



**15th INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
CONFERENCE**

**MOBILISING PEOPLE:
CONNECTING AGENTS OF CHANGE**

**BRASÍLIA BRAZIL
7-10 NOVEMBER 2012**

Short Session Report: Game Changers

Session Title: Whistling around the world: growing an international movement to connect whistleblowers and investigative journalists

Date & Time: 9 November at 9-11am

Report prepared by: Deborah Unger, Manager Rapid Response Unit, Transparency International Secretariat

Experts:

Bea Edwards, Government Accountability Project

Diana Jean Schemo, 100Reporters

Martin Rodriguez Pellecer, Plaza Publica

Robert Vaughn, American University, Washington College of Law

Raul Radu, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project

Moderated by: Stella Dawson, Thomson Reuters Foundaton

Session coordinated by: Mark Worth and Deborah Unger

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

Started with a 7 minute video from Ralph Nader exploring the links between whistleblowers and investigative journalists. It set the stage for introducing the goal of the session:

how can we set up a global network between whistleblowers and journalists; what are the challenges in this; what needs to be done.

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

Martin Rodriguez Pellecer, introduced Plaza Publica a network based in Guatemala that links journalists, activists, scholars and young people. He showed his website and explained his funding through the Jesuit University. The goal of the organisation is to produce investigative articles bringing together people involved in the story and experts from all fields.

Paul Radu explained his network of hackers, experts, journalists that uses cross border sources to investigate stories in a way that helps protect the people on the ground. He showcased a story from Azerbaijan where a whistleblower provided information that was researched in Panama that showed the real ownership of a gold mining company traced back to the daughters of the president. He has created a dashboard on line where people can get professional technical help to research ownership of companies around the world following tips

Bea Edwards discussed the complexity of protecting whistleblowers and the need to educate journalists on how to tell the story at the right time. She stressed the need for trust and legal backing to provide whistleblowers with support, both emotionally and in the courts

Robert Vaughn cited research on the characteristics that whistleblowers require in journalists: professionalism, resources, a commitment not to expose the source.

Diana Schemo explained how 100Reporters works with citizen journalists, whistleblowers and a network of professional journalists to ensure the high quality of the output. She highlighted the difficulty of ensuring both the credibility of the source and the information and the need to teach citizen journalists how to report their work. She highlighted her Whistleblower Alley website facility which provides secure means via the internet and encryption for people to leave tips and pass on sensitive information.

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

Key areas:

Whistleblowers need to trust journalists, know there is a support network for their protection

Cross border efforts can both help protect sources and be a way to report a story but networks are required to put journalists and whistleblowers together

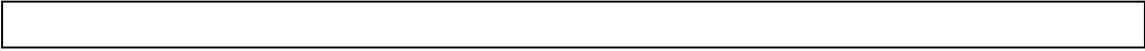
Libel tourism is an issue where some countries allow for the prosecution of libel (UK) whereas others protect the journalist (US). In the internet age that means a story published in one country can result in a lawsuit in another.

There was a map of whistleblower organisations, journalist organisations and TI Alacs around the world. People wanted to share the network and joint an umbrella organisation that would connect these components.

We collected names and email addresses to share the map and start a network

The TI Japan ED shared her whistleblower story and how she could not publicise her story because the media in Japan is often controlled by the government or corporate financial interests

Shou (name to come) told of his network of mobile phone based citizen reporting leads to stories by journalists posted on the Internet.



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

1. Put journalist organisations and whistleblower organisations together including the ALACS
2. Include organisations like Global Witness in the group. Patrick Alley said he would join
3. Contact investigation units at international organisations such as the World Bank.
4. Look for funding to make this happen. All experts on the panel wanted to work together on this.

The key issues are **Trust, Protection and Expertise** . We need to bring together reporters, journalists, people with technical expertise in reporting and researching via the Internet. We need to provide a support network to help whistleblowers.

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

TI, 100Reporters, Thomson Reuters Foundation, Plaza Publica, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, plus others will coordinate follow up actions to create the network.

TI collected numerous names and emails to receive notification of how this will happen

Global Witness committed to join

Key Insights Recommended to be included in the IACC Declaration

The workshop produced concrete plans to put together a global network of whistleblower organisations and investigative reporters. TI will follow up with 100Reporters and others on how to put this into practice. Global Witness expressed a desire to join.

Rapporteur's name and date submitted
Deborah Unger, 9 November 2012
