Short Session Report

Session Title: From Buenos Aires to Tokyo: B20 Policy-Actions on integrity compliance. Moving from intent to action
Date & Time: 23 October, 12.00-14.00 (Workshop)
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Experts:

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This workshop looked at the impact of the B20 process on the global anti-corruption agenda. Anti-corruption has had times at the forefront of the G20 agenda (eg Argentina), and time off the agenda.

During Argentina’s presidency in 2018, the B20 and C20 made a joint statement that highlighted three priority areas on beneficial ownership, infrastructure and procurement, and state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

The key question addressed in this workshop was: how do we turn political commitment into actions?

The workshop also broke into three working groups; one on each B20 priority area.

What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing strategies/ ideas (if applicable)
Through the B20 process in Argentina, we saw unprecedented action regarding multi-stakeholder collaboration. The Argentina joint statement was a good message to send governments: that the C20 and B20 join together. Additionally, recently the B20, W20 and C20 signed a joint statement on gender and corruption.

There is a huge opportunity to advance the B20 agenda following Argentina. It appears that there is political will to move forward the B20 agenda.

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

Through the B20 process in Argentina, we saw unprecedented action regarding multi-stakeholder collaboration. The Argentina joint statement was a good message to send governments: that the C20 and B20 join together. Additionally, recently the B20, W20 and C20 signed a joint statement on gender and corruption.

However, we’re also moving into a time when corruption may be taken off the agenda. (Japan, as next host of the next G20, is planning to restructure the priorities along the SDGs rather than maintaining the current working groups.)

We also need to work on sustainable solutions in the fight against corruption. Governments shouldn’t restrict their reactions to addressing scandals; we need a systematic, systemic, sustainable approach.

We call on more businesses to be engaged in anti-corruption efforts. Suggestions to increasing business involvement include: greater emphasis on developing a culture of integrity, identifying champions of change at sector/regional level, and sharing / advocating the business case for addressing corruption risks.

Also note that thinking space for civil society, including anti-corruption activists.

**Working groups made these suggestions for implementing B20 priorities:**

**1. Infrastructure - focused on (a) requirement that company demonstrates it has an active compliance programme in place to be a bidder; and (b) transparency in bidding programme (including with digital technology).**

- 1. improve compliance programmes - compliance programmes are not an adequate indicator (alone) of a strong integrity system. Suggest reviewing programmes to identify the ‘right indicators’ (ie which ones are most impactful). Also, any compliance programs requires adequate training and implementation.
- 2. seek to pressure governments to take a strong position in having transparent bidding process (ie to require govt to demand that the bidder follow these requirements). Pressure would ideally come from private sector. It could focus on the benefits of transparency in encouraging more bidders in the process

**2. SOEs**

- 1. use MDBs and IO’s tools and support for SOEs to develop internal processes
- 2. identify SOE champions, then use these champions to pilot support projects
- 3. enable self-assessment (eg TI-tool)
- 4. political communication - use the pilot phase to give clarity to politicians about what SOEs are doing & support politicians to make policy changes
- 5. Role of business in technical support for SOEs (eg companies with expertise on how to transfer integrity principles to scale within their own business)

**3. beneficial ownership (focus on implementation of public registers)**

- suggest developing a bottom-up campaign; moving away from the language of ‘PEP list’ / negative connotations, and focussing on positive reasons for complying with BO register (eg how to win business)

**QUOTES**

‘The B20 in Argentina showed the joint work of sectors that are traditionally seen as enemies. It demonstrated that we can work together. This is important because if we
don’t work together, we won’t be as successful and impactful.’ (Delia)

‘This IACC has much stronger business focus than previous IACCs. We have a common agenda. Although we may not have a common language.. ‘we are showing that we’re talking together. and we’re working together. we’re setting the tone at the top.’ (Delia)
What are the key recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)

Through the B20 process in Argentina, we saw unprecedented action regarding multi-stakeholder collaboration. However, we’re also moving into a time when corruption may be taken off the agenda. Highlight the need to continue this work at B20 level, and highly encourage G20 governments to implement their commitments.

Ways that the B20 can take forward the three priority areas identified in Argentina include:

1. Infrastructure: improve compliance programmes and seek to pressure governments to develop transparent bidding processes
2. Support SOEs to develop strong internal compliance programmes; and
3. support the narrative around beneficial ownership to focus on positive reasons for complying with public registers.

Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration
**B20 achievements**

Through the B20 process in Argentina, we saw unprecedented action regarding multi-stakeholder collaboration. However, we’re also moving into a time when corruption may be taken off the agenda. Highlight the need to continue this work at B20 and C20 level, and highly encourage G20 governments to implement their commitments.

**IACC focus on private sector this year:**

- this IACC has much stronger business focus than previous IACCs
- ‘we have a common agenda. although we may not have a common language.’ (Delia, TI)
- ‘we are showing that we’re talking together. and we’re working together. we’re setting the tone at the top.’ (Delia, TI)

We call on more businesses to be engaged in anti-corruption efforts.

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**Rapporteur’s name and date submitted**

Alison Matthews, 24 October 2018

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This Short Report needs to be submitted within 2 hours after the session.