

EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVES

Implementer Dialogue

11th May 2021

14:00 - 16:00 (CET)

Zoom Webinar

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) is organizing an Implementer Dialogue on Exploring Sustainable Solutions for Anti-Corruption Initiatives. The Dialogue will convene practitioners from the fields of rule of law and anti-corruption programming to understand the underlying causes for the lack of sustainability associated with anti-corruption initiatives and accordingly, explore challenges, best practices, and identify innovative pathways for enhancing sustainable reform in the field.

BACKGROUND

Poor governance and corruption remain major challenges to sustainable development and rule of law by fuelling inequalities and undermining access to public services. In contexts of fragility and violence, corruption fuels and perpetuates the inequalities and discontent that lead to fragility, violent extremism, and conflict. As a result, effective anti-corruption efforts are key enablers for the realization of the entire 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Its importance is explicitly highlighted under Goal 16 whose targets include reduction of illicit financial flows, strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets, substantially reducing bribery and corruption, and developing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

Current evidence, however, shows that most anti-corruption initiatives are associated with “some kind of failure”.¹ Globally, anti-corruption efforts regularly fall short of resulting in sustainable reforms. It has been observed that lifecycles of national anti-corruption initiatives are often tied to political changes. Periods of transition – such as changes in government – represent windows of opportunity to institute anti-corruption initiatives due to high political will among relevant stakeholders. However, whilst these transitions may represent powerful platforms of change, they are often susceptible to political capture and/or sudden shifts in political leadership and/or policies that delay, retard, or even reverse ongoing initiatives.

Furthermore, a review of anti-corruption efforts shows that gaps between the design expectations and the realities of the deployment context accounts for the failure of a significant sample of anti-corruption initiatives to deliver sustainable impact.²

¹Anti-Corruption Resource Centre. Understanding Success and Failure of Anti-Corruption Initiatives. March 2011.

² *ibid*

Evidence also links the lack of attention given to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in anti-corruption initiatives to their unsustainability³. Monitoring and evaluation processes are accorded low priority due to a myriad of reasons including avoiding accountability, lack of capacity, and non-availability of monitoring tools and data gathered on the corruption situation in the country.⁴

It is against this backdrop that the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) is organizing an Implementer Dialogue on *Exploring Sustainable Solutions for Anti-Corruption Initiatives*. The event will provide a platform for sharing of experiences in designing and implementing sustainable anti-corruption initiatives. Through a convening of practitioners in an interactive format, the event will highlight what has worked and (even more importantly) what has not in the fight against corruption in diverse geographical and political contexts. Solutions to increase impact and enhance sustainability will also be outlined as an outcome of the discussion.

OBJECTIVES

The implementer dialogue will aim to achieve the following:

- Share experiences in designing and implementing an anti-corruption initiative or a range of anti-corruption initiatives within a particular context
- Highlight what worked and what failed, with a focus on sustainability
- Highlight good practices and any lessons learned that can be applied to future anti-corruption initiatives to increase impact and enhance sustainability

³ United Nations Development Program (UNDP). *Anti-Corruption Strategies: Understanding What Works, What Doesn't and Why?* (2014)

⁴ *ibid*

AGENDA

14:00 – 14:08: Welcome and Opening Remarks

Moderator: Ted Hill - Head of The Hague Office, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

14:10 – 14:25: Country Experience: Ukraine

Levan Duchidze - Country Director, Ukraine, IDLO

14:25 – 14:50: Country Experience: Nigeria

Oliver Stolpe - Representative to Nigeria, United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC)

14:50 – 15:05: Q&A

15:05 – 15:20: Lessons from the 'Corruption, Justice and Security Program'

Diana Chigas - Senior International Officer & Associate Provost, Tufts University, and Professor of the Practice of International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

15:20-15:35: Country Experience: Indonesia

Laode Muhamad Syarif PhD -Executive Director of Kemitraan (Partnership), Indonesia

15:35-16:00: Moderated Discussion