Short Session Report

Session Title: People-Powered Anti Corruption
Date & Time: December 2\textsuperscript{nd} at 11:30 am
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Experts:

Hera Hussain, Community and Partnerships Manager, Open Corporates
Daniel Freund, Head of Advocacy, EU Integrity, Transparency International
Brian Ulicny, Senior Director, Data, Thomson Reuters
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Moderated by: Andrew Clarke, Principal, Governance and Citizen Engagement, Omidyar Network

Session coordinated by: Omidyar Network

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

While significant progress has been made on the disclosure of data, not enough has been done on how that data could be used to truly advance transparency, increase accountability and enhance good governance.

This session seeks to explore how data can effectively power efforts to fight corruption.
What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing strategies/ ideas (if applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Corporates</td>
<td>working to make more data available around corporations, beneficial ownership, taxes, and related areas. <a href="https://opencorporates.com/">https://opencorporates.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomson Reuters, Data Science Group</td>
<td>working to use aggregated data to gauge the risk of bribery and corruption faced by 3.5 million companies. <a href="https://innovation.thomsonreuters.com/en/labs.html">https://innovation.thomsonreuters.com/en/labs.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>EITI</td>
<td>Among many other examples, through the use of data, they discovered that over 80% of licenses in the extractives sector in Liberia were not awarded properly. <a href="https://eiti.org/">https://eiti.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Witness</td>
<td>used data to uncover corruption in the Jade industry in Myanmar: <a href="https://www.globalwitness.org/jade-story/">https://www.globalwitness.org/jade-story/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TI - Slovakia</td>
<td>data has been used to increase transparency in the procurement sector. More information available on that case is here: <a href="http://odimpact.org/case-open-contracting-and-procurement-in-slovakia.html">http://odimpact.org/case-open-contracting-and-procurement-in-slovakia.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrity Watch Afghanistan</td>
<td>used data to monitor the implementation of public contracts, identify issues and seek the resolution of reported issues. <a href="https://iwaweb.org/">https://iwaweb.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Contracting Partnership</td>
<td>has created an Open Contracting Data Standard that serves to guide disclosure of public procurement information. A good example of application of the standard is in Ukraine. More on that case is available here: <a href="https://medium.com/open-contracting-stories/everyone-sees-everything-29f0d750335#yfmc1rkv">https://medium.com/open-contracting-stories/everyone-sees-everything-29f0d750335#yfmc1rkv</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>
• Tax Justice Network – doing work to promote transparency of trusts. [http://www.taxjustice.net/](http://www.taxjustice.net/)

• Tactical Tech – “Exposing the Invisible” project. Several open-source and free tools for activists. [https://exposingtheinvisible.org/](https://exposingtheinvisible.org/)

• TI-Hungary – working to use data to develop a “red flag” system that uses algorithms to flag public contracts that are most suspicious, most susceptible to corruption.

• B Team / Thomson Reuters / Deloitte – have recently launched a site called “Ownership Transparency” focused on disclosing who ultimately owns, controls or benefits from a particular company: [http://ownershiptransparency.com/](http://ownershiptransparency.com/)

• MODAC (Mobilizing Data for Anti Corruption): Scoping work in Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya to ensure data is accessible at country-level and that citizens in those countries can use that data.

• Follow the Money Network:

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

• Should we shift the focus from publishing more data to producing some very concrete examples of impact with the data currently available?

• To answer the question of “do we have enough data”, we should always ask “do we have enough data for what?”

• Triangulation of data – sometimes even between data that has been opened publicly and data that may not be at the time – can lead to findings and analysis that individual data sets could not produce.

• Is “data used” the best measure of transparency? Or is the
change in the behaviour of institutions the best measure of transparency?

- Data has to be timely and comprehensive to increase the potential impact from its use.

- Civil society needs to be empowered to know how to use data and open source tools. More training opportunities would be helpful.

- Data is helpful so that those fighting corruption can most easily identify.

- Transparency is an important first step in the path to using data to fight corruption, but disclosure of data is not the only step. Development of tools, promotion of use, advancing

- Could there be more examples of where businesses promote increased transparency because they see a benefit resulting from that?

- An issue often arises when data is opened, but not updated. How can we ensure that there are commitments not just to open data but to maintain that data updated?

- Having open data is great, but having the code also be open, in places such a Github, is also very important.

- There is great potential on how open data can contribute to the fight against corruption in areas such as public procurement, extractives, land registries, among others.

- The matter of privacy and the right to privacy is important, but in different contexts, it’ll be key to ensure that “privacy” isn’t used as an excuse to not disclose public interest data in a timely fashion. Still, it is also important to understand that personal identifiable information must be protected. Privacy of personal identifiable data and publication of data of public interest are two sides of the same coin.

- It’s crucial to think about the digital divide and to understand
that citizens who can help validate data or who would find data most useful and relevant can often not have access to the tools and portals where data is published. Evaluation projects have shown that to maximize the impact resulting from data we must combine online and offline engagement methodologies.

- Key question: What is the best way to foster data-driven partnerships between journalists and civil society organizations to identify and fight against corruption?

- Even if data is available, action on it is not always possible depending on the conditions of the context and the ability for institutions to respond to the findings of the data.

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

While there has been significant progress on the disclosure of data, more work could be done on two points: a) Ensuring that disclosure is improved, by promoting publication of more data, of higher quality, to be disclosed in open formats that are more easily accessible, and b) Promoting wider use of data and more sophisticated analysis of data, including through ensuring that organizations and individuals have the skills necessary to make the most out of the data.

It is also imperative to demonstrate the impact of that data through effective use, leading to prosecutions, sanctions and penalties. Government and non-state actors need to invest in data skills to capitalise on the opportunities to use newly available data.

Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration

The ability to use data to fight corruption relies on that data being timely, comprehensive and accessible. It also needs to be communicated to offline communities to be locally relevant.
Rapporteur’s name and date submitted
Felipe Estefan and Andrew Clarke – December 2\textsuperscript{nd}/2016

Remember! This Short Report needs to be emailed to reports@17iacc.org within 2 hours after the session and will be uploaded instantly to the IACC website. Thanks.