



15th INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
CONFERENCE

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:
CONNECTING AGENTS OF CHANGE**

BRASÍLIA BRAZIL
7-10 NOVEMBER **2012**

Short Session Report: Global Solutions

Session Title: Mobilising people: Connecting Agents of Change

Date & Time: 07 November 2012, 14:00 – 15:30

Report prepared by: Casey Kelso, Advocacy Director, TI-S

Experts:

Annamaria Schindler, Ashoka

Aruna Roy, Activist

Dani Kaufmann, Revenue Watch Institute

Paul Hilder, openDemocracy.net

Sanjay Pradhan, Vice-President World Bank & Head WBI

Tawakkol Karman, 2011 Nobel Prize Winner

Moderated by: Lori Gold, Board Member, 100Reporters

Main Issues Covered

Annamaria Schindler talked about social entrepreneurs who 1. prepare a new generation of politicians based on principles and values; 2. Engage the support of media; and 3. The monitoring and transparency in public policies so citizens can keep track of municipalities according to targets. Aruna Roy spoke of “dismantling of power bases”, through citizens’ use of transparency and access to information.

Dani Kaufman was provocative and tried to give three challenges to orthodox anti-corruption thinking. His first “beyond current thinking was that “corruption is a symptom of a larger disease failure of accountability”, but he felt anti-corruption work had to focus on public services to people, as well as looking at legal corruption and state capture. His second “beyond” was a re-focus on right to know, to tell, to information through a free media, and unfettered access to internet. A third “beyond” was that transparency needs to be complimented with real punishments and sanctions.

Paul Hilder made the point that technology can help fight corruption but people are the key. As people start realising the difference they can make when come together, they can swarm the problem of corruption from the bottom up...

Sanjay of the World Bank used examples of projects that provide visualisations of budget would allow greater understanding by people, or projects that facilitated giving feedback on public services. He emphasized working on natural resource transparency, also.

Tawakkol Karman tried to explain how the youth and women created the Arab Spring. They linked corruption to social injustice and called for “international agreements, here or in another forum, to hold to account those responsible in banks or in governments”. She emphasized the global financial system as well, and the need to “monitor international transactions” in the banking sector.

Main Outcomes/Outputs

1. Engaging with the state.

Aruna Roy advised that power holders had to be confronted by informed citizens. Dani Kaufman advised a more complex view of stakeholders . Not all companies will be positive stakeholders in collective action against corruption, while not all governments are the bad guys. Anna Schindler agreed, asking that “Why should only bureaucrats be inside the public sector? Why not changer-makers?” From a World Bank perspective, they can show evidence that most successful reforms (in the educational sector) happened where there was a champion inside government who then teamed up with civil society. “

2. Access to information.

Several speakers emphasized that information that could be used by citizens was key in fighting corruption. And the means of getting that information, through data visualisations or a free press or unfettered internet, was key to making that access happen. Ordinary citizens cannot know , read or understand complex budgets but if translated into easy to understand charts or tools, they can have more power.

3. Focusing on daily lives and concerns of people, including public services.

In the Arab Spring, the revolutionary youths attempted to correct simple acts of corruption in their daily lives to acts clean of corruption.

Recommendations, follow-up Actions

On Peoples’ Charter: Dani Kaufman said: “It is useful to make a campaign. But one that is problem- driven and specific to the concerns of people. A general charter will be hard to get action. But a problem driven campaign (on textbooks and teachers missing from classrooms, for example) can get engagement of citizens by addressing their services. You need to be specific and focused. And if you speak to the needs of the citizens, then you will get their attention”.

Use positive stories of success in fighting corruption. Inspiring stories can be one of the most important first steps in mobilising people, since so many don’t have hope in the face of systematic injustice.

Follow up on World Bank's "Global Partnership for Accountability". They will use the Bank's own net income to give grants to civil society to help civil society to give feedback to governments on how they do their service delivery.

Highlights

Dani Kaufmann:

"Transparency needs to be complimented with real punishments and sanctions," applying to impunity. And he said. "We need to be more strategic: all these stakeholders are very diverse inside, with many different individuals inside each. How do we find champions inside each of these actors?"

Paul Hilder: "there are 6 billion people with mobile phones. There is a convergence of technology with people power. The potential energy locked up in people is extraordinary, and this technology can help us achieve our vision of a world free of corruption, by making the powerless powerful. It's starting to spread like wild fire and each of us can be involved."

Key Insights Recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration

What can this conference do against organized crime?

Tawakkol: She says she hopes the IACCD eclaration (agreement) will ask for a measurement to hold those accountable for corruption. By the end of this conference, she said, we hope we can demand this accountability and monitor its implementation of decisions carried from this conference.

She also told delegates to the IACC Conference that they should not lose this opportunity of meeting people around the world. The arab spring – most people around the world I believe are awakening. They know how their role in cleaning government. Not elite people but simple people struggling for freedom and dignity".