



## **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE  
Economic and Environmental Activities**

**Vienna, 21 June 2011**

### **OCEEA Roundtable**

#### **“On the road to Marrakesh: role of civil society in fighting corruption”**

**5 July 2011, Vienna, Hofburg/Bibliotheksaal**

#### **Background**

Weak governance, ineffective institutions, lack of rule of law as well as lack of transparency and accountability provide an ample environment for corruption. The World Bank estimates that more than 1 trillion USD are paid in bribes each year.

Corruption affects the ability of citizens to access public institutions and services on equal grounds, and to participate in democratic governance. It also distorts the business environment, weakens public service delivery, and negatively impacts on economic growth and sustainable development. When the negative effects of corruption are compounded over time, they may lead to social instability and contribute to conflict as recently witnessed in Northern Africa and the Middle East.

However, corruption is a complex and difficult-to-tackle, national and transnational phenomenon that requires a comprehensive and co-operative approach, which does not only give the governments the responsibility for its prevention and eradication, but also strongly needs to include the civil society and the private sector for the work to be effective.

The civil society including media can play an important role in combating corruption. Active engagement of civil society, if the proper legal framework is in place, can bring in additional perspectives to legislative, judicial and institutional reforms under consideration. It can also help in monitoring governments' actions and decisions, for example in areas such as privatization processes, use of strategic natural resources, procurement procedures, construction contracts and public expenditure. Furthermore, it can be an effective vehicle to create public awareness and bring about more transparency.

However, for civil society to realize its full potential it requires that there are appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks in place, including basic rights such as the freedom of expression, association, establishment of non-governmental entities and of mobilizing funding. Furthermore, it requires that civil society has access to information and knowledge and is included as a serious partner in the overall efforts to combat corruption. But it also places responsibilities on civil society organizations, requiring that they are open to a high degree of public scrutiny to ensure that they uphold the same accountability standards and level of competence as people in public office or private companies.

A free and independent media ranks alongside an independent judiciary as counter-forces to corruption in public life. It plays an important role in uncovering and exposing fraud, corruption and other criminal activities. Without such a source, civil society is crippled as it lacks an important information channel. As many journalists and media outlets that dare expose large scale corruption, often face severe consequences from threats to their lives to closure of their business, it is essential that governments provide the necessary legal guarantees of freedom of expression and protection if

they are serious about uprooting corruption. Recent technological advances (like Internet and social networks) have introduced new communication means for individuals and civil society to disseminate and exchange information which is making it increasingly more difficult for corrupt actors to go on unnoticed and with impunity.

Awareness of the damaging effects of corruption on sustainable economic development and social stability has grown over the years, which is visible in a number of national, regional and international anti-corruption initiatives. A significant expression of commitment by states to fight corruption was the adoption on international level of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2003 and a resolution in 2009, whereby the State Parties to the Convention agreed to establish a Review Mechanism for the implementation of the Convention. The role of the civil society in fighting corruption is also acknowledged by the Convention in its Article 13.

In an OSCE context, its participating States have also given the Organization a mandate to promote good governance and combat corruption and money laundering. In particular the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/04 on Combating Corruption tasks the OCEEA to upon request of the OSCE participating States provide support to the implementation of the UNCAC.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities will organize a Roundtable on 5 July in Vienna to further raise awareness of the importance of further strengthening the role of the civil society in the fight against corruption including money laundering. At the Roundtable the following issues will be discussed:

- Building a well informed and engaged civil society in the fight against corruption
- Role of the media in uncovering public and private sector corruption
- Transparency in public procurement - role of civil society
- Transparency and accountability in public management of natural resources

## **Participants**

The Roundtable is intended for OSCE Delegations, OSCE Partners for Co-operation and representatives of relevant public institutions, civil society organizations and private sector as well as International Organizations.

The Roundtable is expected to facilitate the exchange of innovative practices and models between and among OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. The discussions should help identify advances as well as challenges and needed actions. It should also assist OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in their preparation for the civil society segment taking place in connection with the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC in Marrakech from 24 to 28 October 2011.

**The Roundtable is made possible thanks to the voluntary contributions provided by the United States, France, Morocco, Switzerland, Austria, and Lithuania.**

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

### **09.00 – 09.30      Opening**

- **Ms. Lina Rukštelienė**, Minister Counsellor, Lithuanian 2011 OSCE Chairmanship
- **Mr. Goran Svilanović**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- **Ambassador Omar Zniber**, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to Vienna
- **Ms. Jo Dedeyne-Amann**, Chief, Implementation Support Section, Corruption and Economic Branch, UNODC

### **09.30 – 11.00      Panel 1: Building a well informed and engaged civil society in the fight against corruption**

- Necessary legal and regulatory frameworks affording civil society the basic rights of freedom of expression, association, establishment of non-governmental entities and of funds mobilization
- Access to seeking, receiving, publishing and disseminating information about corruption at national, regional and local levels
- Understanding the links between economic corruption and political corruption, and the role of civil society
- Availability of anti-corruption training and education opportunities

*Moderator:*

*Speakers:*      **Prof. Azeddine Akesbi**, Member of the National Council of "Transparency Morocco" (TM), Morocco  
**Mr. Asso Prii**, Executive Director, Transparency International, Estonia  
**Mr. Thomas Vennen**, Head, Democratization Department, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE  
**Ms. Cristina Ana**, Executive Director, Romanian Academic Society  
**Mr. William Bourdon**, President of SHERPA Association, France

Discussion

### **11.00 – 11.20      Coffee/Tea break (Press Conference)**

### **11.20 – 12.50      Panel 2: Role of the media in uncovering public and private sector corruption**

- The need for free, independent and open media, including the protection of journalists and their sources and a supportive attitude of authorities to investigative journalism are a prerequisite for media's role in uncovering corrupt practices
- Obligations of governmental actors and the necessary (legal) framework needs to be established in order to facilitate media's watchdog role, including allowing for investigating large-scale corruption and dismantling taboo areas around top-level political or business figures
- New opportunities and responsibilities arise with social media, the Internet and other trans-national forms of information exchange. Such data exchange needs to be analyzed, aggregated and fed into the political discourse.

*Moderator:* **Ambassador Ian Kelly**, Permanent Representative, United States Mission to the OSCE

*Speakers:* **Ms. Dunja Mijatović**, Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE  
**Mr. Martin Kreutner**, EPAC/EACN President and Chair of the International Transition Team of the International Anti-Corruption Academy  
**Mr. Roberto Perez-Rocha**, Senior Manager, Transparency International, Germany

Discussion

## **12.50 – 14.00 Lunch break**

### **14.00 – 15.30 Panel 3: Transparency in public procurement - role of civil society**

- Regulatory reforms that introduce transparency and accountability and allow for civil society participation in government bidding/awards committees and monitoring mechanisms of public procurement contracts
- E-procurement and public hearings
- Whistleblowers' protection

*Moderator:* **Mr. Alec Dolan**, Head of the Procurement Strategy Group, Department of Justice and Equality, Ireland

*Speakers:* **Ms. Caroline Nicholas**, Senior Legal Officer, International Trade Law Division, Office of Legal Affairs (UNCITRAL)  
**Ms. Nilli Even Chen Hochwald**, Director of the Economic Department, Israel  
**Ms. Nuripa Mukanova**, Secretary General, Anti-Corruption Business Council, Kyrgyzstan

Discussion

## **15.30 – 15.50 Coffee/Tea break**

### **15.50 – 17.10 Panel 4: Transparency and accountability in public management of natural resources**

- Public reporting on revenues and expenditures; (dis)investments and acquisitions
- Financial reporting requirements
- Natural resource security through transparency
- Transparency and the investment climate

*Moderator:* **Mr. Goran Svilanović**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

*Speakers:* **Mr. Daniel Simons**, Legal Counsel, Greenpeace International, Netherlands  
**Ms. Janar Jandosova**, Director of Sange Research Centre, Kazakhstan  
**Ms. Almira Cemmell**, Oil, Mining and Corruption Team, Global Witness, UK

Discussion

## **17.10 – 17.20 Summing up and closing**

By **Mr. Goran Svilanović**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

