



**15th INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
CONFERENCE**

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:
CONNECTING AGENTS OF CHANGE**

**BRASÍLIA BRAZIL
7-10 NOVEMBER 2012**

Short Session Report: Global Solutions

Session Title: Are we winning or failing in the fight against corruption?

Date & Time: November 9th, 3pm-5pm

Report prepared by: Delia Ferreira Rubio, Member of the international Board, Transparency International

Experts:

- **Lawrence Cockcroft, Individual Member, Transparency International**
- **Frank Vogl, Individual Member, Transparency International**
- **José Ugaz, Member of the international Board, Transparency International**
- **Delia Ferreira Rubio, Member of the international Board, Transparency International**

Moderated by:

Session coordinated by: Michela Wrong, Journalist, Writer.

Main Issues Covered (500 words or more, narrative form)

The session was devoted to the presentation of two brand new books on global corruption authored by Frank Vogl and Lawrence Cockcroft, co-founders of Transparency International.

Both books review the fight against corruption during the past 20 years across the world, highlighting the achievements, failures and challenges.

The authors have different views or answers regarding the question whether we are winning or losing the battle against corruption. Vogl sees the glass half full and is confident that although we have a long way to go, we are winning the war. Cockcroft is more cautious. He believes that the challenges ahead are strong difficult to overcome. Particularly in the case of countries with endemic corruption, he thinks no significant progress has taken place.

In his book *"Global Corruption. Money, Power and Ethics in the Modern*

World", Cockcroft highlighted the role of organized crime, political finance and petty corruptions have had as drivers of corruption. Cockcroft analyzes also what he considers the roadblocks in the time to come: shadow economy, black holes in the regulatory framework and secrecy jurisdiction, which is a much broader concept than off-shore schemes. Secrecy jurisdiction includes the very complex transnational corporate structures created to cover actual ownership and facilitate money laundering. He also mentions the importance of geo-politics in the fight against corruption particularly in relation to access to energy, control of radical Islam, security of Israel and transit to Afghanistan among other issues.

Frank Vogl firmly thinks that not only we can win the fight against corruption. He thinks we will win. In his presentation, Vogl emphasized the importance of social responsibility in fight against corruption and mentioned that raising public awareness of the crimes of corruption helped to encourage people to become engaged.

In his book *"Waging War on Corruption. Inside the Movement Fighting the Abuse of Power"*, Vogl draws attention to the victims of corruption. He points out that the crimes of corruption are not abstract issues. Every time an official steals from the public purse -he says- then someone suffers, someone is hurt.

Answering the question posed in the title of the session, Vogl said that an enormous amount has been accomplished over the last 20 years, lead by civil society. He mentioned the creation and consolidation of civil society organizations, the international and regional conventions that have been approved, the mobilization of people we are seeing around the world from the Arab Spring to Occupy Wallstreet, to mass demonstration in India, Paquistan and beyond, asking for greater transparency and justice.

Vogl pointed out some solutions to put into practice in the future: clean up business, transparency in money ownership, accelerate EITI momentum, royalty transparency in extractive industries, among others.

Vogl is confident we will win the war: "We have the determination and the capacity to get public engagement; we have the leadership of great heroes. In conclusion, we must create better language and better communications and we must convince young people that they can look ahead to a world of greater opportunity, less poverty, improved security -a world of greater personal freedom and dignity".

In his comments, José Ugaz stressed the importance of organized **crime**

as a key problem in the fight against corruption.

Delia Ferreira expressed her confidence in the success in the fight against corruption and pointed out the importance of mobilizing people.

Both Ugaz and Ferreira congratulated the authors for their valuable contributions and encourage the public to read these to new brand books.

Main Outcomes/Outputs

The fight against corruption has made important progress in the last 20 years, but there is still a lot to be done.

Organized crime and political funding are key drivers of corruption and entails new and creative solutions.

Informal economy poses particular problems in the fight against corruption.

Public engagement is essential.

Use of social media is an excellent tool to help people's engagement.

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

Highlights (200 words please include interesting quotes)

“The heroes of my book, joined by rising numbers of ordinary people, are not sitting still. They are waging war on corruption. They have told the world in the Arab Spring and beyond that, as James Baldwin said:

‘The people that once walked in darkness are no longer prepared to do so’”

Frank Vogl

“In order to fight corruption in the future concerted action at the top is essential. Our enemies are super wealthy -for whom secrecy jurisdictions are a way of life-; sophisticated mafia bosses and regional arm races. They will not bend easily. The attack will have to be bold yet focused, sophisticated yet clear, courageous yet circumspect. But the snake will die only if severed at the head”

Lawrence Cockcroft

Key Insights Recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration

**People's engagement in the fight against corruption is essential.
Fighting against corruption is fighting for democracy.
It is of key importance to focus on No Impunity.**

Rapporteur's name and date submitted

Delia Ferreira Rubio

November 9th, 7.30pm
