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Anti-corruption, good governance and the roles of NGOs



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1 Anti-corruption – a piece of the puzzle

- Anti-corruption, rule of law and good governance
- **Anti-corruption is a cross-cutting issue**, not a stand-alone policy
- Anti-corruption institutions, the administration and the people
- **Why do it?**
 - It creates an equal and **predictable playing field**
 - It closes the loopholes that allow for excessive administrative discretion
 - It allows for **efficient sanctioning of deviations** from the norm (civil, disciplinary, administrative, criminal liability)

It is a bumpy road – social unrest, tension between powerful actors



2 Roles of NGOs

- **Monitoring of government performance** (i.g. political clientelism in procurement and the link to the financing of political parties)
- **Policy analysis**
- **Capacity building** for both the public and the private sector
- **Advocacy** at national, regional and international level

FOIA, financial disclosure, management of conflict of interests, transparency of funding for political competitors

- **One of the stakeholders** involved in the design, monitoring and implementation of **strategic documents** in the area of anti-corruption



3 Roles of NGOs

- **Deciphering complex documents** (i.g. GRECO reports) into easily understood language for various groups (i.g. how will rules on whistle-blowers protection contribute to a better health system)
- **Public engagement:** making the anti-corruption agenda a matter for all, not a overly technical topic restricted to a group of experts
- **Increasing demand for good governance:** youth engagement (working with students and teachers)
- **Protection of whistle-blowers**
- **Media engagement** – provide an alternate view
- **Speak-up** and protest against bad policy decisions

4 Building a strong anti-corruption strategy

- Bring all stakeholders around the table
- Understand and internalize international commitments and good practices

GRECO, MONEYVAL, OECD, CVM, European Semester, OGP, UNCAC review mechanism, RRP

- Prioritize issues
- Build political support around reform topics
- Set the timing of the measures right
- Seize the opportunity – the COVID 19 pandemic and digitalization

5 Key take-aways of COVID 19 boosted digitalization

- Vague and discretionary processes will not improve through digitalization only - **streamline** legal and administrative procedures and eliminate redundant steps **before digitalizing** the processes
- Design systems taking into account both the **users** and the capacity in the public sector
- Ensure that public databases are can be **interconnected** and are working properly
- **GDPR** standards and **data retention** policies in the context of digitalization
- Digitalization reduces over-the-counter corruption, but is **not a panacea** for other forms of corruption

Thank you