Short Session Report

Session Title: Three Consequences of the Panama Papers
Date & Time: 1 December 2016, 16:30-17:30 hours
Report prepared by: Annette Kleinbrod, Transparency International

PLEASE INCLUDE BEST QUOTES!

Experts:

Johannes Kristjansson, Reykjavik Media, Iceland
Roman Amin, Novaya Gazeta, Russia
Hugo Alconada, La Nación, Argentina

Moderated by: Ewald Scharfenberg

Session coordinated by: Ewald Scharfenberg

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

- We did not know the scope the Panama Papers up to October 2015, when we met in Munich in Germany, to hold the first coordinator ion meeting.
- In April 2016, when we launched the Panama Papers, we started to understand the repercussions, the names.
- Today, we present three very important cases.

What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing strategies/ ideas (if applicable)

- The first great victim (by Johannes Kristjansson, Reykjavik Media, Iceland):
  
  He published the story and the Prime Minister had to resign.
Briefly describe the highlights including the thematically interesting questions and ideas that were generated from the discussion or from the floor, and session quotes.

Highlights – thematically interesting questions
- Johannes Kristjansson, Reykjavik Media, Iceland commented: The impact all around. The public knows what is going on. As a journalist, I have been trying to track this down, with no luck. Now, Parliaments all around the world are changing laws to get more information on tax havens and have more transparency.
- Hugo Alconada, La Nación, Argentina commented: The open question is how me still the lasting effect of the Panama Papers. The feeling I have is that the Panama Papers shock the world in an earthquake and then there were some publications and that was it. The core questions is how do we change this towards lasting change.
- Roman Amin, Novaya Gazeta, Russia commented: Once the Panama Papers were published, for two weeks they were continuously mentioned. The reaction was, why is the investigation called Panama Papers? We had hoped for greater discussion.
- The sources for journalists vary significantly. In the past, we addressed divorced women, drivers, family members that received promise to be part of the business but were in the end never part of it and lawyers. We always find people who want to be storytellers. Also, you go to Facebook or Instagram accounts and you see a lot of pictures and can see whether the salary and lifestyle fit together. Facebook and Instagram are good to proof evidence on lifestyle.

Session quotes:
- When Maria called me and talked with me about this huge project and the prime minister of Iceland, from the moment I knew the story of Iceland would be big. – Johannes Kristjansson, Reykjavik Media, Iceland
- To be in contact with all journalists – I felt I was part of a global movement. I was. – Johannes Kristjansson, Reykjavik Media, Iceland

What are the key recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)
- The major issue discussed was how to achieve lasting change through the Panama Papers. While change was achieved in many countries, Hugo Alconada, La Nación, Argentina commented that the Panama Papers shock the world in an earthquake but was disappointed about the long-term effect of the Panama Papers. This would require follow up.
Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration

- See above.

Rapporteur’s name and date submitted

Annette Kleinbrod, 1 December 2016

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