



## 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:** The Corruption Authors: Very Bad People, Enablers, Putin, Kleptocrats and All that is Fit to Print

**Date & Time:** Friday, 09.12.2022, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm GMT -5

**Report prepared by:** Yusuf Can, Georgetown University, Graduate Student

**Moderated by:** Frank Vogl, Cofounder, Transparency International

### **Panellists:**

- Elizabeth David-Barrett - Head of the Global Programme on Measuring Corruption, IACA
- Patrick Alley - Founder, Global Witness
- Louise I Shelley - Professor, George Mason University
- Abigail Bellows - Deputy, Policy Anti-Corruption Task Force U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

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

The purpose of the session was to invite the panelists to talk about their books concerning corruption. Abigail Bellows, USAID, talked about their book, *Dekleptification Guide*, which is a resource for USAID staff working in countries trapped in severe corruption, particularly those whose citizens open windows of opportunity for reform. The book also aims to set the agenda for the broader community of donors, implementing partners, scholars, and other experts focused on countering kleptocracy and strategic corruption. Patrick Alley from Global Citizen talked about their book, *Very Bad People*, in which outlines the gripping and untold story of how Global Witness have uncovered a worldwide network of highly organized criminality, kleptocracy and corruption and exposed the people behind it. Louise I Shelly from George Mason University talked about her book, *Dark*

*Commerce*, in which she discusses how new technology, communications, and globalization fuel the exponential growth of dangerous forms of illegal trade—the markets for narcotics and child pornography online, the escalation of sex trafficking through web advertisements, and the sale of endangered species for which revenues total in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Elizabeth David-Barrett from University of Sussex talked about her book, *Understanding Corruption*, in which she tells the story of how corruption happens in the real world, illustrated through detailed case studies of the many different types of corruption that span the globe. Finally, Frank Vogl from Transparency International, and the moderator of the panel, talked about his book, *The Enablers*, in which he shows that curbing the activities of authoritarian regimes for their kleptocratic clients is critical to secure democracy, enhance national security, and ensure international financial stability.

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

**Abigail Bellows - Deputy, Policy Anti-Corruption Task Force U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID):** Anti-corruption activists or those responsible for going after corruption have a very concentrated window of opportunity to act. As time goes by, it becomes harder to act on corruption cases. In addition, corruption is not domestic but international, which has implications for countries, civil society, and international organizations.

**Lousie I Shelley - Professor, George Mason University:** In the past three decades, technology has changed the fundamentals of trade, in legitimate and illegal economies. The most advanced forms of illicit trade have broken with all historical precedents and operate as if on steroids, tied to computers and social media. The illicit economy exacerbates many of the world's destabilizing phenomena: the perpetuation of conflicts, the proliferation of arms and weapons of mass destruction, and environmental degradation and extinction.

**Patrick Alley - Founder, Global Witness:** Corruption is not a victimless crime. Accordingly, the colonial era never stopped but changed clothes and materizales in different forms. Corruption is a globalized industry which makes it hard to understand the complex networks that emerge as a result. In this globalized networks, myriad institutions are involved: clubs, elite schools, bank and etc.

**Elizabeth David-Barrett - Head of the Global Programme on Measuring Corruption, IACA:** Corruption takes many different forms and the systems that enable it are complex and challenging. To best understand corruption, one needs to examine how it operates in practice.

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

**Frank Vogl - Cofounder, Transparency International:** Naming names in corruption

cases is crucial. To understand how corruption works, naming names is essential. Without naming the names of the villains, there is no path to getting to the reality of the conversation.

**General:** Corruption is a global phenomenon, and not domestic. There are vast networks of corruption and take advantage of laws, technology and enabling governments.

**Questions from the floor:** Is it capitalism, greed, the constant search for profit what allows for corruption to go rampant?

**Answer:** Its not just an economic system. One-party systems as well as communist regimes also suffer from corruption. Centralization and the monopolization of power is the issue.

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

Money and lobbying in politics are two of the grandest issue in corruption. Without addressing the influence of lobbying and monmey in politics, it is not possible to takle corruption to the fullest extent. Another recommendation was to focus on women, who are most impacted by corruption but don't receive the necessary attention. Sextortion is one of the biggest components of corruotion in our comtemporary world. Lastly, corruption is a global phenomenon, not limited to any part of the planet and therefore, should be treated as such. Understanding how these global networks of corruption work and understanding the dynamics and structures that enable these networks to exist and floruish is key to solving this issue.

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

Obviously, corruption is an intracete issue that requires the utmost attention and hard work to tackle. However, there are several things anyone can do. For example, individuals can support anti-corruption organizations and activistse either financially or by participating in these organizations. There are numerous organizations across the planet that do anti-corruption work, for example, Anti-corruption advocacy network, Transparency International and ProPublica and so on. Secondly, taking the time to understand how corruption works is key to ending corruption. Telling everyone about corruption and corrupt individuals and organizations is encouraged.

## Rapporteur's name and date submitted

Yusuf Can, 10.12.2022