruption policies or initiatives

- Participation and Societal Oversight Law (Law No. 341)
- “Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz” Law on Combating Corruption, Illicit Enrichment, and Investigating Fortunes (Law No. 004)
- Law on Transparency and Fight against Corruption (Law No. 974)
- The Access to Information Law has not yet been adopted and the attempt has been made to undermine the Printing Law: the information received cannot be verified.
- Ethics committees do not work and do not punish acts of corruption.
- The Transparency and Fight against Corruption Units at the departmental and municipal government levels in Bolivia do not ensure that accusations of corruption are prosecuted.

There is aiding and abetting, impunity, and protection of corruption from within the different branches of government. The laws in place are not implemented.

Civil society initiatives

- There was criticism of the reelection referendum and public spending, where questions were raised about the work of the Electoral Authority and the Constitutional Court of Bolivia.
- Fundación Jubileo: Investigates public budgetary spending.

- **Fundación Construir:**
 - Does awareness-raising on the use of public resources allocated to preventing and combating corruption.
 - Promotes dialogue on government procurement with different actors.
 - Builds civic spaces for strengthening citizens' capacities in such areas as access to information, open data, and human.

3. Initiatives, projects, or good practices that could contribute to the Lima Commitment implementation and follow-up phase

- Strengthening democratic governance
- Transparency, access to information, protection of whistleblowers, and human rights, including freedom of expression
- Financing of political organizations and election campaigns
- Prevention of corruption in public works and public procurement and contracting
- Dissemination and replication of best practices based on international standards
- Opt for landmark cases and apply jurisprudence in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to obtain knowledge about cases and penalties at every level. For example, the Odebrecht case is a regional case.

4. Relevant activities for encouraging civil society and social-actor participation in the Lima Commitment implementation and follow-up phase

- Discussion forums on the Lima Commitment among civil society, social actors and government authorities.
- Disseminate Summits mandates or commitments
- Press for implementation of commitments at the national level through implementation reports.
- Dialogue forums to strengthen family institutions, instill and strengthen values in children, and help them generate a mindset of honesty and integrity in all areas of life.
- Create spaces in the judiciary where members of parliaments can be elected according to intellectual training, ethical, and spiritual values.
- Influence public policy through contact and negotiation mechanisms.

Participating Organizations

- Fundación para el Debido Proceso de Bolivia - DPLF
- Asamblea Permanente de Derechos Humanos de la Paz (APDHB)
- Fundación Construir
- Plataforma de Luchadoras Sociales Sobrevivientes de las Dictaduras
- Instituto de Investigación Pedagógica Social (IIPS)
- Centro de Estudios de Desarrollo en América Latina (CEDEAL)
- Fundación la Roca

- Unión Autónoma de Juntas Vecinales
- Centro de Mujeres Aymaras Candelaria Patacamaya

MEXICO³

Fundación Colectivo Hombres XX, A. C.

The mission of Fundación Colectivo Hombres XX, A.C. is to develop, promote, and implement an inclusive social culture and inclusive public policies with a gender equity and human rights perspective for the benefit of the sexually diverse population at the local, national, regional, and global levels, in order to eliminate prejudice, discrimination, and hate crimes.

One obstacle to the inclusion of the sexually diverse population in Mexico has been the total lack of transparency in the management of the budget for projects targeted at vulnerable groups, since no monitoring and evaluation process following budget allocation is in place.

This thwarts the advancement of political, social, and cultural rights of that population. Accordingly, only ineffective public policies on sexual diversity are to be found. It is important to note that with regard to hate crimes, Mexico ranks second. The organization seeks to ensure that public policies are crosscutting and intersectional, since the focus of its work ranges from the newborn (intersex), girls, boys, adolescents, adults and older persons, and persons with disabilities, to indigenous and Afro-descendant populations.

One of the organization's anti-corruption initiatives planned for implementation is the creation of an observatory of sexual diversity and community sexual diversity network at the local and regional levels that reports corrupt practices in government institutions and civil society and among activists that thwart the fulfillment of human rights for the sexually diverse population in Mexico.

The organization also works to ensure transparency, accountability, and the protection of its target population's sensitive information through the use of the consultation tools of the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information, and Data Protection [Instituto Nacional de Transparencia, Acceso a la Información y Protección de Datos (INAI)] and of the Institute for Transparency, Access to Public Information, Personal Data Protection, and Accountability of Mexico City [Instituto de Transparencia, Acceso a la Información Pública, Protección de Datos Personales y Rendición de Cuentas de la Ciudad de México (Info DF)].

Business Ombudsman and President of the Iztapalapa Industrial Unit A.C.

The mission of the Business Ombudsman is to ensure that Mexican businessmen and workers adopt a culture of respect for and protection and defense of political, social, economic, and cultural human rights.

³ This information session was carried out virtually with civil society and social actors of Mexico.

The Human Rights Commission of the Federal District (CDHDF) and the Businessmen's Association of Iztapalapa, A.C. [Asociación de Empresarios de Iztapalapa, A.C.] have signed a collaboration agreement to underscore the importance of the protection of companies' economic human rights and to safeguard the safety of their personnel with the aim of achieving the sustained healthy development of the Mexican economy. Mexico's first Business Ombudsman was created under this agreement.

With support from civil society and world organizations working to ensure compliance with the international treaties in this area, the new Ombudsman promotes opportunities primarily for small businesses to be heard and respected. They, in most cases, lack the human, economic, and technical resources to assert their rights.

The Business Ombudsman is a concept that will assist in preventing and reducing corruption at the three levels of government (federal executive, state, and municipal) through its three guiding thematic areas: MANAGEMENT, MONITORING, AND PROTECTION of public expenditure. These thematic areas are aligned with the preventive purposes of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. Corruption will be reduced through the implementation of these thematic areas.

The Business Ombudsman has participated in and monitored different governmental, academic, and private sector programs, thereby contributing to the prevention and fight against corruption, as part of the implementation of the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC).

Participating Organizations

- Fundación Colectivo Hombres XX, A. C.
- Ombudsman Empresarial y Presidente de la Unidad Industrial Iztapalapa A.C.

NICARAGUA⁴

The mission of **Red Gay de Nicaragua** is to transform the power relations that exclude and discriminate gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, transsexuals, intersexes and transvestites, generating a social change for the fulfillment of their human rights.

Red Gay de Nicaragua promotes a strategy for the fight against corruption based on LGBTI human rights promotion; through an approach that places the beneficiaries of human rights on an international scale and the corresponding obligations of the State at the center of the debate and in the efforts to fight corruption in all areas.

The initiatives or projects that the organization undertakes in the prevention and the fights against corruption are ethical education at all levels of education to strengthen social cohesion, equal

⁴ This information session was carried out virtually with civil society and social actors of Nicaragua.

opportunities and social coexistence. Likewise, other initiatives focus on the strengthening of codes of ethics in schools and associations, as well as the promotion of good governance policies and corporate social responsibility in enterprises.

Participating Organizations

- Red Gay de Nicaragua

PARAGUAY

Decidamos is a Paraguayan nongovernmental institution established in 1989. The organization's fundamental objectives are:

- To promote citizen participation in managing and controlling government activities and decisions.
- To contribute to the formation of a critical, organized, and pluralistic citizenry through civic education of the public and formation of critical awareness.
- To protect the human rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights and citizen guarantees established in the Paraguayan Constitution and laws.
- To develop projects, programs, and agreements that facilitate a country of greater equity, equality, and social justice.
- To conduct scientific research on human rights, democracy, social justice, culture of peace, public policies, and other areas related to the institution's aims and objects.
- To collaborate at the national and international levels with similar institutions.

Decidamos' mission is to contribute to the formation of an active, critical, organized, and pluralistic citizenry with a view to building democracy with social justice and the enjoyment of human rights.

From its very inception, Decidamos' various priority thematic areas have included contributing actively to the strengthening of citizen participation and of a variety of civil society organizations (including youth organizations), understanding that an organized citizenry is fundamental in controlling management by authorities and for their accountability. Accordingly, for Decidamos, management and accountability control clearly means that state institutions and authorities adequately will fulfill their functions without committing any corrupt act.

Decidamos has also incorporated and continues to incorporate in its projects, both specifically and in a cross-cutting manner, a human rights approach. And in that vein, one aspect it has been emphasizing is the importance of sufficient funding for public policies designed to guarantee access to rights. For Decidamos, this means that both quality and quantity of resource use must be guaranteed. To that end, the organization has incorporated analysis that reflects that one negative aspect of corruption is that it drains significant quantities of resources for these policies.

Decidamos has prepared different educational materials on preventing and combating corruption. Some materials address that matter alone, while in others, it is one aspect. These materials were prepared from a participatory methodology standpoint for courses and workshops imparted for civil society organizations. Decidamos also has a team of trained volunteers to carry out those training activities using said educational materials.

For some years now, projects executed have included several on the importance of increasing public social investment. This means both the quality and quantity of investment. That is: quality in the use of social investment resources and sufficient quantities of such resources. And in keeping with the reply to the preceding question, one fundamental aspect that would make this possible is absence of corruption in the use of social investment resources.

Decidamos has also executed projects to monitor the implementation of state programs so as to contribute to their optimization in terms of ensuring that they better reach more beneficiaries of such programs.

Participating organizations

- Decidamos, Campaña por la Expresión Ciudadana

SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS

Dare 2 Be Different International is a Saint Kitts and Nevis community group and Charity since June 1, 2008. The Victory Centre is a Saint Kitts and Nevis Church since March 3, 2013.

Both organizations are non-religious and seek not to discriminate. The organizations have been focused on dealing with youth and youth at risk and run a number of training and youth development programs. They have been a voice to the youth. They have a strong working relationship with primary and secondary schools.

Both organizations carry out training sessions for the youth in order to promote righteousness by doing what is right and law abiding. These organizations help to mold the minds of children and youth to stay away from corruption.

The initiatives, projects or good practices that the Organizations are working towards the prevention and the fight against corruption are:

- Regular youth meetings
- Regular visits to schools
- Periodic youth and parent's conferences
- Social media campaigns

Participating organizations

- Dare 2 Be Different
- Victory Centre

UNITED STATES

International Budget Partnership (IBP)

The International Budget Partnership is an international organization that works with civil society and governments around the world to strengthen and promote budget openness and transparency. The organization also fosters mechanisms that encourage public input in budget processes and strengthening of budget oversight and monitoring institutions.

The IBP works with civil society to develop mechanisms for public participation and societal monitoring of budgets. To that end, it promotes spaces for dialogue between civil society and governments to talk about a range of topics, including fiscal policy, in order to generate agreements for advancing budget transparency. The IBP representative stressed that civil society should work with government to look for solutions.

Some of IBP's initiatives are as follows:

1. **Open Budget Survey.** The Open Budget Survey is a study that has been conducted every two years since 2006; it covers 170 countries. The survey assesses budget transparency based on the amount and timeliness of budget information governments make publicly available as well as civic participation in budget processes. Work is currently under way on the survey for 2020, which will measure budget transparency in the health and education sectors.
2. **Assessing Budget Credibility.** This research project analyzes differences between budgets approved by legislative bodies and those actually executed. The project is being carried out with 25 civil society organizations, seven of them in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project aims to detect and analyze where budget deviations occur.
3. **A collaborative initiative with oversight entities, comptrollers, and audit offices in six countries around the world, including Argentina and Mexico.** The work is being done in partnership with civil society and oversight entities. The aim is to create collaborative spaces for reviewing the recommendations of those entities with a view to monitoring their implementation.
4. **The initiative is designed to generate forums where citizens can demand better quality in public services provision.** It is being carried out in different countries with civil society organizations.

The work of the IBP ties in with mandate 14 of the Lima Commitment.

Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF)

DPLF is an organization that promotes the rule of law and human rights throughout the region through technical studies, recommendations, and exchanges of experiences.

DPLF has a program on judicial independence that is related to the fight against corruption. The DPLF representative mentioned that judicial independence is not free from the corruption problem and noted that many of the most notorious cases of corruption, such as the “carwash” scandal, made it clear that judicial systems are key cogs in the machinery of grand corruption. Grand corruption influences political systems through illicit financing of election campaigns, for example. It also exerts complete or partial control over certain political actors and mechanisms when it comes to choosing judicial officials, or results in the co-option of judicial systems in order to ensure impunity.

As a human right organization, DPLF follows and contributes to the conversation about how to attack corruption from a human rights perspective. The discussion about the relationship between corruption and human rights has been approached from the point of view of how corruption undermines human rights. In that connection, the DPLF representative said that provision of public services, such as health care or education, suffers because the money allocated for those services is diverted toward corrupt public officials.

DPLF considers judicial independence, access to information, and transparency to be effective weapons against corruption. In its activities to prevent and combat corruption, the DPLF adopts a human-rights-based approach to strengthen justice systems, on the premise that independent judiciaries are crucial in the fight against corruption in the region.

DPLF has partnered with the IACHR in promoting discussion about corruption and human rights.

Citizen Forum of the Americas and REDLAD

REDLAD has a mechanism for civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas. Known as PASCA (for the Spanish *Participación de la Sociedad Civil en la Cumbre de las Américas*), the mechanism has played an important role in follow-up on Summits commitments since 2015.

Important action areas for REDLAD that should be taken into account in the Lima Commitment follow-up and implementation stage include the following:

- Anticorruption policies in the framework of the OAS: The OAS has enjoyed success in the area of access to information by drafting model laws on access to information, including the “Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information 2.0.” It was noted that such successful experiences should be taken into account for their future replication.
- Coordination of commitments arising from different international forums, including the Summits of the Americas. Emphasis was given to the need to monitor and link all these commitments.
- Measurement of Summits commitments to demonstrate progress in their implementation. PASCA will set up an observatory to keep track of anticorruption commitments and initiatives in the Americas.

Young Americas Business Trust (YABT)

YABT is a nongovernmental organization that was set up in 2005 to work with OAS member states to create development programs for young people.

The YABT organizes the Young Americas Forum, a permanent, inclusive platform to promote young people's engagement in the Summits process and in other OAS events, such as the General Assembly and ministerial meetings.

At the Summit in Peru in 2018, the Young Americas Forum drew around 400 young people. As a result of the Forum, the young people adopted a declaration of commitment in relation to the Eighth Summit's theme: Democratic Governance against Corruption. The declaration was first presented to the Heads of State and Government of the Americas at the plenary session of the Eighth Summit. A year after the Forum a follow-up consultation was carried out with young people in the region to find out what measures they were spearheading in relation to the Lima Commitment, the obstacles that they had encountered, and their plans for the future.

The measures or initiatives that young people are undertaking in follow-up to the Lima Commitment are:

- Civic consultations on preventing and combating corruption: Through these consultations young people inform others members of their generation about the Lima Commitment in order to highlight the importance of societal oversight of governments. As part of the consultations an online campaign with the hashtag #BastaDeCorrupción (#EnoughWithCorruption) was conducted to draw attention to illicit activities or congratulate government representatives on their successes against corruption.
- Anticorruption training: The organization My World Mexico has begun implementing anticorruption training workshops. The workshops are intended for young people who aspire to public office.
- Accountability Challenge Program: An initiative that identifies, supports, and provides financing for innovations led by young people in the area of social accountability that include a technological component. The main objective of the program, which targets people under 30, is to foster technology used for accountability purposes. The initiative was devised in partnership with the World Bank.

Counterpart International

Counterpart International is an international organization that works with local partners to promote local change. These partners include social actors, as well as organizations from different fields, including education, health, and transparency, etc.

The organization's work in corruption is focused on transparency and accountability initiatives, including investigation and prevention of corruption with an emphasis on social accountability.

Counterpart International implements initiatives in collaboration with CSOs and governments, so they can be sustainable and bring an impactful change. The main objective is to connect these initiatives with the national government strategies and/or with the multilateral initiatives of a specific country. This prevents duplication of efforts.

There is a lack of public awareness of the definition of corruption. Often, citizens do not correlate corruption to its social impact. Therefore, some Counterpart International's initiatives are focused on defining corruption and its social impact.

Counterpart International activities include:

- Carry-out capacity building workshops for civil society organizations in order to allow them to identify challenges and implement solutions more effectively, transparently, and inclusively. As a result of this, civil society will be part of social change.
- Establishes social partnerships among local organizations to bring together organizations that work in the same field to put forward initiatives and bring the know-how in the prevention and the fight against corruption. For example, in Honduras, Counterpart International partnered with a think tank that works in fiscal transparency and with the government to develop and establish an online monitoring system. This online platform allows the monitoring of fiscal budget spending and reporting it to the general public.
- Works with youth. It is important to include youth and children in the fight against corruption. In Honduras, the organization was able to work with a local partner to create books for children in order to explain them the concept of transparency and show them what is right and wrong through storytelling.

It is fundamental to count with the political will to implement the commitments from the Summits.

Participants' conclusions

- They said that there should be opportunities for participation by civil society and social actors at every stage of the Summits process:
- They emphasized the importance of continuing to offer a space for civil society and social actors to address the plenary session of Summits of the Americas.
- They suggested making available informal physical spaces to enable civil society and social actors to stage parallel events where they could engage in dialogue with governmental representatives. This will help to boost participation in activities organized in the days immediately prior to the Summit because civil society and social actors will not organize parallel events outside of the framework of Summit activities.
- They underscored the importance of continuing to hold national-level consultations with civil society and social actors in which the involvement of young people should be ensured.
- Replicating dialogue forums, such as the March 2018 Hemispheric Dialogue, to enable civil society and social actors to engage with government representatives.
- They said that certain issues monopolize attention during forums or dialogues with States, with the result that the concerns of other civil society sectors are overlooked. It was recommended that a mechanism be set up to come up with solutions to avoid that situation.
- They highlighted the importance of involving other OAS organs, such as the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE), in the follow-up on Summits mandates.
- They stressed that presentation on the progress of work by civil society and social actors to participating countries should occur further in advance of the Summit to allow that

process to be more effective and enriching. For example, during regular meetings of the SIRG, such as ministerial-level meetings.

- They noted the need to ensure that States participated in the spaces organized for civil society and social-actor participation in the Summits process.
- They emphasize that the countries taking part in the Summits Process should justify why some proposals advanced by society and social actors are not taken into account.
- The need to know what role civil society and social actors will have in the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, as well as for information about which spaces will be made available for this sector's participation in the Eighth Summit follow-up and implementation stage.

URUGUAY

1. Country perception in terms of preventing and combating corruption

Transparency International reports that in recent years, the region experienced a solid increase in laws and institutions that promote transparency and accountability in the public sector. For example in 2016; there was also an increase in investigations into different cases of corruption (perhaps the most high-profile one being the Odebrecht case, given its repercussions in several countries in the region); the creation of OAS commissions to analyze specific cases (for example in Guatemala and Panama); monitoring of elections through the deployment of observers, etc.

However, in light of events in the region, Transparency also points to the need to promote an integral approach that tackles key structural issues, including political funding, public procurement and the strengthening of independent, strong, and flexible legal institutions.

Uruguay occupies a prominent position in the Americas as the least corrupt country in Latin America (according to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index, it ranks 27th of 180 countries and scores of 70/100). According to accepted international reports, Uruguay's ranking is acceptable: good for the Latin American context, middling in global terms. However, Transparency mentions in an early-2019 report that the Corruption Perceptions Index reflects stagnation in the fight against corruption in the majority of countries and reveals that corruption is contributing to a crisis of democracy around the world.

The organization's website says that in the opinion of Uruguay Transparente, one of the most troubling gaps in the law is the absence of a definition of "illicit enrichment," "unjustified enrichment," or the like from Uruguay's criminal laws, an offense that most Latin American countries have criminalized in keeping with the recommendations of the United Nations and the OAS.

2. Knowledge of public anti-corruption policies or initiatives

Particularly worth noting are the following:

- JUTEP: identifies government corruption risks
- Public Procurement Observatory
- National Secretariat for the Fight against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (SENACLAFT)
- Access to Public Information Unit (UAIP)
- Anti-money Money Laundering Law
- Publication of procurement tenders
- Sworn statements (for example, on the net worth of prominent political figures)
- Codes of conduct for civil servants
- Access to public information
- Political Party Law
- In relation to health and research with humans, the Ethics Committee establishes commitments for preventing conflict of interests.
- Public-private regulations and/or codes of ethics for the financial and pharmaceutical industries

In that regard, one interesting contribution that is universally applicable can be found in the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (which Uruguay has ratified in a law), Article 5.3 of which provides: “In setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law.”

Industry interference, conflicts of interest, and business lobbies demonstrably undermine public policy.

Among other things, work should continue on the introduction of regulatory laws, such as the Lobbying Law for transparency and open agendas.

3. Initiatives, projects, or good practices that could contribute to the Lima Commitment implementation and follow-up phase

From civil society organizations, at the micro level, the commitment can be maintained to keep a watch on internal systems that can generate corruption risks, accountability, conflict of interests, etc.

There should be regular education activities with workers and program participants on matters relating to ethics, values, and integrity.

4. Relevant activities for encouraging civil society and social-actor participation in the Lima Commitment implementation and follow-up phase

Bearing in mind the foregoing, we believe that a sustained combined effort on the part of the agencies involved, with the participation of civil society and social actors, will enable those

actors to be both drivers and witnesses in implementing what was agreed upon. That would allow them to act as a permanent observatory of anticorruption good practices.

In that connection, we are seeing increasing participation by NGOs advising government on issues such as health, education, etc. This opening up to civil society is not being sufficiently disseminated or publicized to bring about greater engagement.

Accordingly, more-active civil society participation could be promoted in bodies that do follow-up on regulators and supervisory entities, including creating consultation and decision-making spaces.

Steps could be taken to strengthen dialogue forums with civil society organizations, for example, through the National Association of Development-Oriented Nongovernmental Organizations (ANONG), which would ensure the representation of a sizable percentage of civil society.

In addition, meetings could be organized where civil society organizations could be invited to establish commitments through their programs on preventing and combating corruption, including establishing a follow-up and monitoring plan for those programs.

Participating organizations

- Madrinas por la Vida
- Asociación Cristiana Uruguaya de Profesionales de la Salud (ACUPS)
- Centro de Investigación para la Epidemia del Tabaquismo (CIET)
- Alianza de Enfermedades No Trasmisibles (ENT)
- Fundación Dianova