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ANTI-CORRUPTION
CONFERENCE**

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:
CONNECTING AGENTS OF CHANGE**

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Short Session Report: Game Changers

Session Title: Transparency as part of security policies. Cases from Latin America

Date & Time: 09 November 2012, 15:00 to 17:00

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Experts:

Gerardo Reyes, Journalist, Univision

Carlos Hernandez

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Mark Pyman, Transparency International UK

Alejandro Salas, Transparency International

Moderated by: Hernan Charosky

Session coordinated by: Hernan Charosky

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

Transparency is crucial for security. The role of the CSOs in the security and how to improve transparency and integrity in the security institutions will be discussed. What are the tools already in place and what is the way forward in Latin America.

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

Mark Pyman

Defence and security corruption. How can civil society tackle corruption in defence and security:

- Sector specific approach,

- Research is central.
- Bring in former police chiefs.
- Theory of change that is both inside and outside: Monitoring.
- Etc.

Nikkos Passas:

What can be done better.- there is a role for civil society. Only access to information and transparency is not enough. This information has to be utilized through performance indicator, benchmark.

A multidimensional approach is necessary, is necessary to identify the type of corruption we want to benchmark. It should take into account the context (country context); country owned; and forward looking.

The results have to be actionable: what should be done next; the results should be easily readable and accessible,

Public-private partnerships to support those fighting corruption within the institutions.

Continuous improvement, by fine tuning the indicators is a must.

Manfredo Marroquin

The recent history makes it difficult to talk about transparency in these sectors, where opacity is almost a rule. And the devastating result can be proved by the fact that 6 out of 10 most violent countries are in Latin America.

Drug trafficking and inequality are factors that are big barriers for transparency.

Nevertheless this context, an index on defence and security will help improving the presence of the CSOs in these sectors. Currently there is an ongoing index of a TI chapters multicountry project that assesses the visibility (access to information among other issues); institutional indicators (the following of the regulation); checks and balances (following of the administrative procedures). These indicators are agreed with the institutions and in general they try to asses if there is a budget, if there are guidelines of procedures of the police available, etc.

Carlos Hernandez

There is a strong correlation between criminality and transparency as a comparison between UNDOC and CPI indexes show. In most of Latin American countries there is bad perception of the police, due to corruption.

It is however possible to reduce criminality and delinquency through reform and transparency.

In Honduras the Networking of various organizations has been the way explored. This has helped to have a stronger presence, helping them participate in the law reform process taking place.

Some of the Principles in "security governance" would be: citizen's security is of public interest; it has to lay in stable and transparent civil institutions; the political cycle needs civil society along the process of planning implementation and monitoring.

Gerardo Reyes:

TV programme (fast and furious). The agency controlling the trafficking of arms, alcohol and tobacco in USA, wanted to tackle the heads and not only the intermediaries by easing the acquisition of weapons, even high calibre weapons. They put in place a secret program where arms dealers in the Mexican border were allowed to sell weapons almost with no limitation. The idea was to trace the sold arms by including a chip which, however, did not work when the battery was out. This resulted in the fact that the only way to trace the arms would be at confiscation, when killings were already committed. This meant that the violence went to the roof as the selling of weapons was increasing. The ultimate goal to arrest heads of drug cartels was at the expense of hundreds of killings.

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

In defence and security there is a need of a sector specific approach. Research, dialogue and a theory of change which works in the inside (government institutions) and the outside are some of the steps forward.

Regional indexes are seen as a tool for advocacy. Institutions feel the pressure for being somehow exposed.

Implication of the society in the process of planning, implementation and monitoring is crucial for the achievement of a higher security of the population.

Media is also an important part to investigate and expose corruption. This can empower the citizens to take action. The ease of the acquisition of weapons influence the level of violence, making drug traffickers even more empowered either to ending up capturing the state or corrupting public officials to keep their business.

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

There is room for civil society in these sectors.

Indexes have to be country or context oriented, and also an important tool that can be used for advocacy.

NGOs should use and take advantage of the media for the showcase of their activism.

Civil society should advocate also for the arms control. One of the examples of CSO's collaboration in Defence and security is helping trace arms by requesting their local agencies to provide the Serial numbers of the weapons confiscated on grounds of access to information.

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

See above.

Key Insights Recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration

See above.

Rapporteur's name and date submitted

Lucas Olo 09 November 2012