



**15th INTERNATIONAL  
ANTI-CORRUPTION  
CONFERENCE**

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:  
CONNECTING AGENTS OF CHANGE**

**BRASÍLIA BRAZIL  
7-10 NOVEMBER 2012**

**Short Plenary Report: People Power, Transitions and Corruption: What is our role?**

**Date & Time: 10 November, 11.30-13.00**

**Report prepared by: Svetlana Savitskaya, Regional Coordinator CIS, TI-S**

**Speakers:**

Baltasar Garzon, Spanish jurist

Ellen Miller, Executive Director of the Sunlight Foundation

Mark Moody-Stuart, Chairman of Hermes Equity Ownership Services

Misha Glenny, Author and journalist

Jeremy Hobbs, Executive Director of Oxfam International

John D. Sullivan, Executive Director of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)

**Moderated by: Diane Jean Schemo**

### **Main Outcomes (200 words, narrative form)**

The session focussed on discussing the challenges faced by transition countries, challenges posed by corrupt governments and the role of citizens, international organisations and private sector in addressing these challenges.

The events of the last 2 years provided an opportunity to shake the governments to their roots and sometimes even overturning them. Citizens are demanding more, not just democracy, but transparency and accountability. In Russia Oleksii Navalny launched the movement to monitor government budget spending, which gathered a lot of supporters and labelled the Putin's government as the government of crooks. It is obvious that citizens all over the world are getting mobilised to fight corrupt governments. But the question still remains: how can we end impunity? What conditions are necessary for this to happen? What role should international organisations play to help citizens stand for their rights?

International and donor community has a big role to play in the transition process as it is vital to help government conduct clean, transparent privatization processes, educate citizens on how to hold

**governments accountable. In Egypt Oxfam invested a lot of efforts in raising awareness of citizens on political and constitutional rights, as well as educating women since they are a crucial source of power. Corruption is an institutional problem and it is of critical importance to get the institutions right in the very beginning of the transition process, thus building stable fundamental for democratic society. There is a hug challenge to address international illicit flows, money laundering. More cooperation is needed between international courts, because crime continues to be unchallenged.**

### **Summary of Presentations (200 words per panellist)**

**Jeremy Hobbs: In Egypt Oxfam played a crucial role in mobilising citizens. While doing this Oxfam faced the challenges of security which had to be addressed as work progressed. It was striking to observe in 2011 how citizens were working hand in hand with the military who at that moment controlled 80% of the economy. Through the revolution the citizens regained hope and were enabled to claim back their power. Oxfam is about solidarity, our partnership with the NGOs matters a lot to us and we always try to be specific about our role, which we see not as that of a grant making organisation, but as a partner who listens and responds to the needs of citizens.**

**John Sullivan: Collective effort of think tanks, private group, NGOs is critical in helping governments and citizens go through the transition process smoothly. While transitions differ from country to country, but the following are common facts for all countries: when done**

correctly, transition leads to the power of people, but also, corruption plays a key role as it determines the final outcome of the transition process. Institutional framework is a must to ensure transparent privatisation process. It is also important to analyse the role of private sector in the transition process: small and medium enterprises as well as big national companies contribute to social stability and economic growth.

Baltasar Garzon spoke about the Pinochet case, which is the clear demonstration of how he offered himself to help his country, however, what became clear after the investigation conducted in London was that he was taking advantage of the economic situation. It was exactly the joint investigation of the economic and crime that enabled us to detect 27 mln USD that this dictator had in his bank. The principle of universal jurisdiction helped us to accomplish this task. However, we face a lot of challenges: there is a lack of information and cooperation between national and international courts and in these situation crimes continue to be unchallenged; in the times of global economic crises we still have a lot of fiscal tax havens, offshore zones. It is unacceptable that after 10 years of discussions in EU we have not reached an agreement how eliminate these detrimental practices.

Mark Moody-Stuart: It is striking how business community contributes to civil society. There have been a number of initiatives developed involving NGOs to the voluntary principle of human rights and security. It then moved into areas such as extractive industry and construction industry. These initiatives bring together civil society, business. Global Compact unites companies around the world in line with the UN convention on corruption and companies not just sign up to this initiative but commit to reporting on these areas, and if they do not do so, they are delisted. The principles of Global Compact are applied in investment.

Ellen Miller: The Sunlight Foundation is a 6 year NGOs based in Washington D.C. It was designed to use the power of new technology to engage people request the governments to open and be transparent.

New technology transforms our life, the relationship between citizens and the state, Egypt is an example of how they used ICTs to boost a social revolution. We see how science fiction is taking a space, open networks and new technologies are disrupting governments. Our task is to demand accountability from governments. Technology can

**change the dynamic of transparency.**

**Misha Glenny: Talking about transition we mean economic transition, liberalisation of economic systems. Organised crime and corruption are vital to the process of transition: e.g. during the transition 90ies in Russia the largest oligarchs would argue that while many criticise the so called new rich Russians, however, ordinary citizens would find it hard to survive without them since it is these rich Russian who ensure there is bread on the table of a simple citizen.**

**During the post-Communist transitions many governments were not able to manage the economic transitions properly, while markets were emerging, the states were in collapse, there were no law enforcement and the judiciary, so the markets started to police themselves.**

### **Recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)**

**The major recommendations go to international community, Western governments who should collectively address the challenge of illicit money laundering, asset recovery and eliminate tax heavens. There should be more cooperation between national and international courts during investigations of corrupt government officials.**

**Highlights (200 words please include interesting quotes)**

**Key Insights Recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration**

**Signed and date submitted**

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