Short Session Report

Session Title: Beyond Cases, Towards a Culture of Integrity
Date & Time: 3 December 2016, 1130 – 13:30
Report prepared by: Name, Position, Organisation

Experts:
- Mr. Valette-Valla, Secretary General of the High Authority for Transparency in Public Life, France
- Mr. Kyungt-ho Park, Vice Chairman of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) of Korea
- Mr. Jermyn Brooks, Chair, Transparency International Business Advisory Board
- Ms. Cornelia Richter, Managing Director, GIZ, Germany

Moderated by: Dr. Julio Bacio Terracino, Deputy Head, Public Sector Integrity Division, OECD

Session coordinated by: Dr. Julio Bacio Terracino, Deputy Head, Public Sector Integrity Division, OECD

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

This session aimed at providing new insights to the debate on accountability and public integrity, by sharing good practices and debating how different stakeholders can contribute to a culture of integrity. The objective of the panel was to share the perspectives of the public sector, the business community and civil society to identify both good practices and key challenges in developing a culture of integrity across the government and society.
What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing strategies/ ideas (if applicable)

The moderator, Dr. Julio Bacio Terracino, opened the session by promoting the need to turn more attention to prevention and changing behaviour, in order to achieve a culture of more integrity in society. Such a culture should privilege public good over private good, and includes government, business and civil society. The forthcoming OECD Recommendation on Public Integrity promotes a balanced approach between values and compliance.

Panellists explained a wide range of initiatives that has been undertaken, all aimed to build trust in their respective organisations or countries, such as integrity laws and improved transparency, measures to ensure compliance with internal codes of conduct and more targeted initiatives to prevent misuse of political power. The panellists agreed that promoting multistakeholder approaches and inclusiveness in initiatives for improving culture of trust is key to achieve results.

Briefly describe the highlights including the thematically interesting questions and ideas that were generated from the discussion or from the floor, and session quotes.

Based on input from the audience an interesting discussion was initiated, focusing on issues of defining culture and how to change incentive structures, in order to turn away from social norms that undermine integrity in society. Civic education was promoted as a key preventive measure, which needs to be complemented by a continued focus on training and awareness raising for public officials and business actors as well as enforcement of already existing standards and frameworks, on both domestic and international level. Another opinion that was raised in the discussion touched on how a globalised world promotes a culture that does not help to build trust in societies. Analysing the political economy behind lack of integrity and trust is key to understand the challenge of creating a culture of integrity.

Another point that was made was that CSOs and businesses can, in
addition to governments, initiate processes to build trust in society.

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

Civic education is key to improved trust in society and needs to be complemented by more traditional approaches to improving the culture of integrity, such as implementing already existing laws and international standards as well as awareness raising. The tone from the top is important to create trust in the public sector as well as in the private sector. If initiatives to promote integrity do not turn into action this can lead to the creation of mistrust, rather than the aimed culture of integrity and trust.

Changing incentive structures is necessary for sustainable results, but this is a long term undertaking and it’s a challenge that short term results are often expected. However, willingness to learn across sectors helps a whole of society approach that is needed to improve the culture of integrity. It is important to remember that CSOs and businesses can, in addition to governments, initiate processes to build trust in society.

Environment is one example of a topic that has reached a higher level of awareness in society over the last decades, hopefully integrity can make the same journey through persistent efforts to raise awareness and change incentive structures, with the goal to build more trust in society.
Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration

Creating a culture of integrity is a long term commitment and requires a whole and government and whole of society approach. There is a need to work together, governments, civil society and private sector actors, to build a value based culture in society. An effective integrity system needs to balance a value-based and compliance-based approach.

Rapporteur’s name and date submitted
Amanda Sporre, 3 December 2017

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