



**15th INTERNATIONAL  
ANTI-CORRUPTION  
CONFERENCE**

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:  
CONNECTING AGENTS OF CHANGE**

**BRASÍLIA BRAZIL  
7-10 NOVEMBER 2012**

**Long Plenary Report: The future of fighting corruption: Are we ready?**

**Date & Time: 10<sup>th</sup> November, 14:00 – 16:00**

**Report prepared by: Deborah Hardoon, Research Manager  
Transparency International Secretariat**

**Speakers:**

**Elena Panfilova**, Transparency International Russia

**Graziela Nozomi Martino Tanaka**, Campaign Director, Change.org

**Rajiv Joshi**, Director of Programmes, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

**Dona Kosturanova**, President, Youth Educational Forum (YEF) Macedonia

**Moderated by:** Emmanuel Sanyi, Global Youth Anti-Corruption Network (GYAC)

### **Opening Remarks by the Moderator (half page minimum)**

From Tahrir Sq in Egypt, to Papua New Guinea, Peru, Bolivia, the DRC to Scotland...we are questioning what is the place of youth and how can youth be formally acknowledged in the processes that inform change. This session is to explore what the role of youth can be in the fight against corruption.

“Young people have the passion, energy, determination and courage to make things change. We are often referred to as the future, but are we not the present? The now? Aren't we knowledgeable enough now to have seats at the table. “

The IACC is in its 15<sup>th</sup> edition. In the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> IACC youth was acknowledged though little involvement followed. At the 14<sup>th</sup> IACC in Bangkok, young people were present, but struggled to get noticed. But here, at the 15<sup>th</sup> IACC, young people are noticed especially with the participation of members of the Global Youth Anti-Corruption Network. And now that young people have been acknowledged, there is need for them to be accorded greater consideration and integration in the struggle against corruption. We applaud the IACC and TI for recognising the role of youth in the fight against corruption and providing this platform for discussion.

This session will start with 4 panellists that will share where they have come from, what inspired them and according to them, what they see as the future of fighting corruption. Divided in two parts, the audience is invited after the panellists to not only ask questions but where possible share stories on experiences on where youth have come from and how they inspire and inform the anti-corruption movement. But the main focus and the second half of this session will focus on the way forward to be defined by all participants in this session on what the IACC and the movement against corruption should do going forward.

## **Panellists Discussion Points (indicate panellist, half page each or more for each panellist)**

### **Dona Kosturanova, President, Youth Educational Forum (YEF) Macedonia**

*25 years old, engaged with the media and active in talking to and about policies and campaigns nationally and globally.*

Dona is from Macedonia, a central Balkan country where she has been involved in civil society for 11 years now. She started with an initiative requesting for institutions to make it transparent as to what the requirements for external examinations were. Now she is the president of an entirely youth led educational forum. 'They are doing it for their peers, but also for their community'.

What does youth bring?

1. Drive. In contrast to 'professional' anti-corruption workers, youth feel a need, a desire and genuine interest and a personal objective to fight corruption.
2. Scrutiny and challenge. When the media just accepted information at face value, young people challenge it and explore how the information is put together.
3. Innovation. Without regular mechanisms to engage, young people have to be innovative and come up with new modes to vocalise their messages and get involved. Using crowdsourcing platforms, data visualisation, music as a tool and various creative networks. These can be replicated by non-youth orgs, but youth developed it
4. Outreach. Young people are masters of the online worlds, providing access to a much wider audience. They are also very good at peer to peer communications, how to tell our friends it is important and why. Taking the jargon out of the issues and make it relevant.
5. Professionalism and knowledge. Young people won't get lost in legislation, they know what they are talking about and can be eloquent in expressing themselves, demanding information and understanding how to use their constitutional right.

Based on these qualities and this added value of young people, they should not be seen and discussed on the sidelines, as an outlier, but be an integral part in the fight against corruption and harness their voice in a structured way.

"Let's hope that at the next IACC there will not be a special youth plenary. Because youth will be fully integrated into the whole structure of the movement and the conference."

### **Graziela Nozomi Martino Tanaka, Campaign Director, Change.org**

*Brazilian sociologist, working on moving legislation forward and informing policy*

Having collected 1.3 million signatures for the Clean Profile Bill with Change.org, they were told there was no political will for change and passing of this bill, despite the signatures. As a result the Brazilian Congress delayed the voting for the bill. Faced with this dilemma, Graziela started to actively mobilise the masses through telephone calls and online crowdsourcing in real time. The media picked up her campaign and in the end, huge popular support for this grew such that finally when the bill came for vote to congress only 13 congressmen voted against it. Even the corrupt politicians were persuaded to vote for this law.

This Bill has changed the landscape for engagement in politics in Brazil. Through the internet and particularly social networks, twitter etc, politicians know that people are watching and

there is an open space for conversation. This is now evident in the monthly allowance scandal now playing out in Brazil, which people are following in real time, posting on twitter what ministers are doing and saying. This is new - people are not used to participating politically. There has been a marked change of youth and the political process.

Young people have a different attitude. They want to 'do'. For example with the hackathon present at this IACC. The Hacker community work on the basis of transparency, horizontal and collative, with a 'do aucracy' theology. If you can, do, the good ideas will emerge and be taken up and be successful. The Hackathon group created a 'we want to know' website, which shares what people have requested from government. This is just an example of young people that are engaged and curious and will do something about it, but delving into huge spreadsheets and turning it into things that people can understand.

On Change.org, anyone can start a petition. This provides the means for people, when they want to see change, they can turn that in to action and people will follow.

**Elena Panfilova**, Transparency International Russia

*Started TI Russia in 1999, a champion of youth both at home and at work*

Elena's involvement in anti-corruption started in 1999 with work on creating TI Russia. Corruption was not openly discussed and there was little in the way of resources to support any movement that worked on anti-corruption. But she was inspired by people, and she succeeded because people believed in her and helped her to believe it was possible.

Elena is a proud leader of a team of dedicated young people. One of her employees, a 25 year old developed a project about the cost of corruption in a pint of milk. This Research led to a huge change in the milk industry. A 23 year old looked at corruption in the Russian nuclear agency. She was invited to a meeting to present her findings and all her recommendations were incorporated by the Nuclear Agency. These actions by her young colleagues demonstrate her belief in the power of youth and the contributions that young people can make in the anti-corruption movement globally and her commitment to providing the space to make this possible.

'We should create a room for youth to make a difference and take a step back if they want to lead'

Youth are the most valuable tool to bring in creative ideas. Youth create change not in the future. Youth create change now. Three closing thoughts on how to move forward with our engagement with youth:

1. Respect each other. Making change is not about age. 18 or 60. It is more about blending knowledge and experience across the board. There should be young people on opening plenaries if they have something to share and something important to say.
2. Responsibility. We should be responsible for what we encourage young people to do. They need guidance and also protection.
3. Engagement is not about talking. Real engagement is about practicing what you preach. Therefore the anti-corruption movement at local to global level needs to develop an inclusive practice that recognises the contribution of youth.

Elena extends apologies to the young people who presented their projects at the gala dinner, when people did not listen and talked over the presentations. While this was disrespectful for the young winners, it is also to the loss of the people that did not listen.

**Rajiv Joshi**, Director of Programmes, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)  
*A global citizen, born Indian, grew up in Uganda and a citizen of Scotland. Campaigning with GCAP, he is a mover, a driver, particularly with young people.*

All of us are youth activists and civil society activists.

“If Corruption is the single biggest challenge in our society, then young people are the single biggest hope”

In the Scottish youth parliament, Rajiv pioneered online elections, engaged young people in surgeries, hosted meetings with members of parliament and getting young people involved and believing that they have real power to change. Change happens not through institutions, but through people, especially young people who can be active in changing mind-sets.

Change requires knowing how to organise and having the tools to mobilise. Change happens when we get the political conditions right, with human endeavour, looking at information, never being too humble to stand up against injustice. But, how do we harness the power young people bring to change the world from endemic corruption to a world where benefits are shared with the world’s most vulnerable?

Youth participation is not a nice to have, it is absolutely necessary for the world we want to have. At CIVICUS, we want to have young people at the table discussing with us how we want the world to change.

## **List most Interesting Questions from the Floor**

**Q – when young people are the future how can we best engage people from poorer backgrounds?**

The internet - It is not unimaginable that MOST people have access to the internet. When your friends use it, you do too. It can grow exponentially and cross income boundaries particularly when facilitated by mobile phones, community centres etc.

Empowering people - People councils are on the rise in schools in Africa. Giving young people the chance to come together and challenge power. This needs to start at the very youngest age, when behaviours and beliefs begin to shape.

Make it relevant - We can engage more people, when we talk about an issue that is not just political, but that is real. When we can demonstrate how corruption affects outcome people care about, books, schools, health.

**Q - We cannot encourage people to get involved, unless we can provide a safe environment for them to do so.**

The internet - a force of protecting people, as it provides a collective force.

Through mechanisms – For example, providing a conduit through which young people can make requests for information.

**Q - We should also enhance the legislation – internationally – to provide an instrument for international whistleblowing.**

If government does not enforce the legislation, we must fulfil these same obligations from a civil perspective.

**Q – Young people should not only be engaged in the fight against corruption, but also be monitored themselves in terms of how they behave, in young people’s electoral processes and student governments, in ICT etc.**

We have a tendency of pointing the finger, but are slower at looking at ourselves. We need to look at mutual accountability and sharing power. Some of the greatest power struggles are happening in youth organisations. Through online elections and transparent processes that put own interests aside and collective interests of a just system for the collective youth voice is created.

It is true that in some countries it is trendy to get ahead through corrupt means. These habits are learned. So to combat this, firstly, we don’t see enough role models that send the right message to youth on how to be successful. And secondly, peer pressure needs to be enhanced with new positive trends being set as examples.

**Comment – As a 65 year old, I am here, as youth. We need to invest, as NGOs, finding funds, in young people. Young people are afraid of participating, because they are afraid of being antagonistic to the government. I have a dream, of a world free of corruption.**

Being young as a mind-set – allows for us to work together for change to be possible. However, when we talk about youth, based on country and context, we refer to age. Creating spaces for youth to emerge based on age definition is important but not as a tool to stigmatise against older generations. Partnerships between young and old help shape better endeavors for the fight against corruption.

**Comment - Youth are experts and innovators, particularly with ICT. And ICT change and adaptation has outpaced the change in systems and institutions.**

## Concrete Recommendations and Follow-up Actions (1 page)

**At the IACC:** There should be no special plenary for youth. Young people's expertise should be included in the thematic sessions both for their contribution and as a learning experience. And young people should be placed centre stage, in the opening plenary.

**Involvement in organizations:** At the global and local level, young people should be incorporated and integrated into organisations, institutions, processes and structures that engage in the fight against corruption. Such synergy enables effectiveness and innovation as it allows for youth to bring in skills especially ICT skills which they master and can put to contribution in this struggle.

**From an early age:** People as young as 5 years old have to start reading about corruption and integrity. We should use the tools of the youngest - games, online tools and in schools. This will ensure that learned behaviours at childhood are the right ones. Also the use of alternative tools, such as music and all that the ICTs bring needs to be harnessed into the fight against corruption.

**Provide a strong moral foundation:** Values and moral fibres are required to do the right things. But these should not just be words, but should be actions. Role models are important to support young people to live values and act on them.

**Provide the space to do more:** Less talking, more action. For example the hackathon. They came to the IACC to be active and to actively develop programmes that fight corruption right now at this conference. Practical projects and initiatives that contribute to the fight against corruption and also take it to the masses in different countries need to be supported by the world wide anti-corruption movement.

**Network:** Activate our networks, to share our knowledge and tools.

## Interesting Quotes (1 page in bullets indicating panellists names)

**Emmanuel Sanyi**, Global Youth Anti-Corruption Network (GYAC)

*"Young people have the passion, energy, determination and courage to make things change. We are often referred to as the future, but are we not the present? The now? Aren't young people knowledgeable enough now to have seats at the table?"*

**Elena Panfilova**, Transparency International Russia

*"We should create room for young people to make a difference and take a step back if they want to lead"*

**Rajiv Joshi**, Director of Programmes, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

*"If Corruption is the single biggest challenge in our society, then young people are the single biggest hope"*

*"We can no longer meet just to talk, we are sick of talk. We are seeking to know how to act, to change the world we in which we live"*

**Dona Kosturanova**, President, Youth Educational Forum (YEF) Macedonia

*"Let's hope that at the next IACC there will not be a special youth plenary, because youth will be fully integrated into the whole structure of the movement and the conference."*

## Key insights recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration

The title of the session was the future of fighting corruption: Are we ready. The focus was on young people's views and insights into how corruption can be fought. But it is clear that whilst the young people have a role, have a presence and have a voice in forums like the IACC, their voice is different.

Young people are relevant not only in a side session such as this, but should be present in the main sessions, contributing to the discussion on the same level as other delegates, present at the opening plenary but with a presence based on expertise and insight and not as a token gesture to 'young people'.

This should be extended to other forums, whereby young people play an integral role, as opposed to being heard on the side-lines. Anti-corruption movements from grassroots to global level needs to find opportunities to full integrate youth so as to harness their contribution in the fight against corruption.

## Signed and date submitted

**Deborah Hardoon (Rapporteur) 13/11/12**

**Sanyi Emmanuel Sanyi (Moderator) 13/11/12**

---