



**15th INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
CONFERENCE**

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:
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**BRASÍLIA BRAZIL
7-10 NOVEMBER 2012**

Long Session Report: Global Solutions

Session Title: Putting Governance Back in the MDGs: Tackling Corruption at Its Roots in the Post-2015 Agenda

Date & Time: 9th November 2012, 9.00 – 11.00am

Report prepared by: Ms. Azuka Ogugua, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Nigeria

Experts:

- Ms. Huguette Labelle, Chair, Transparency International (*opening remarks*)
- Ms. Shireen Said, Global Policy Advisor on Human Rights, UNDP
- Mr. Rajiv Joshi, Director of Programmes, Global Call for Action against Poverty (GCAP)
- Ms. Lilian Ekeanyanwu, Head, Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR) Nigeria
- Mr. Francesco Checchi, Anti-Corruption Programme Coordinator, UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre

Moderated by: Ms. Chantal Uwimana, Regional Director – Africa, Transparency International

Session coordinated by: Ms. Folake Oluokun, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nigeria

Summary of Panellists' Contributions & Discussion Points (please be as detailed as possible)

The workshop session had two sections with two panellists per section. The first section was on global perspectives while the second was on national efforts.

The first panellist, Shireen Said, spoke on the topic “Why Governance should be part of the Post-2015 Agenda”. Governance is crucial for the achievement of sustainable development as well as for developing a new agenda for the post-2015 framework. Experience has shown that progress in achieving the MDGs is underpinned by strong democratic governance. Good governance ensures that basic needs are met and poverty is reduced. The importance of democratic governance for sustainable human development was clearly underlined by the UN Secretary General’s High Level Global Sustainability Panel which stated that *“democratic governance and the full respect for human rights are key prerequisites for empowering people to make sustainable choices”*. Democratic deficits however, continue to lie at the core of critical development challenges related to social and political violence, inequality, state fragility, transitions, increased demands on the natural environment and a global crisis of confidence in the integrity, capacity and legitimacy of the state to deliver human development.

The UN-led process on determining the post-2015 development framework will include national consultations in at least 100 countries; global thematic consultations on 11 key issues (inequalities, population, health, education, growth & employment, conflict & fragility, governance, environmental sustainability, food security & nutrition, water and energy); and the creation of a web portal for interaction and information exchange. The consultations at the global, regional and national level would provide a more complete picture of the experience of development. In addition, virtual e-discussions will complement these discussions and these efforts will culminate in a multi-stakeholder meeting on governance that will take place on the 26 and 27 of February 2013, next year in South Africa.

The second panellist, Rajiv Joshi spoke on the topic “The Role of Governance and Anti-Corruption in the post-2015 agenda”. Speaking from the perspective of what should constitute building blocks for governance in the Post-2015 agenda, the speaker emphasized the need for people participation in the items that should form part of the agenda. He argued that governance was negotiated out of the MDGs for political reasons but

seeing that the achievement of the MDGs has been limited due to poor governance, it was time to restore it.

A key building block to good governance is citizens empowerment to hold government accountable for its actions or inactions. People should be mobilized and empowered with information to drive political change. Accountability Mechanisms should also be part of the Post-2015 agenda. The process of articulating the post-2015 agenda is a new opportunity to create a functional framework that will lead to the achievement of the future we all desire.

Discussions on this Section of the workshop session focused on how the context of governance has changed since the MDGs were conceived, measurement issues in the post-2015 development framework and the overall criteria that should guide the selection of indicators and targets for a post-2015 agenda.

Section 2 of the Workshop session focused on National efforts in achieving the MDGs. The first speaker was Lilian Ekeanyanwu and she spoke on “Overview of the Corruption Risk Assessment Process in Nigeria: Challenges & Concerns”.

After a review of the Nigeria’s performance on the MDGs, it was discovered that a number of the MDG targets will not be achieved in Nigeria and corruption was identified as playing a key role. Thus, a corruption risk assessment project was spearheaded by an inter-agency team of anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria with support from UNDP to identify areas that are vulnerable and prone to corruption within some MDG-related ministries, departments and agencies and to develop integrity plans to address the identified gaps and loopholes. The focus MDAs are those related to Education, Health and Water.

The methodology for the risk assessment was developed by a team of international and local experts and the methodology identified the need to train corruption risk assessors in-country that will conduct the assessments. Currently ninety-six corruption risk assessors are being trained to subsequently conduct, in teams, risk assessments in the target ministries, departments and agencies. The risk assessments will expose existing loopholes within the systems and recommendations will be made towards accelerating achievement of the MDGs in Nigeria.

Mr. Francesco Checchi spoke on “Assessing Corruption Risks in the European Region”. Within the Eastern European region, inequality and social exclusion are major issues. Even with increasing economic growth, wages, social services and poverty levels are not improving. This is because other non-quantifiable elements were not considered and these include issues bordering on governance, corruption and human rights. A risk assessment of the education sector was conducted in Serbia, several systemic loopholes were discovered and recommendations were made to the government.

The tools utilized for the risk assessment included review of documents and legislature, analyses of government response, interviews and site visits. The study showed that although there is high enrolment into schools, the quality of education provided is not experiencing a commensurate increase. Thus the assessments provided an opportunity for the government to address the identified gaps and loopholes thereby improving service delivery to the people.

Main Outcomes (include interesting questions from the floor)

- 1. The MDGs are not being achieved in many developing countries because of the siphoning of funds from budgets targeted at alleviating poverty and improving the well-being of the people. However, sustained progress towards the MDGs requires strong democratic governance. Channels for accountability and empowerment are crucial links to ensure that individual and institutional capacities are strengthened and patterns of inequality, discrimination, exclusion and other structural factors inhibiting human development are addressed.**
- 2. Existing national budgets should be better targeted and managed in a participatory, accountable and inclusive manner. This will help to avoid waste and corruption and would facilitate achievement of the MDGs.**
- 3. Corruption risk assessments as a tool for the prevention of corruption can contribute towards improvements in the achievement of the MDGs. When conducted in government agencies that are closely linked to the achievement of the MDGs, and the recommendations made are implemented, they can contribute towards improved service**

delivery and the provision of basic services to the people, thereby improving the quality of their lives.

- 4. Democratic governance should create an eco-friendly environment for entrepreneurs to thrive. Small and medium scale industries should be given support to help them become established and thus provide jobs and alleviate poverty.**
- 5. Although wide consultations would be needed to develop a comprehensive and inclusive agenda, the cost of the processes should be kept at a minimum.**
- 6. Human rights should be an integral part of each of the goals in the post-2015 agenda.**
- 7. As a strategy to bring the youths and children on board with the post-2015 agenda, Anti-Corruption should be introduced into schools' curriculum as is being done in some countries.**
- 8. The concept of Social Cohesion should be considered in the formulation of the Post-2015 agenda**
- 9. Government buy-in should be sought in the Corruption Risk Assessment process so as to harmonize efforts. Also, there should be wide stakeholder input from other development partners and agencies who have done some work in the area of developing toolkits for corruption risk assessment.**

Recommendations, Follow-Up Actions

The process of formulating a post-2015 agenda is going to be lengthy and intensive and all relevant stakeholders (including government, civil society, private sector) should be consulted so that there would be ownership. The E-processes will also enable greater involvement and continuous dialogue on the framework.

Respect for human rights should be a very critical aspect of each of the items in the post-2015 agenda. Human rights should be given prominence in the new framework either as a new item or as an integral part of each of the items.

There could be additional goals to the existing MDGs which focus on governance, democratic values, and human rights and on accountability. However in addition human rights, transparency and accountability need to be cross cutting across all the goals that will be set in the post 2015 agenda.

Participation at every level is needed in drafting the post-2015 agenda. However, in being participatory and all inclusive it should also be cost effective. The e-consultation process for the post-2015 will ensure wider reach and continuous input. The concept of “social cohesion” should also be explored in the course of the consultations.

Democratic governance should create a friendly system that is friendly to entrepreneurs so that they do not have to pay bribes to survive.

Anti-Corruption should be introduced into the school curriculum as a means of raising a generation that has learnt accountability and transparency and the linkage it has to development.

Highlights (please include interesting quotes)

- **“True development is not about economic growth, it is about constant improvement to the wellbeing of people, including through productive investment, the creation of decent jobs and the fair distribution of benefits, without discrimination” – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.**
- **“We can achieve the MDGs 12 times over at the cost of 1 year’s corruption”**
- **People/citizen ownership of the post-2015 agenda was emphasized during the session as many noted that the consultations for the MDGs were perceived as being handed down rather than being owned by the people. Although the cost of achieving inclusive participation was deliberated upon, the e-platform could make the process wider-reaching and more inclusive.**
- **Corruption has to be addressed if the MDGs are to be achieved. Corruption risk assessment, as a process to prevent corruption and entrench good governance was commended as a means to achieving the MDGs. It should be incorporated into the post-2015 agenda.**

Key Insights Recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration

- **The new development agenda and effective governance capacities will depend heavily on broad-based participation and leadership at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels. Governance and accountability have to be at the core of the post-2015 agenda.**
- **Economic progress does not translate neither to improved human development nor the enforcement of people’s rights. Human Rights should form part of the Post-2015 agenda.**
- **Corruption risk assessments is a key prevention tool for the achievement of MDGs as it detects loopholes that thwart efforts of government to improve the welfare of people and ensures that funds are well utilized as budgeted in meeting MDGs. Corruption risk assessment should be a key strategy to ensure that the post-**

2015 agenda will be better achieved.

Rapporteur's name and date submitted

Ms. Azuka Ogugua, Wednesday 14th November 2012
