Short Session Report

Session Title: Collective Action as a Game Changer – Private Sector Opportunities in the Fight against Corruption

Date & Time: 03 December 2016, 09:00 – 11:00

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Experts:

- **Mr. Michael Hershman**, Group CEO, International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)

- **Mr. Horacio Icaza**, CEO, La Casa del Médico and MOVIN (Movimiento Independiente por Panama)

- **Ms. Cornelia Richter**, Managing Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

- **Mr. Alejandro Rios**, Residente Nacional del Comité de Anticorrupción de la Confederación Patronal de la República Mexicana (Coparmex)

Moderated by: Mark Pieth, Professor of Criminal Law at Basel University, Chairman of the Board of the Basel Institute on Governance

Session coordinated by: Gemma Aiolfi, Head of Compliance and Corporate Governance / Collective Action, Basel Institute on Governance
Main issues raised in kick off remarks. What’s the focus of the session?

The session focused on the topic of “Collective Action as a Game Changer – Private Sector Opportunities in the Fight against Corruption”. It featured speakers from the private sector, a business association, civil society, and an international cooperation agency all engaged in Collective Action. The session aimed to take a good hard look at success factors of Collective Action such as establishing trust between different stakeholders, finding sustainable ways of collaboration and achieving progress on the ground. Furthermore, the session focused on Collective Action success stories from different regions and sectors, providing practical guidance and sharing lessons learnt.

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

The session featured positive encouragement by showcasing Collective Action initiatives and sharing experiences from the Basel Institute on Governance, the Alliance for Integrity, the Sport Integrity Global Alliance, MOVIN, and Coparmex.

Game changing ideas included a flexible approach to voluntary principles by the Sport Integrity Global Alliance that allows stakeholders to gradually improve their compliance standard. Furthermore, insights from the Alliance for Integrity’s training programme were shared. Compliance officers from large companies train small and medium-sized enterprises with little or no experience in the area of corruption prevention. Finally, an interesting postgraduate education programme on anti-corruption from Mexico was presented.

Collective Action to combat corruption has been gaining traction over the past 25 years. Nevertheless, the speakers agreed that critical reflection of shortcomings and failures is important to further improve the approach.
Briefly describe the highlights including the thematically interesting questions and ideas that were generated from the discussion or from the floor, and session quotes.

While Collective Action can provide creative solutions that go beyond prevalent approaches in the fight against corruption, it requires coordination and good management. In this regard, a neutral facilitator such as a development cooperation agency can be critical to the success of the multi-stakeholder process. Collective Action can only be as good as the commitment and contribution of each of the participating stakeholders. The willingness of stakeholders to show ownership for the initiative is a crucial success factor.

Furthermore, encouraging communication is important. Collective Action initiatives seem to thrive on a positive framing of their issues. The terms “accountability, integrity, transparency” can be more appealing to stakeholders than the term “corruption”.

Many organizations have an intrinsic motivation and a business case to strengthen compliance and integrity, both in the public and the private sector. However, there is a lack of capacities and knowledge, in particular on the local level and in small and medium-sized enterprises that can be addressed through Collective Action.

Finally, Collective Action can bridge implementation gaps by building inclusive coalitions between public sector, private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in strengthening accountability and integrity.

Other important issues that were raised in the discussion include the sustainability of Collective Action initiatives and the aspect of following up on commitments made by individual stakeholders in order to prevent misuse of Collective Action for whitewashing.

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

The session follow-up plan includes an offer of on-going support to stakeholders that are interested in Collective Action to combat corruption. This could be within the auspices of the Alliance for Integrity, and / or by the B20 Collective Action Hub at the International Centre for Collective Action at the Basel Institute on Governance.
Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration

Collective Action between public sector, private sector and civil society can find creative solutions that go beyond the typical ways of combatting corruption. Together we can achieve more than on an individual basis.

Florian Lair, 03 December 2016

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