



Session Report

Please know you may design the structure of this report to better suit the session. It's important to capture the key outcomes and solutions proposed for the future.

Session Title: Power of Technology, Innovation and Digital Public Goods to Fight Corruption

Date & Time: Tuesday, 06.12.2022, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm GMT -5

Report prepared by: Saron Hagos, System Administrator, IRM

Moderated by: Emilia Díaz-Struck, Data & Research Editor, The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)

Panellists:

- Christopher Burns - Chief Digital Development Officer and Director for Technology, USAID
- Delia Ferreira Rubio - Chair, Transparency International
- Akmal Burkhanov - Anti-Corruption Agency, Head, Uzbekistan
- Khandker Anwarul Islam - Cabinet Secretary, Government of Bangladesh
- Emmanuel Ugirashebuja - the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Rwanda
- Emilia Díaz-Struck - Data & Research Editor, The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)

Share the thematic focus of the session, it's purpose and corruption risks?

The focus of the session was on how digital tools can be utilized to promote anti-corruption in the civic sphere. As mentioned by the panellists, some of the advantages of digitalization has been increasing transparency in government by ensuring that there is a proper procedure in place for holding those in power accountable. Technology can be incorporated a tool in the fight against corruption. For instance, a non-partisan website for reporting incidents of misconduct is one

method for combatting corruption. Digitalization can also help citizens to leverage information as it is easily accessible.

There are several risks associated with using technology as a tool for combatting corruption such as those that report it being penalized for reporting the incident; another risk with using technology as a tool is the quality of the data itself; clear data quality metrics must be set prior to any analysis.

Summary of panellists' contributions & discussion points (please be as detailed as possible)

Big data tools can be used to flag patterns of misconduct in cases of corruption. For example, in Latin America, they have used drones to check for oversights in infrastructure projects, which has been helpful in combatting corruption. Technology can also be utilized to mitigate efforts in campaign finance corruption.

In terms of implementing and regulating tech, collaboration with the tech community is crucial. For instance, use of blockchain can be a new mechanism for encouraging trust in the financial system. Use of blockchain for land ownership is a good example of how to utilize technical advancement for better governance. The panellist encouraged blockchain as a method for registration of people since it can be used to detect patterns of anti-conduct.

The republic of Uzbekistan is ensuring transparency in the public sphere. For instance, the practice of broadcasting for all court hearings and examinations has been helpful in keeping the process fair.

Main outcomes of session (include quotes/highlights and interesting questions from the floor)

Overall, a real change can be made by establishing policies that encourage a global standard for open transparency. It is crucial to address some of the challenges faced in anti-corruption efforts in a strategic/systematic way rather than seeing the issue as an individual problem. Overall, the panellists emphasized the importance of collaboration with the tech community, general public, and civic society in the fight against corruption.

Key recommendations for the future and concrete follow-up actions

The key recommendation I would have to the panellists is to have either a brochure or some sort of data visual piece to emphasize their points; for example, it would have been helpful to have a chart of the impact of digitalization in rural areas for combatting police aggression. (I.e, technology makes it easily accessible so that there is a video form for any potential interaction with a police officer).

What can be done to create opportunities for scaling up the solutions discussed in the session? And by whom?

Leaders' openness to change have to be taken into account for their openness to transparency. For instance, in Rwanda, the justice system was reformed using technology and the collaboration of political leaders and civic society. Therefore, any effort for digitalization must considered the historical context of the country as well (how open are the leaders to change, how much money can be used in this effort, and how can we better serve our citizens in ensuring a just system).

Is there a specific call to action to key stakeholders, such as governments, businesses, funders, civil society, young people, journalists or any other stakeholder that should be noted? Please specify if relevant.

There has been a call of action for a beneficial ownership transparency, as it will set a global standard. Beneficial ownership, public procurement transparency. Lots of countries are requesting support in this area. Governments must also invest in knowledge and innovation in the areas in which they are attempting to yield better results in terms of anti-corruption efforts.

Rapporteur's name and date submitted

Saron Hagos