



## 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:** Beyond Gender Mainstreaming: Why We Need a Feminist Approach to Fighting Corruption

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, 07.12.2022, 3:30 pm – 5:00 GMT -5

**Report prepared by:** Manuel Puetz, Advisor, GIZ

**Moderated by:** Linda Ofori Kwafo, Executive Director of Transparency International (TI) Chapter Ghana (Ghana Integrity Initiative – GII), Transparency International Board Member

### **Panellists:**

- Dr. Jürgen Zattler - German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (video message)
- Dr. Ortrun Merkle - Researcher, United Nations University - MERIT
- Maria Archimbal - Chief Compliance Officer, YPF
- Katrin Wenzel - Advisor, GIZ on behalf of Bathsheba Tagwai, Advocacy and Legal Advice Officer, Transparency International (TI) Chapter Nigeria (CISLAC)

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

Particularly women and girls are disproportionately affected by corruption and often sexualised corruption, i.e. sextortion. People experience corruption differently based on their gender. The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has committed itself to implement a Feminist Development Policy. The German approach to the implementation of a Feminist Development Policy envisions the adoption of gender transformative, Human rights based and intersectional approaches as well as questioning and addressing discriminating power structures. This workshop highlighted the consequences for anti-corruption policy making and programming under a Feminist Development Policy. It provided good-practice

examples from CSO and the private sector and shared the latest research on anticorruption and gender equality. The discussions also centered around how to move up this topic on the anti-corruption agenda.

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

In his video message **Dr. Jürgen Zattler - German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development** talked about the BMZ commitment to implement a feminist development policy, which also informs its engagement on anti-corruption and gender equality. BMZ is as an active player in the field of gender equality and anti-corruption. A feminist approach to anti-corruption has to go beyond gender mainstreaming. Gender transformative approaches to address root causes and incentivize critical thinking on power relations and intersectional analysis are required. The feminist development policy and how it is going to address gender related corruption in detail is still in development and Dr Zattler invited the community to contribute actively to this discussion.

**On behalf of Bathsheba Tagwai from Nigeria - Advocacy and Legal Advice Officer, Transparency International (TI) Chapter Nigeria (CISLAC)** who could not come to the IACC, due to her belated visa process, **Katrin Wenzel - Advisor, GIZ** informed about Ms Tagwais intended contribution to the panel. She presented the TI Chapter's (CISLAC) experience on supporting a bill on sexual harassment, which gained major support only after a BBC report on sextortion at tertiary education institutes and first-time possibility of a greater public debate of this issue. She also told the audience about the experience with a new digital reporting system and support mechanisms for survivors of sextortion.

**Dr Ortrun Merkle - Researcher, United Nations University – MERIT** highlighted that our discussions on the relationship of gender and corruption until now have really been around the question of sex differences rather than gender. To understand why corruption persists, who can fight it and where the differences in experience come from, we have to understand that all of this is linked to underlying norms and socialization. There is far too little research taking an intersectional approach. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) affects not only women but also men and especially LGBTIQ+ individuals. The shift to a feminist approach also in anti-corruption can help to overcome this.

**Maria Archimbal - Chief Compliance Officer, YPF** stressed that the public and private sector need to work together for a gender transformative approach to compliance, integrity and anticorruption. It is important that there is regulation and standards and guidelines both national and international. But also that companies approach these issues not only as an obligation from a specific regulation but as a way of doing business. Until a few years, the companies approach to compliance was concentrated on compliance to anticorruption and transparency regulations. By now, there is a broader agenda of integrity which includes different aspects of a sustainable development, where gender and diversity play a much greater role. This broader agenda is a consequence of new stakeholders that are holding companies

accountable not only for the profits they make, but also for the impacts the companies have among the communities and the environment in which they operate, but also their employees. YPF, as one of the biggest companies in Argentina has a strong influence as role model in the national private sector and potential influence to shape the private sector debate on these issues. But corporate culture changes take time.

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

Only gender mainstreaming is not enough. Gender transformative approaches need to address root causes of gender discrimination from the beginning and have in mind different forms of corruption regarding gender. A participant from the audience claimed that fighting gender-based corruption should not be a purely feminist task, but one for whole humanity, where men should be included in the discussions and encouraged to take greater responsibility and engagement.

Patriarchal norms stemming from tradition and religion have to a large extent led to the culture of silence in many countries. Yet, religious leaders should be included in the debate and can help to overcome these problems by promoting social change through value re-orientation by creating awareness and sensitization.

Groups of the anti-corruption and SGBV communities should not indulge in turf wars of where sextortion should be thematically allocated.

Sextortion is not a women's issue, but a people's issue.

It doesn't help much if women are put in leadership positions via quota if they are part of the same privileged elites.

We also need to ask ourselves maybe uncomfortable questions like, why was it decided to organise the IACC at a place like the US, where it can be really hard for certain people to obtain visa and be allowed to come and participate in the discussions.

## **Key recommendations for the future and concrete follow-up actions**

Reporting sextortion is very dangerous. Anonymity and protection of victims is very important. There should be more research and information on the preferred and most beneficial reporting mechanisms. How can anonymity be guaranteed if cases of sextortion come to court? There should be more data collection, also in form of testimonies, e.g. on gender related corruption instead of focusing on differences in sex. We need to forge alliances.

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

The anti-corruption community should use the UNCAC process to address the issue

of power structures and gender-based corruption.

The topic should generally be moved up the agenda of the anti-corruption community. We need to forge alliances.

**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.**

Multilateral Organisations like the Worldbank should strengthen their engagement on the topic of gender-based corruption.

The IACC organisers should encourage and allow more sessions on the topic (2/80 is not enough).

A call for cooperation of actors e.g. between groups of the anti-corruption and SGBV communities.

**Rapporteur's name and date submitted**

**Manuel Puetz, 08.12.2022**