



**15th INTERNATIONAL  
ANTI-CORRUPTION  
CONFERENCE**

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:  
CONNECTING AGENTS OF CHANGE**

**BRASÍLIA BRAZIL  
7-10 NOVEMBER 2012**

### **Short Session Report: Game Changers**

**Session Title:** Mainstreaming Gender and Incorporating Grassroots Women's Perspectives in Global Anti-Corruption Initiatives and Agendas

**Date & Time:** 8 November 2012, 0900-1100

**Report prepared by:** Paul Taylor, Advisor, Huairou Commission

**Experts:**

**Phil Matsheza, Lead Anti-Corruption Policy Advisor, Bureau of Policy Development, UNDP**

**Priya Pillai, Strategic Planner, Best Practices Foundation, India**

**Frances Birungi-Odong, Senior Program Officer – Governance and Human Rights Programme, Uganda Community Based Association for Child Welfare**

**Ezinwa Okoroafor, Regional Vice President (Africa), International Federation of Women Lawyers**

**Sheela Anish, International President, International Federation of Women Lawyers**

**Grassroots contributors:**

**Haydee Rodriguez, President, La Unión de Cooperativas Productoras Las Brumas, Nicaragua**

**Joyce Nangobi, Director, Slum Women's Initiative for Development (SWID), Uganda**

**Moderated by: Lilian Ekenyanwu, Head, Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms, Nigeria**

**Session coordinated by: Carolina Pinheiro, Governance Campaign Coordinator, Huairou Commission**

**Main issues raised in kick off remarks. What's the focus of the session?**

**Anti-corruption needs to be gendered. Men and women experience corruption differently. Grassroots women experience corruption in a**

specific way. We need to turn grassroots womens' experience into a practical agenda.

### **What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing Strategies**

**Legal Change** – Anti-corruption laws need to be gendered so as to target the problems of women and the impact of those laws has to be tracked at micro-level. Partnerships between legal networks and grassroots womens' groups have been effective and should be scaled up.

**Punishment of Corruption is Not Enough** - Unless service delivery is improved there is a danger that grassroots women will tolerate corruption in order to get access to basic services.

**Differentiate strategies** – In enabling environments where laws work grassroots women employ different approaches to where there is no rule of law.

**Partner with governments** – where organised grassroots women engage in dialogue with local governments it changes the rules of the game. Women don't need to be the enemies of government.

**Women Leaders Linked to Organised Grassroots Organisations are More Effective Anti-corruption Agents** – strategies to manoeuvre women into decision-making positions has had a positive impact in reducing corruption at local government level.

**Zero Tolerance Has Limited Relevance** – it can lead to further victimisation of grassroots women.

**Improved Understanding of Local Government Budgets and Effective Grievance Procedures Are Essential to Improving Service Delivery.**

### **Highlights: What are the main outcomes of this session? What's next?**

- Improved access to public services is the key to fighting corruption at the local level. If this happens it will reduce the pressure to tolerate bribery and corruption. Gender has to be

**introduced into strategic planning.**

- **Disaggregated gender anti-corruption data is essential and get more women into anti-corruption agencies.**
- **A supportive legal framework is required but it is not enough. Impact at grassroots level may be limited. Civil society activism and women's networks against corruption are essential.**
- **Local level service providers are probably the most relevant institutions to address in anti-corruption efforts that have an impact on the lives of grassroots women.**
- **Grassroots women analyse situations and devise effective strategies to cope with corruption, including undertaking research, forming watchdog groups, accessing local media and government. They should not be treated simply as beneficiaries of top-down action.**

**What are the recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)**

**Grassroots women know what they want and can implement strategies. But resources need to be invested in grassroots women's organisations so that they are empowered. They need to be supported financially and with capacity-building and they need partnership, but let them get on with the job and retain ownership of the process. Track the amount of money allocated to mobilising and organising at the grassroots level.**

**What should be done to create opportunities for scaling up the proven solutions discussed in the session? What and by whom?**

**Support and Partnership with Grassroots Womens's Organisations is essential to scaling-up. International organisations including TI should include this in their plans of action.  
Listen to Grassroots Women at Global Events – perceptions and priorities get changed.**

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

**Petty corruption is pervasive and deeply affects the daily lives of ordinary people. It particularly affects grassroots women who are responsible for the welfare of their families. They have the least resources to survive in such an environment.**

**Suggested language:**

***“Affirms that anti-corruption strategies have to be gendered in all aspects of design, implementation and monitoring;***

***“Commits to supporting grassroots women’s strategies that improve daily lives as a precondition for effectively addressing corruption;***

***“Calls for partnerships between grassroots organisations, legal networks, governments at all levels, international agencies and global coalitions in fighting corruption”.***

**Rapporteur's name and date submitted**  
**Paul Taylor, 8 November 2012**

---