



**15th INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
CONFERENCE**

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:
CONNECTING AGENTS OF CHANGE**

**BRASÍLIA BRAZIL
7-10 NOVEMBER 2012**

Short Session Report: Game Changers

Session Title: Transparency and accountability: building a diverse coalition for change

Date & Time: 10th November, 9 am

Report prepared by: Alice Harrison, Climate Governance Integrity Programme, Transparency International

Experts:

Marcos Vinicius Po, Board member of IDEC, the Brazilian Institute for Consumer Protection and Brazilian affiliate of Consumers International

Aruna Roy, prominent leader of the Right to Information movement in India

Cobus de Swardt, Managing Director, Transparency International

Moderated by: **Kumi Naidoo**, Executive Director, Greenpeace

Session coordinated by: **Angela McClellan**, Senior Programme Coordinator, Global Outreach and Campaigns

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

Over 70% of people think that they can do something about corruption. Our failure lies in how to engage them.

How do we define our role in accelerating the demand for public accountability? How do we knit together our different energies and capacities to build a stronger foundation of transparency and accountability?

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

India- Fighting for legitimate governance and equal treatment at the local level requires strong coordination and awareness raising about how best to strengthen participation in democratic institutions. People at the grass roots need to see a connection between their small act and national policy-making.

Brazil- Greater transparency and accountability is needed to increase understanding of the relationships between government and corporate interests. Regulatory bodies must also increase their transparency. To avoid regulatory capture by government we need stronger capacity within civil society to analyse this information, so as to take part in technical and political conversations. Universities should be better drawn on to assist with this. Much of what has been accomplished for workers in Brazil is the result of robust and informed data analysis.

Lebanon- The importance of not alienating government and parliamentarians. Even within the worst systems, those inside understand it far better than anyone outside. Civil society organisations are often coloured by the needs of donors, so they stop asking the right questions. We need to work in multi-stakeholder coalitions.

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

The commitment to diversity has become a blockage to dealing with issues. Agendas cannot be seen in singular terms but as cross-cutting. We need to avoid crowding out civil society space in demanding accountability. We also need to revisit our own principles as civil society, which has become stratified along the lines of international, national and local. Successful

coalitions are needed that cut across these strata.

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

The role of civil society participation in good governance is more broadly acknowledged than ever before. But we must be wary that this participation is meaningful – that we are not merely invited to sit silently in board meetings, removed from decision-making. The push for greater consultation will be key to ensuring that participation translates to action.

The intersectional argument - we can't advance our individual agendas if we don't engage with the points of interface and intersection with others. We must look for allies and institutions beyond the usual suspects. We need, for example, to work on the issue of diversity in the media environment, to democratise the media. The role of the ideological state apparatus in all its manifestations (media, education etc.) must not be underestimated. It is crucial that we break down these walls to understand the interplay and consolidation of power.

At the same time we have to find the right balance between specialisation and perocialism. How do we embrace with respect, dignity and openness the more informal social movements that are emerging around the world? We must get that nexus right.

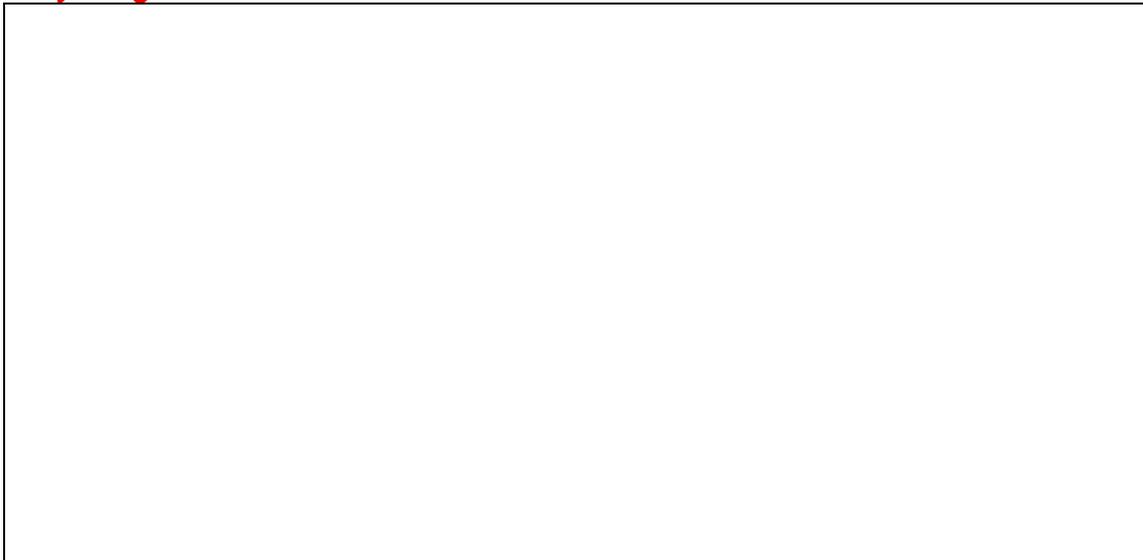
What should be done to create opportunities for scaling up the proven solutions discussed in the session? What and by whom?

We need to create a matrix visual picture to lend more structure to multi-stakeholder cooperation. What can transparency and accountability investment do to strengthen the agendas of social and environmental justice? And what can we/ you contribute?

This matrix should form the basis of an open and direct dialogue about whether it makes sense to work together –including with parliamentarians and local government officials - and how we can best maximise our potential.



Key Insights Recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration



Rapporteur's name and date submitted

Remember! This Short Report needs to be emailed to Mariya Gorbanova Mariya Gorbanova (mgorbanova@transparency.org) within 2 hours after the session. Thanks!