



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 Spark: Catalyzing Collective Action to Drive Anti-Corruption Commitments

Date & Time: Friday, 09.12.2022, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm GMT -5

Report prepared by: Lilly Blumenthal, Senior Research Assistant, The Brookings Institution

Moderated by: Norman Eisen, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution

Panellists:

- Jennifer Lewis - Deputy Director, USAID Anti-Corruption Task Force
- Andrii Borovyk - Executive Director, Transparency International (TI) Ukraine
- Haykuhi Harutyunyan – Chair, Corruption Prevention Commission of the Republic of Armenia
- Blair Glencorse - Member of the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee

Share the thematic focus of the session, its purpose and corruption risks?

“The Spark: Catalyzing Collective Action to Drive Anti-Corruption Commitments” focused on anti-corruption commitments made at the first Summit for Democracy and how the international community—including governments, civil society, and the business sector—can drive collective action forward in the lead up to the second summit and beyond. The panel discussed the opportunity presented by the Summit for Democracy as a springboard for national and transnational anti-corruption progress. The panel also considered how to advance the sustainability of anti-corruption commitments, since otherwise stakeholders run the risk of losing momentum and forgoing progress in the anti-corruption space.

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

The broader discussion centred on galvanizing the Summit for Democracy to bolster collective action in the fight against corruption. Each panellist brought a unique perspective to the discussion. Remarks from **Jennifer Lewis, Deputy Director of the USAID Anti-Corruption Task Force**, focused on the U.S. government's progress toward advancing anti-corruption commitments. Furthermore, she discussed how the U.S. government has utilized its anti-corruption strategy to realize its Summit for Democracy commitments across the different government agencies.

Andrii Borovyk, Executive Director of Transparency International Ukraine, highlighted Ukraine's progress in advancing its Summit for Democracy commitments. He noted that despite the war in Ukraine, anti-corruption institutions have demonstrated stability and progress.

Haykuhi Harutyunyan, Chair of the Corruption Prevention Commission of the Republic of Armenia, discussed Armenia's Summit for Democracy anti-corruption commitments. She highlighted the chain of newly established anti-corruption institutions in Armenia and noted Armenia is working to also demonstrate its anti-corruption progress in the private sector.

Blair Glencorse, a member of the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee, and others emphasized that jurisdictions, including the U.S., should use existing mechanisms and multistakeholder initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership to not only make progress on the Summit for Democracy commitments but also ensure sustainability in the longer-term.

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

Jennifer Lewis, Andrii Borovyk, and Haykuhi Harutyunyan highlighted progress made on Summit for Democracy anti-corruption commitments by the U.S., Ukraine, and Armenia, respectively.

All four panellists underscored the need to galvanize the second Summit for Democracy to improve collective action across governments, civil society, and the private sector.

The questions from the floor and discussion amongst panellists emphasized the need to ensure Summit for Democracy anti-corruption commitments and action plans are sustainable. Panellists noted that jurisdictions should utilize existing organizations and multistakeholder initiatives to advance anti-corruption commitments beyond the second Summit for Democracy and changes in political climates.

Key recommendations for the future and concrete follow-up actions

Panellists offered several recommendations for the future and concrete follow-up actions. Panellists recommended that countries work towards sustainable progress by leveraging existing platforms such as the Open Government Partnership.

Additionally, panellists and audience members underscored the need to advance conversation and cooperation across government, civil society, and the business sector.

Andrii Borovyk recommended that civil society organizations proactively offer governments resources to make progress on their anti-corruption commitments.

Jennifer Lewis underscored that the Summit for Democracy is intended to serve as a beginning, not an end, and noted the value of bringing more civil society organizations to the table and developing an action plan to scale work sustainably.

Haykuhi Harutyunyan highlighted the importance of establishing and supporting anti-corruption institutions and working to ensure integrity across the business sector.

Blair Glencorse emphasized the importance of building feedback loops for citizens and communities. He also noted that more specificity around the Summit for Democracy cohorts may further bolster civil society engagement, as organizations must understand what governments are really committing to.

Panellists recommended civil society and governments engage the private sector by inviting them to cohort meetings and/or broadening the conversation to spotlight issues that directly relate to their sector.

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

Summit for Democracy cohorts can create opportunities for cross-sectoral engagement and cooperation by thoughtfully engaging government, civil society, and other representatives during cohort events and meetings. Furthermore, governments can work toward sustainable progress by embedding their commitments into existing multistakeholder initiatives and platforms.

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.

Panellists recommended that governments utilize existing platforms and initiatives to foster collective action and sustainability around their Summit for Democracy commitments. Furthermore, Summit for Democracy cohorts should consider

bolstering communication between government, business, and civil society stakeholders by engaging them in cohort discussions and other meetings.

Rapporteur's name and date submitted

Lilly Blumenthal, 13.12.2022