ANTI-CORRUPTION HELPDESK

PROVIDING ON-DEMAND RESEARCH TO HELP FIGHT CORRUPTION

HELPDESK ANSWERS 2013 (JANUARY – JULY)

The Helpdesk is a knowledge service offering the TI network and selected stakeholders on-demand research on corruption within a guaranteed timeframe. Answers typically consist of a 4 to 8 page brief synthesising the state of knowledge on a particular topic. The Helpdesk is a key component of TI's Anti-corruption Solutions and Knowledge Programme (ASK).

All answers listed below can be accessed on request at: tihelpdesk@transparency.org.

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CONTENT

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ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

Declaration of interests, assets and liabilities: Oversight mechanisms, disclosure policy, and sanctions
Question submitted by the EU, July 2013

Interest and asset declarations are considered a key instrument to both prevent conflicts of interest and uncover illicit enrichment. These declarations have to be presented to and reviewed by an independent and well-resourced public body. Countries should make mandatory the disclosure of such declarations, excluding the information that is deemed to violate privacy rights, due to privacy and security issues. The effectiveness of such a system will depend on a strong enforcement mechanism and on the application of proportionate sanctions. In the case of conflicts of interest, countries should adopt rules to ensure the adequate management of conflicts of interest as well as penalties in case of established conflicts of interest.

International standards and recommendations on prosecutorial discretion and judicial review
Question submitted by the EU, July 2013

There are several general international principles and recommendations regarding the conduct of prosecutors, prosecutorial discretion and accountability mechanisms, including judicial review. However, there are no specific international standards regarding judicial review by courts on prosecutor's decisions not to prosecute, as such

principles and standards and depend on the country's legal framework. This answer looks at the main issues and challenges when discussing prosecutorial discretion and judicial review and provides an overview of the main recommendations by international organisations as well as professional associations.

Access to information and political parties
Question submitted by the EU, July 2013

Access to information regarding political parties' activities, particularly their finances, is key to ensure control over money in politics. In the majority of countries across the world, due to their legal status, political parties do not feature among the institutions required to respond to citizens' access to information requests. However, political funding rules often include provisions requiring political parties to disclose such information. International standards have called on countries to establish clear rules requiring political parties to regularly disclose information about their operations, in particular about their finances. Such information should be made available to the public either by the political parties themselves or by the responsible oversight agency.

Incompatibility regimes for Members of Parliaments in selected countries
Question asked by Transparency International France, May 2013

Many democratic countries have introduced constitutional incompatibility and ineligibility provisions for Members of Parliaments (MPs), to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure that the public interest prevails. Such restrictions prevent MPs from simultaneously performing sensitive public or private sector activities, prohibit holders of specific public or private offices from running at parliamentary elections or impose disclosure requirements of private interests and/or recusals from specific parliamentary activities on issues where there may be a conflict of interest. This answer looks more in details at the incompatibility regime of Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Canada as well as Nordic countries such as Sweden and Finland.

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INSTITUTIONS

Best practices for anti-corruption commissions
Question asked by Transparency International Azerbaijan, March 2013

Anti-corruption commissions are often considered by most stakeholders as the ultimate response to corruption despite varying levels of success. The structures and activities of anti-corruption commissions differ significantly from one country to another, affecting their respective effectiveness and independence. In spite of the fact that they have existed for several decades, common global principles for anti-corruption commissions were only agreed upon by representatives of anti-corruption commissions and international organisations in 2012, with the Jakarta statement. This paper provides an overview of these principles and standards.

Election management bodies and their composition
Question submitted by Transparency International Lithuania, February 2013, Nr. 2013/29

An Election Management Body (EMB) is the body legally responsible for managing elections and other instruments of direct democracy. The composition of these bodies, however, varies across countries. Some countries have opted to an expert-based body; others have multiparty-based election management bodies. There are also combined systems where bodies are formed by both members of political parties and experts. Irrespective of the model adopted, it is essential that electoral management bodies function following the principles of transparency, accountability, professionalism, and efficiency.

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UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

Evidence of the impact of facilitation payments
Question submitted by Transparency International UK, June 2013

There is a large body of evidence indicating that facilitation payments are costly, harmful for firms' growth and productivity, legally risky and ultimately economically inefficient for companies. They have a detrimental long term effect on company operations, undermine their internal ethical culture and make them preferential targets for more and greater demands. At the country level, facilitation payments have a corrosive effect on the overall governance environment and the efficiency of the state apparatus, erode the ability of the government to collect revenues from formal tax channels, and ultimately undermine sustainable economic development and the rule of law.

Corruption courses
Question submitted by U4, January 2013, Nr 2013

This answer compiles a list of selected anti-corruption courses and programmes provided by various universities and organisations.

Literature review of corruption in fragile states
Question submitted by U4, January 2013, Nr 2013

This paper compiles publicly available articles and academic papers examining corruption in fragile states, with a focus on the relationship between corruption, conflict, and state legitimacy. While the direction of causality is debated, there is a broad consensus in the literature on the correlation between corruption and fragility. Corruption is generally seen as increasing the level of instability and delegitimising the state. However, some studies argue that corruption can have stabilising effects in the short term.

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ANTI-CORRUPTION TOOLS AND APPROACHES

Best practices in engaging youth in the fight against corruption
Question submitted by the U4, July 2013

The anti-corruption movement have been increasingly working with youth in the last decade. These initiative range from Integrity Camps and Summer Schools to work within schools and universities, training teachers, developing curricula and setting up Integrity Clubs. Many civil society organisations (CSOs) have also developed awareness-raising campaigns and activities targeted at young people. Generally, projects designed and led by young people, supported by CSOs, have been more successful with outreach and sustaining individual engagement.

Overview of chapter activities with youth
Question submitted by Transparency International Cameroun, June 2013

This answer provides an overview of the initiatives conducted by Transparency International to engage youth in the fight against corruption. Youth are an essential element for the success of the fight against corruption. A significant number of activities to engage youth have been undertaken by the TI movement, in all regions, in the last decade. These initiative range from Integrity/Democracy Camps and Summer Schools to work within schools and universities, training teachers, developing curricula and setting up Integrity Clubs. Many Chapters have also developed awareness raising campaign and activities targeted at young people.

Mapping of policies and initiatives to combat illicit money flows
Question submitted by Transparency International Secretariat, June 2013

This answer provides an overview of the main current policies focused on tackling illicit financial flows, including: (i) anti-money laundering, politically exposed persons, and asset declaration rules; (ii) asset recovery and mutual legal assistance; as well as (iii) measures to eliminate secrecy, such as rules on beneficial ownership, accounting standards and tax exchange information. In addition, it provides a non-comprehensive mapping of the main policy players responsible for establishing standards and pushing for a more transparent and accountable financial system and includes an overview of the work being conducted by Transparency International and others.

Overview of chapters' activities on gender and corruption
Question submitted by Transparency International Secretariat, June 2013

Women are faced with a wide-range of specific corruption challenges in many developing countries. Due to cultural and other context-specific issues, women very often cannot afford to stand against corruption. In many occasions, they also lack access to appropriate complaints mechanisms and means of redress. In addition, considering their close interaction with public officials and their greater dependence on public service delivery, they have a key role to play in voice and accountability mechanisms. This answer provides an overview of the initiatives conducted by Transparency International's national chapters to address the negative impact of corruption on women.

Approaches to hold governments accountable for campaign promises
Question submitted by Transparency International Ghana, June 2013

Holding elected officials accountable for fulfilling and implementing the programme they set out during their campaign is essential to avoid empty promises and promote a functioning democracy. Some monitoring schemes involve a dialogue with candidate prior to the elections, whereas others use the pledges set out by the candidates themselves as benchmarks. Online monitoring is the most widespread tracking technique that often involves collaboration between civil society and the media. Community monitoring techniques are increasingly being used. Monitoring election promises implies that citizens have access to information regarding programmes and promises.

Social sanctioning: overview of issues and approaches
Question submitted by Transparency International Secretariat, June 2013

Social sanctions are generally understood as an alternative to more traditional forms of punishment such as fines or jail sentences. They can be imposed on individuals, corporations or even states by the court as well as by civil society outside of court processes. In addition to reputational sanctions, civil society has a wide range of potential sanctioning tools, such as consumer, political, cultural, academic or sporting boycotts. There are benefits to using social sanctions to fight impunity, but also risks, such as concerns about due process, the legitimacy, proportionality and legality of sanctions, potential damages to third parties as well as risks of abuse.

Examples of social sanctioning approaches
Question submitted by Transparency International Secretariat, June 2013

This answer provides examples of social sanctions imposed by other civil society organisations (and in some cases other actors) to individuals, companies and institutions and the states. These include various forms of sanctions, such as naming and shaming sanctions with the view to inflicting reputational damages or political, economic or social boycott actions. This answer compiles an illustrative (and not comprehensive) list of such sanctioning initiatives, as well as campaigning approaches that can be used to mobilise citizens to impose these sanctions.

Integrity plan as a tool to prevent corruption
Question submitted by Transparency International Slovenia, May 2013

Mandatory integrity plans have been adopted as instruments to manage integrity within the public administration, developed based on risk management tools. Integrity plans typically include measures such as the identification, analysis and evaluation of corruption risks, as well as a clear action plan to address these risks and monitor implementation. Besides being mandatory, integrity plans differentiate themselves from other integrity assessment tools as they go beyond corruption risk assessments, establishing also rules on how to analyse and evaluate the risks identified, as well as the measures to be implemented in order to eliminate/reduce these risks.

Community monitoring of humanitarian aid and basic services
Question asked by Transparency International Kenya, April 2013

Community monitoring aim at improving the quality and performance of a given service or project, by empowering local communities through opening a channel for beneficiaries to voice their concerns, provide constructive feedback and flag wrong-doings and abuses. Such tools include simple suggestion boxes, social audit schemes and monitoring tools that rely on technology solutions (such as SMS notification and surveys). The choice of the monitoring mechanism needs to be dependent on the service/project monitored as well as the specific context.

Community complaints mechanisms
Question asked by Transparency International Kenya, April 2013

Complaints mechanisms can increase accountability to aid beneficiaries by providing them with the opportunities to give feedback on the quality and quantity of the services as well as to complain about potential wrongdoing. There is no blue-print for setting up a complaint mechanism, as it needs to be adapted to the local context. To address all these issues, there is a broad consensus that beneficiaries should be consulted in the design of the complaints mechanisms. Irrespective of the forms, procedures and channels for handling complaints, the mechanism should be transparent, independent, accountable, accessible, safe and easy to use.

Anti-corruption clauses in development cooperation agreements
Question asked by EU, May 2013

Anti-corruption clauses in development cooperation agreements seek to spell out the behaviour expected from those engaging with the respective development agency and send a strong signal with regard to the agency's commitment to fight corruption. While there is no concrete evidence of the effectiveness of these clauses in preventing misuse of donor resources alone, assessments of donor anti-corruption policies have shown that they should be accompanied by clear and pre-defined sanctions, measures to monitor the use of funds, as well as the establishment of complaint mechanisms and whistle-blower protection.

Tools to reduce officials' and companies' engagement in grand corruption
Question asked by U4, April 2013

All stakeholders have a role to play in building a clean procurement system. Civil society and the media are key to ensuring that the laws, rules and contracts are properly and truthfully implemented. Public procurement is particularly vulnerable to corruption, being at the meeting point of the public and private sector. To promote integrity in public procurement both the supply and demand side of corruption should be tackled. Open contracting, enhanced transparency, monitoring mechanisms and training of procurement officials, as well as corporate integrity and incentives and deterrents for the private sector should be combines to reduce grand corruption.

Asset declaration regimes in selected Asian countries
Question submitted by U4, April 2013

An effective asset declaration regime requires that key government officials regularly disclose precise information about their assets, income, liabilities, as well as interests. To be used effectively as an anti-corruption tool, content review of assets declaration should be conducted by an independent government body. The verification system should allow the identification of conflicts of interest and illicit enrichment situations by comparing declarations over time or against other information such as tax declarations, and real estate registries. In addition, public disclosure of asset declarations allows civil society and media to monitor and promote the process and support enforcement.

Monitoring asset declarations: the role of CSOs
Question asked by Transparency International Ukraine, April 2013

When assets declarations are made publicly available, citizens, civil society organisations and the media can monitor them and play a role in ensuring the enforcement of the law, through: (i) the verification of the content of these declarations (e.g. comparison across years; comparison against other publicly available information such as vehicles, tax information, etc); (ii) the conduct of life-style checks; (iii) the simplification of the data on asset declaration presented by government institutions; (iv) the analysis and communication of relevant findings to the public; and (v) the analysis of compliance with the law by both public officials and oversight agencies.

Sources of information on political party transparency and accountability
Question submitted by Transparency International Chile, March 2013

This answer provides a list of resources on political parties, including information on political party accountability and governance rules, as well as transparency in political financing. This answer also provides the links to political party regulations in selected countries, and examples of activities related to political parties being undertaken by Transparency International national chapters.

Overview of the main technological innovations to identify and reduce corruption
Question asked by U4, March 2013

New technologies have been used to facilitate the reporting of corruption, to access to official and financial information and to monitor the integrity of basic services and political actors. ICTs can also help in campaigning efforts and to mobilise people to fight corruption. In the last decade, governments have launched an increasing number of e-government initiatives to enhance the efficiency and transparency of public administration and to better interact with citizens. However, as a relatively new suite of anti-corruption tools, there is only limited research available to measure the impact of new technologies on the level of corruption.

Building and managing coalitions
Questions asked by Transparency International Malaysia, March 2013

Coalition building can be defined as building an alliance of actors involved in a relationship based on an agreement to share responsibility for achieving some specific goal, where the alliance members don't agree upon every issue but work together on specific issues to amplify impact. Coalitions may offer a strong platform for like-minded organisations or individuals to pursue common reform goals, leveraging the collective force of their members and influential allies. This answer thus looks at lessons learned on coalition building at the national level in general, and provides some examples from the anti-corruption and governance field.

Training tools for anti-corruption commissions
Question asked by Transparency International Zimbabwe, March 2013

This paper lists a number of existing courses and trainings, for ACCs and anti-corruption investigators and

prosecutors, including contact details of relevant resource persons in various organisations as well as some useful resources that could contribute to the training.

Codes of ethics for local governments
Question asked by Transparency International Hungary, March 2013

Codes of conduct for local officials can greatly contribute to maintain the highest standards of integrity and sustain trustworthy and accountable relationships with the community they serve. While they can greatly vary in terms of style, substance and application, they typically outline broad fundamental values underlying professional standards and provide concrete guidance on how to behave in sensitive or problematic situations. The process for developing the code typically includes activities such as identifying of contributors, drafting the content, testing/piloting and approving the code, disseminating the code (training and communication), monitoring and reviewing the code.

How-to guide for corruption assessment tools
Question asked by U4, February 2013

This answer provides an overview of a number of publicly accessible tools to assess a country's level of corruption or good governance. These tools comprise qualitative and quantitative country data, and covers corruption perception, good governance legal and institutional frameworks as well as their implementation. The tools are classified by alphabetical order (organisations).

Review of donor disclosure policies of corruption cases
Question submitted by U4, February 2013

Donors have adopted approaches for disclosing reported cases of corruption or abuses. Many bilateral donors do not publicly disclose online any cases or findings, including debarments that may result. The decision to disclose cases tend to be framed by policies on whistleblowing and the public's right to information. In contrast, multilateral donors do disclose their cases as part of annual reporting done by their investigation units. Some, including the World Bank and regional development banks, also publish the names of all firms and individual contractors, which have been debarred following investigations into alleged corruption.

Blacklisting in public procurement
Question submitted by Transparency International Ukraine, February 2013

Blacklisting or debarment typically refers to the procedure that excludes companies and individuals involved in wrongdoings from participating in tendering projects. A blacklisting register is often consolidated in one place, and can be made available to the wider public, or only to contracting authorities. In order to have an efficient and fair system in place, blacklisting should be based on clear rules and on the principles of fairness and accountability, transparency, good judicial practice and uniformity. Countries such as Brazil, Uganda, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, among others, have established a public and central register with as part of their blacklisting systems.

Legislative footprint
Question asked by Transparency International Germany, February 2013

Legislative footprint is a document that details the time, person, and subject of a legislator's contact with a stakeholder. Published as an annex to legislative reports, it would provide insight into who gave input into draft legislation. Legislative footprints still play only a small role in the discussion about lobbying and transparency, and they are not obligatory in any of the countries examined. Their implementation is currently under discussion in the European Parliament and voluntary footprints can already be found there.

Lobbying, corruption risks and the need for regulation
Question submitted by Transparency International Secretariat, June 2013

Lobbying is not a corrupt or illegitimate activity per se, but a key element of the decision-making process. However, a disproportionate influence of business groups, for example, can lead to undue influence and even state capture. Against this background, a broad range of regulations should be established depending on the country's political environment and state of development. These include lobbying registration and disclosure, prevention of conflict of interest, revolving door rules, comprehensive asset and interest disclosure by public officials, as well as freedom of information laws. This paper provides an overview of best practice in regulating lobbying activities.

Codes of ethics for the police
Question asked by Transparency International Mauritius, January 2013

Codes of ethics for the police can outline broad values through general statement of principles or be more prescriptive in their approach, providing concrete guidance on acceptable behaviours, including in sensitive situations. Codes of ethics for law enforcement officials go beyond standards of conduct for public officials, due to the specificities of their duties and considerable powers entrusted to them. This includes obedience to the law, the use of force, the use of data and information, performance of duties, non-discriminatory policing, as well as guidance on key areas of corruption risks.

Best practices in transparent and participatory law-making
Question submitted by Transparency International Vietnam, July 2013

Citizens have a right to be informed and involved in the crafting of laws and policies that affect them. It is good practice to integrate public participation into all phases of law-making such as setting the agenda, drafting the text, adopting and implementing the law, monitoring the implementation and potentially reformulating the text. Various levels of public participation can be envisaged, ranging from basic access to information to consultation, dialogue and active involvement of the public. There are challenges to transparency and openness in policy-making that need to be considered, including time and resources constraints, and it is thus essential to strike the right balance.

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SECTOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Overview of principles for monitoring and challenging public procurement contracts
Question submitted by EU, July 2013

Standards for public procurement monitoring put forward by international treaties and organisations include the establishment of mechanisms for internal and external control exercised by independent auditors, bidders and competitors, and civil society, among others. Moreover, there are several international and European standards relating to procurement monitoring and sanctioning in case of corruption. The strongest instruments also require the involvement of civil society and the systematic blacklisting of companies involved in wrongdoings. In addition, international standards require states to implement effective redress mechanisms.

Overview of chapters' activities on mining and corruption
Question submitted by Transparency International Cameroon, July 2013

This answer provides an overview of the initiatives conducted by Transparency International chapters to prevent and reduce corruption in the mining sector.

Literature review on corruption in ports and borders in Southern Africa
Question submitted by U4, July 2013

Corruption in ports and borders involve a number of different actors (border guards, customs officials etc.) and mostly manifests itself into collusive forms of corruption to evade tariffs and taxes and coercive bribery where officials extract bribes for performing routine processes. There is a broad consensus in the literature that port and border corruption has a detrimental impact on shipping costs, trade, revenue collection as well as organised crime and security. Systemic measures are often implemented to address the underlying causes of corruption and organisational development can address both the opportunities for corruption and incentive structures.

Fighting corruption in the supply chain
Question submitted by Transparency International Germany, June 2013

Companies are becoming increasingly aware of corruption risks in the supply chain. The tools and approaches to tackle these issues vary according to the country of operation, the type of business and the risks involved. Therefore, an assessment of the corruption risks prior to selecting suppliers and distributors is essential. Companies have opted for establishing mandatory codes of conduct for suppliers, introducing anti-corruption clauses in contracts, as well as training staff in supplier companies. Companies have also made use of collective action to level the playing field between competitors and advance the fight against corruption.

Criminal liability of political parties
Question submitted by Transparency International Lithuania, April 2013

Political parties are almost always covered, implicitly or explicitly, by the definition of legal person in countries that have established criminal liability for legal persons. Many jurisdictions however excluded political parties from the application of certain sanctions, such as dissolution or cessation of activities, due to the particular role of parties in societies. Even though, political parties can be held criminally responsible in many countries, they are rarely sanctioned in practice.

Corruption in the health sector: hospital management, procurement and interest groups' influence
Question submitted by Transparency International Italy, April 2013

This answer looks at possible solutions to prevent corruption in the healthcare sector, focusing on the appointment of hospital chief executive officers and oversight procedures, procurement processes, as well as lobbying by pharmaceutical industries. Transparency and accountability mechanisms combined with effective sanctions may help to enhance quality in healthcare delivery and reduce opportunities for corruption. More specific interventions, such as the disclosure of medicine prices, the adoption of meritocratic recruitment procedures or the establishment of mandatory register of lobbyists may help to further enhance transparency and therefore curb corruption.

Reducing bureaucracy and corruption affecting small and medium enterprises
Question submitted by U4, April 2013

Excessive bureaucracy imposes a disproportionate bureaucratic burden on small and medium size enterprises, creating both incentives and opportunities for corruption. Such excessive administrative procedures, requirements for unnecessary licences, protracted decision-making slow down business operations. Tools to reduce bureaucracy and limit corruption opportunities affecting SMEs include one-stop shops, the use of data-sharing and standardisation, common commencement dates for new rules, as well as simplification of administrative procedures, and tailored guidance. ICTs have also been used to improve transparency and accountability.

Overview of initiatives on the judiciary
Question submitted by Transparency International Romania, March 2013

This answer provides examples of initiatives conducted by Transparency International chapters in the judiciary. This can include a wide range of initiatives aimed at promoting access to justice, engaging citizens in the oversight of courts activities, strengthening the transparency, independence and capacity of the judiciary, assessing corruption within courts and public prosecutor's office as well as and monitoring the investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of corrupt individuals.

Mapping of NIS recommendations on the judiciary
Question submitted by Transparency International Romania, March 2013

This answer compiles the recommendations for the Judiciary pillar of a wide range of National Integrity System assessments conducted in the past years.

Overview of chapters' initiatives to address corruption as "a threat to peace and stability"
Question submitted by Transparency International Germany, March 2013

This answer provides examples of initiatives conducted by Transparency International to address corruption as a "threat to peace and stability" in countries affected by various forms of instability (as assessed by the failed state index). While there are no initiatives that explicitly link anti-corruption to peace and stability, interventions aimed at building legitimate and accountable systems in law enforcement, security institutions as well as judicial and electoral and processes are likely to have the most direct impact on peace and stability. This answer compiles an illustrative (and not comprehensive) list of chapters' activities in these four sectors.

Literature review on corruption in higher education
Question submitted by Transparency International Norway, February 2013

Corruption in higher education takes various forms across regions, countries and institutions. Corruption in this sector can be found both at the systemic (fraud, undue influence, false accreditations etc.) and individual (academic misbehaviour, plagiarism, cheating etc.) levels. Corruption in higher education has significant social and economic consequences because of the crucial role that universities play in societies, both as a neutral point of reference and as a "future-leader maker". Corruption undermines the integrity and the quality of academic research and diverts higher education from its fundamental goals.

Transparency of state-owned enterprises
Question asked by Transparency International Hungary, February 2013

As state-owned enterprises (SOEs) compete with private companies, they should be subject to the same high standards with regards to accounting, auditing and reporting. Specific governance challenges due to SOEs' proximity with market regulators require additional safeguards against market distortion and misuse of public funds. The state's role as company-owner needs to be clearly separated from its role as a regulator. SOEs need to be open about their governance and ownership structures, their relations to other state-owned entities, such as banks and financial institutions, and disclose any received state grants or guarantees.

Overview of initiatives on citizen security and corruption
Question submitted by Transparency International Costa Rica, February 2013

This answer provides an overview of activities conducted by different organisations aimed at improving citizen security by fighting corruption, enhancing transparency and accountability as well as engaging citizens and civil society groups.

Wildlife crime and corruption
Question submitted by U4, February 2013

Corruption is seen as one of the most critical factors enabling illicit wildlife trafficking, as a facilitator of poaching as well as transactions between supply, transit, and demand countries, and an important source of resilience for organised criminal groups involved in such crimes. Against this backdrop, there are several corruption instruments and approaches, including establishing a strong legal framework against both corruption and wildlife trafficking, human resources management reforms in the public sector, capacity building on both technical and integrity-related issues, and more generally, raising ethical standards across the public sector.

Conflict of interest in Public Procurement
Question asked by EU, January 2013

Conflict of interest may arise at various stages of the procurement process, whenever public officials' decisions can be influenced by their private interests. Therefore, countries should enact guidelines with a clear definition of conflict of interest, and requirements for officials involved to disclose information on their private interests and assets, excuse themselves from certain decision-making processes and the performance of certain functions, if they offer opportunities for conflict of interest. Access to information, stakeholder participation and clear review mechanisms are also essential to prevent conflict of interest and other forms of corruption in procurement.

Public financial management reforms in developing and post-conflict countries
Question submitted by U4, May 2013

The nature and level of corruption risks vary across the individual stages of the PFM cycle, ranging from administrative to political corruption. While PFM reform is a central element of governance reforms in many developing, transition, and post-conflict countries, addressing corruption is rarely an explicit objective. Countries that have achieved substantial improvements in the performance of their PFM systems and were able to reduce corruption, like Rwanda, Kosovo, Georgia, West Bank and Gaza, have reached these positive results within the framework of broader governance reform which were backed by strong political commitment by the governments.

Corruption in the health sector in Vietnam
Question submitted by EU, January, 2013

In Vietnam, corruption in the health sector is considered a serious problem. The country's health system is particularly susceptible to corruption due to uncertainty, asymmetry of information between health officials and patients, and conflict of interest between health officials and private companies. The government has designed a series of reforms directly aimed at improving the country's health governance framework. While assessments of the impact of these reforms are still lacking, the government, experts and civil society organisations have acknowledged that more needs to be done in order to reduce corruption and improve health delivery in the country.

Key features of NGO accountability systems
Question submitted by U4, January 2013, Nr 2013

As NGOs become increasingly important players, they are under greater pressure to demonstrate that they are using their resources in an efficient, accountable and transparent manner. Legal requirements for NGOs are often rather basic, thus NGO accountability is primarily enforced through self-regulatory mechanisms and internal rules, including governance structure and standards, independence, integrity policies/codes of conduct, transparency standards, human resource management policies, financial management standards and downward accountability measures, which require careful assessment to effectively manage corruption risks.

Corruption in the media in developing countries
Question submitted by U4, January 2013, Nr 2013

In developing countries, lack of technical skills, low professional standards, limited resources, opaque or government controlled ownership structures, inadequate and undemocratic legal frameworks create fertile grounds for corruption. Corruption in the media takes the form of cash for news, staged or fake news, gift giving, concealed advertisement, nepotism and capture. Fighting corruption in the media can involve raising awareness of ethical standards, strengthening the freedom of the press, introducing adequate media policies and legislation, promoting media accountability as well as supporting investigative journalism through technical training.

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COUNTRY SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Azerbaijan
Question submitted by EU, July 2013

With a marginalised opposition, little independent media and poor human rights records, Azerbaijan faces endemic corruption and deeply entrenched patronage networks that hamper the economic and social development of the country. The country's mineral wealth is seen as both a factor of economic growth and a source of corruption. Public financial management, democratic processes and law enforcement are also particularly vulnerable to corruption. Recent reforms to fight corruption are starting to yield results but the government's human rights track record continues to fuel a culture of impunity, undermining their effectiveness.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Cote d'Ivoire
Question submitted by EU, April 2013

Corruption in Côte d'Ivoire is endemic and permeates at all levels of society. Impunity is widespread throughout the country and the justice system is seen as dangerously partial. Côte d'Ivoire lacks some of the basic governance infrastructures and the weakness of law enforcement entities makes the governance system largely ineffective. Patronage and clan networks continue to play a central role in the Ivoirian society, and the administration does not operate transparently. The poor governance structure is becoming an obstacle for genuine reconciliation in a still-divided Côte d'Ivoire.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Iraq
Question submitted by U4, April 2013

Embezzlement, procurement scams, money laundering, oil smuggling and widespread bribery have led Iraq to the bottom of corruption rankings, fuelled political violence and hampered effective state building. Although the country's anti-corruption framework have expanded since 2005, it still fails to build a strong integrity system. Political interference in anti-corruption bodies, politicisation of the corruption issues, weak civil society, insecurity, lack of resources and incomplete legal provisions still limit the government's capacity to curb corruption. Ensuring the integrity of the management of Iraq's oil revenue is likely to become one of the country's greatest challenges.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Uganda
Question submitted by U4, April 2013

Corruption in Uganda hampers economic development and the provision of quality public services. Corruption affects a wide range of sectors and government institutions, including procurement, police, the defence as well as the education and health sectors. Moreover, as an aid dependent country, a sound public financial management system is seen as fundamental to ensure Uganda spends the money wisely and leakages are

avoided. Several reforms, legislations and new institutions to fight corruption have been established. However, in spite of recent investigations and corruption trials, an effective implementation and enforcement of the laws in place is still lacking.

Governments not fulfilling their anti-corruption pledge
Question submitted by Transparency International Individual member, March 2013

Transparency and anti-corruption have been highly regarded on the international agenda since the late 1990s/early 2000s, but corruption is still prevalent in many countries in the world, demonstrating the lack of genuine political will to implement measures aiming to reduce corruption. Only a limited number of governments have taken formal corruption pledges and most have failed to fully act upon them. This paper presents cases of unfulfilled anti-corruption pledges, using examples from all regions and showing different types and levels of promises.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Papua New Guinea
Question submitted by U4, March 2013

Papua New Guinea's widespread corruption problems are reflected in the country's poor performance in most areas assessed by governance indicators. Official corruption and the misappropriation/theft of public funds are seen as the most significant governance issues of the country. Papua New Guinea's governance structure is rather comprehensive and the government has voiced its ambition to fight corruption. Anti-corruption efforts are nevertheless ineffective due to poor implementation of existing laws, considerable resource gaps and confusion over the overlapping responsibility of anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Honduras
Question submitted by EU, February 2013

Plagued by widespread corruption and criminality, Honduras is struggling to cope with the consequences of the 2009 coup and the effects of illicit drug trafficking. Widespread nepotism, organised crime and political corruption are common features of the country. Corruption within law enforcement bodies is particularly worrisome since it enables organise crime and perpetuates a "culture of impunity". Efforts to fight corruption include the enactment of a transparency law and a new law to fight corruption within the security forces. It remains to be seen whether the government's commitments to fight corruption and crime will bring about the expected results.

Corruption in the education sector in Cambodia
Question submitted by TI Cambodia, February 2013

Years of conflict have left the education system in Cambodia in a poor state. Since the Peace Accord in 1991, steps have been taken to improve the country's education system, but entrenched corruption, caused by teacher's extremely low salaries and lack of control and accountability, have undermined the government's efforts. Students and parents report having paid unofficial fees in order to access material, to pass grades or to be admitted in school. Teachers have also reported making informal payments to receive their salaries, to be promoted, or to take part in trainings. Corruption also affects the transfer of funds from the central/district level to schools.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Kiribati
Question submitted by EU, January 2013

Corruption is widespread in Kiribati but there is only limited research available. Much like its neighbours, Kiribati is situated in the global average in terms of its performance on governance indicators. Political corruption and nepotism seem to be the main corruption issues in Kiribati, and the economic importance of the fishing industry and fishery management increasingly makes it a corruption-prone area. The country's small population and

limited resources are obstacles to setting up fully functioning governance and oversight mechanisms. Kiribati still lacks many essential attributes of an efficient anti-corruption system.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in the Cook Islands
Question submitted by EU, January 2013

The lack of available information makes it difficult to assess the level of corruption and its impact in the Cook Islands. Nevertheless, according to international surveys, the Cook Islands are situated around the global average in terms of its performance on governance indicators but perform poorly in terms of the rule of law. Nepotism and political corruption appear as the main corruption risks in the Cook Islands. In addition, being an offshore financial centre makes the country vulnerable to money-laundering.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Tonga
Question submitted by EU, January 2013

Corruption is still a major problem in Tonga but the government has taken significant steps forward in recent years to fight corruption and improve the country's governance, making it move up the ladder of "clean" countries. Tonga is now situated around the global average in terms of its performance on governance indicators. Political corruption and nepotism are prominent issues in Tonga which are rooted in the country's political and demographic structure, strong sense of kinship, and late democratic awakening.

Risks for development cooperation in fragile and transitional states (Afghanistan)
Question submitted by U4, January 2013

Afghanistan is entering into a transition phase where the international military presence will be scaled back and more resources will be channelled to and managed by the Afghan state, presenting major corruption challenges. Risks for development programming should be considered at the contextual level (e.g. analysis of external facts), programmatic level (e.g. risks of failure due to unrealistic approaches or unintended consequences), and institutional level (e.g. fiduciary and reputational risks due to corruption). Donors will have to tailor their risk management approach to address transition priorities, particularly by balancing risks and opportunities (rather than engaging only in less risky programmes) and selecting the most appropriate aid instruments.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Zimbabwe
Question submitted by U4, January 2013

The fragile 2008 power-sharing agreement between President Robert Mugabe and the opposition Prime Minister, Morgan Tsvangirai to resolve the country's political crisis has brought relative calm and economic stability to Zimbabwe. However, the country continues to face major governance challenges, ranging from petty and bureaucratic corruption to grand form of corruption involving high level officials. Of particular concern within the framework of the forthcoming elections, is the deeply entrenched system of political patronage, the tight grip of the ruling party over the security forces and the history of political violence, repression and manipulation.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Guatemala
Question submitted by U4, January 2013

Guatemala faces widespread corruption permeating all levels of society, including petty and grand corruption, and infiltration of state institutions by criminal groups. Law enforcement institutions are affected by corruption, impunity and state capture by organised crime. Despite initiatives to curb corruption at the institutional level, scandals involving high-level officials continue to be reported. The government has taken measures to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and has committed to reform other law enforcement institutions. However, it is still early to assess whether the government's apparent political will to fight corruption will translate into real changes.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in South Sudan
Question submitted by U4, January 2013

Since its independent on 9 July 2011, South Sudan faces a myriad of governance and poverty challenges, as well as continued hostilities with Sudan. The country is struggling with structural obstacles such as a lack of basic infrastructure, the weak development of markets and the lasting level of insecurity. Corruption is widespread and manifests itself through various forms, including grand corruption and clientelistic networks along tribal lines. Despite steps to promote transparency and accountability, South Sudan's anti-corruption framework is still in its infancy and lack of capacity, resources and political will hamper an effective implementation of existing legislation.

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Colombia
Question submitted by U4, January 2013

While Colombia is largely credited to have made improvements in terms of rule of law in the last decade, the new anti-corruption reforms have not yet yielded the expected results. Colombia continues to face structural corruption challenges, including the collusion of the public and private sectors, clientelism and policy capture by organized crime, a lack of control and provision of the central government over remote areas of the country and the inefficiency of the criminal justice system. The swift development of extractive industries in the country has boosted the economy, but the lack of adequate regulation and accountability mechanisms is a cause for concern.