



CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS CONTRIBUTIONS

IN THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE
AMERICAS PROCESS
2017-2018



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* National consultation convened and organized by Cuban civil society organizations. The recommendations of this national consultation were remitted by the Cuban Association of the United Nations (ACNU) to the Summits Secretariat.

INTRODUCTION



The Summits of the Americas Process brings together the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, to reaffirm shared values, debate common policy issues and renew its commitment to address the challenges and focus on essential issues for the region with a strong Inter-American partnership.

The Summits Process has been a key element in strengthening the cooperation between the international institutions and the opening of broad spaces for a more substantial citizen participation in the formulation of policies. The Summit of the Americas is essentially a democratic exercise in which the concerns and aspiration of the citizens of the continent are exposed. Therefore, the active participation of civil society and social actors¹ in the Summit Process is vital.

Civil society and social actors can be visible through their inputs that are presented to member states during the negotiation phase of the Summits Process. It is vital to assure inclusiveness of these actors in the process, as reflected in the Summits mandates:

“To continue promoting and supporting participation by civil society and social actors in dialogue with the states as an ongoing mechanism for participation and consultation in order to contribute to the formulation and implementation of public policies and programs aimed at achieving prosperity with equity and social inclusion.”

(Citizen Participation, Initiatives VII Summit of the Americas, Panama City, 2015).

During the VIII Summit of the Americas Process, convened in Lima, Peru on April 13 and 14, 2018, the Government of Peru, as host country of the Summit, and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, conducted a series of activities with civil society and social actors in order to facilitate broad, fair, and inclusive participation in the preparatory process of the Summit and activities immediately preceding the Summit. The activities focused on the central theme of the VIII Summit “Democratic Governance against Corruption” and its three subthemes: i) Democratic Governance and Corruption, ii) Corruption and Sustainable Development, and iii) Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks, and Public-Private Partnerships.

Through this publication, the Summits Secretariat, in the framework of the VIII Summits Process, presents a compilation

¹ Civil society organizations, indigenous people, youth, private sector, labor unions, academia and other stakeholders.

of contributions from civil society and social actors' of the Americas. This compilation includes the conclusions and recommendations of the consultations carried out, both face-to-face and virtually, as well as the parallels events, that were held in the days prior to the Summit and contributed to the deliberations of the States. These parallels events include the Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors, the V Young Americas Forum, the Forum of Indigenous Peoples and the Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives.

The Summits Secretariat appreciates the important support received from the OAS Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, through the Section of Relations with Civil Society, the OAS National Offices in the Member States, and other key actors of the process.

It is important to highlight that for the first time, a spokesperson from each of these forums was invited by the host country of the Summit, as a sign of its commitment to this sector, to make a presentation to the Heads of State and Government at the plenary session of the VIII Summit of the Americas.

The strong leadership of the government of Peru, as host country, has been reflected in the adoption of the Lima Commitment "Democratic Governance against Corruption".



NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS



The Summits of the Americas Secretariat, as part of the VIII Summit of the Americas Preparation Process, in coordination with Peru, as the host country and Chair of the Process, conducted from October 23 to 27, 2017 a series of National Consultations with Civil Society and Social Actors from the countries participating in the Summits Process.

The purpose of the above-mentioned National Consultations, which took place in 30 countries of the hemisphere², was to offer participating civil society organizations and social actors an opportunity to reflect, exchange ideas, and draft recommendations on the topic of the VIII Summit of the Americas: “Democratic Governance against Corruption” and its three thematic pillars: i) Democratic Governance and Corruption; ii) Corruption and Sustainable Development; and iii) Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks, and Public-Private Partnerships. 495 civil society organizations, as well as social actors, attended these sessions.

In the framework of these consultations, civil society organizations and social actors contributed valuable ideas to the

Inter-American agenda, strengthening and legitimizing the role they play regionally.

As part of the recommendations made by this sector, several similar positions were identified, including:

- The implementation of a public affairs monitoring and oversight system through the creation of citizen observatories that ensure transparency in government management processes.
- The need to strengthen the sector’s involvement in anticorruption mechanisms and expressed the importance of providing support and protection to all actors involved in the quest for justice, including journalists, citizens in general, and other whistleblowers who have reported acts of corruption.
- Education as a critical factor in fighting corruption. In this sense, proposals entailed organizing civic education campaigns on issues like political training, human rights, co-responsibility, transparency, and the effects of corruption.
- The need to create and implement public information systems (open government) that ensure access to up-to-date quality data for all sectors of society, in particular indigenous peoples and minorities.
- To have a greater media dissemination of anticorruption issues and promoting civil

² *This report includes the results of 30 national consultations were organized and convened by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat with the Government of Peru. One national consultation was conducted in Cuba, and it was convened and organized by civil society organizations of that country.

society's involvement in the consolidation of strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors, as well as joining forces to ensure gender parity, particularly in public decision-making positions.

The Summits of the Americas Process is based on cooperation and the affirmation of shared values, which is why it should be understood as an inclusive and open forum that is receptive to all voices of society in its diversity.

Thus, civil society and social actors, as key agents in the democracy of the Americas, have an important place in this Process. This document is a reflection of that.



REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS PER COUNTRY



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

Challenges

- Obsolete information on Government websites.
- Requests for data to facilitate organizational planning are retarded.
- Raw data versus analyzed data maybe available upon request.
- Results of former/current studies not broadly publicized.
- Disciplinary measures not enforced.
- Practice of political interference contributes to the diminished quality of job performance in the workplace.
- Remuneration imbalances contribute to worker dissatisfaction and consequent 'industrial lassitude'.

- The 'Fear factor' inhibiting appropriate job practices in applying disciplinary measures.

Opportunities

- Update websites frequently with accurate information.
- Set shortened timelines for response to requests.
- Distribute data in a ready-to-use form.
- Conduct public/private discussions to share information and recommendations from studies.
- Digitalize all records to increase accessibility.
- Establish and monitor practices governing procurement of goods and services.
- Apply all codes of conduct in a consistent and impartial manner.
- Apply disciplinary measures.
- Review and update code of ethics.
- Public servants must adhere to their job description and moral ethics in the face of imminent dismissal or 'orchestrated transfer'.
- Regular public service review and job evaluation to promote worker satisfaction

and consequent improved government efficiency.

- Continuous training on the job.
- Cross training of staff.
- Establish and monitor guidelines for a) recruitment for employment in the public service; b) government subsidies; and c) tax exemptions.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

Challenges

- Failure of government to ratify agreements to which they have signed.
- Partial/Non Application of recommendations in conventions and treaties that promote the wellbeing of citizens throughout the life cycle.
- Stigma and discrimination of minority groups, including migrants, prisoners, persons with disabilities and LGBT community.
- Practices that hinder completion of social development projects.
- An environment that is plagued by labile financial activity over a period of time runs the risk of diminished investment.

Opportunities

- Honor the ratified conventions and treaties.
- Apply disciplinary actions for breach of confidentiality and practices of discrimination.
- Apply rigid monitoring and evaluation processes and legal action against persons who are found to be misappropriating funds whether by fraud, bribe or any other such conduct.

- Establish public safety nets that address poverty reduction and gender equality.
- Strengthen financial policies and guidelines to minimize risks.
- Thorough scrutiny of private companies who desire to conduct business.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

Challenges

- Cross border surveillance.
- Variations in legal and/or business practices.
- Retarded process in resolving disputes.
- Disproportionate utilization of funds between lead agency/institution and local partner.

Opportunities

- Establish/strengthen international partnership practices.
- Speedy resolution in cases of dispute.
- Scrutiny of prospective partners and institutions.
- Funding assistance should give due consideration to local capacity strengthening and increased absorption of funds at the local level.

Participating organizations

- Antigua & Barbuda Industrial Technology Association
- Family & Social Services Division
- Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center
- Substance Abuse Prevention Division
- Women Against Rape

ARGENTINA



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

Corruption is systemic and impacts the human rights of all inhabitants, as well as national development. It is present in the political establishment, the judiciary, and the private sector, at the national and international levels. Therefore, all these actors are needed to combat it.

Accordingly, the civil society organizations and social actors of Argentina recommend:

Transparency and Access to Information

Argentina has enacted a law on access to information. However, for its effective implementation, the following must be guaranteed:

- The quality of data with emphasis on procurement and contracting.

- The independence of enforcement authorities.
- Civil society participation in the process.

Public Ethics and Effective Government

Sworn declarations are an essential tool for citizen oversight and preventing conflict of interest. In recent years, legislative reversal and deterioration in the rule of law have taken place.

Therefore, the civil society organizations and social actors of Argentina recommend:

- Making additional parties subject to sworn declaration requirements.
- Until a new regulatory framework is enacted, reinstatement of the pre-2013 sworn declaration system.
- Implementation at the national level, within a reasonable period, of the commitments assumed in different international entities.
- Genuine independence of internal oversight bodies.

Citizen Participation

Although forums for citizen participation exist, broad and effective participation in public policy formulation, monitoring, and oversight must be ensured.

In that regard, the civil society organizations and social actors of Argentina recommend:

- Clear rules for civil society participation.
- Mass dissemination, in different media, of the participation forums.
- Co-creation of mechanisms for the incorporation of contributions received.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

Transparency

- Dissemination of acts of government and of for-profit civil organizations connected with the State.
- Judicial oversight and reporting in Congress (quarterly).
- Rewards for press outlets that report on the topic of corruption and punishments for those that do not do so. Publicity thereon.
- Forwarding information/data to international Organizations.

Human Rights

- Inclusion of the different social sectors, without discrimination by virtue of race, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity and/or gender expression, physical diversity, disability, age, economic means, social status, and others, in debate advocating for legislation or its amendment, and implementation of the resulting public policy at the national and regional levels, ensuring their active voice in decisions on implementation, effective allocation of adequate budgetary resources, and monitoring and evaluation in order to achieve the commitment and confidence of the diverse public in means of access to and full, clear, and transparent enjoyment of their fundamental human rights.

Transparency and Confidence

- Public economic policies that ensure institutional functioning and provide investors with long-term legal certainty, seeking to increase capital inflows to the country and generating production and business sector competitiveness.

Education against Corruption

- Corruption is part of the culture of the Americas and impunity courts its continuation.
- Objective: Cultural change from the top down and bottom up that delegitimizes the acceptance of corruption in all areas through anti-corruption campaigns focused on the benefits of transparency and confidence and disseminating the accruing advantages. This is a cross-cutting theme of democratic governance and institutionalization.
- The objective must be the immediate implementation of this cultural change in public offices and organizations as the basis for its dissemination in all areas of society, such as organizations, schools, etc.
- Successive monitoring should be effected at 3, 5, 10, and 15 years and an evaluation at 20 years to corroborate results.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

The existence of corruption calls for the improvement of existing instruments and tools or the creation of new international instruments.

In that regard, the civil society organizations and social actors of Argentina recommend:

- Ensuring access on portals of governments to information on the

management, legislation, regulations, and physical informative data (telephonic) of each area within their jurisdiction.

- That American countries take as example the legal definition of public-private partnerships used by countries of other continents, whereby organized civil society effects oversight of government activities and resources.
- That nations promote the creation of an organization that monitors corruption in public and/or private spheres and enables citizens and civil society to access reports or counter-reports presented.
- Creation of an entity specializing in complex crimes (trafficking, pedophilia, drug trafficking) that creates a mechanism for cooperation among the OAS, the States Parties, and civil society (NGOs, foundations, etc.) with the aim of combating the financing of State corruption, since corruption is always financed by organized criminal organizations, and States Parties alone cannot combat this impunity (without impunity, there is no violence).
- Enact a uniform universal law on trafficking in persons and related offenses in all OAS member states so that international organized crime can be combatted effectively.
- Impose an obligation on companies to assume social responsibility commitments with the aim of eradicating situations of servitude, e.g., nondiscrimination by virtue of gender or age for jobs that individuals are competent to perform.
- Create academic scholarships and funding for NGOs that combat this multicausal phenomenon.
- Impose an obligation on States Parties to ensure transparency in political campaign financing so that all citizens may easily contribute to such financing in order to prevent political campaign financing by transnational crime.
- Call for the States Parties to provide formal knowledge of candidates for elected public office so that all citizens may know if someone is a member of an international criminal organization or is accused in any OAS member state.
- Encourage the States Parties to ensure that judges may hold public office for a specified five or 10-year term, and that they may again serve as judges after a five year interim period in civilian life by participating again in a public competition for that office. This stipulation will serve to prevent influence peddling.

Participating organizations

- AIDEF – Asociación Interamericana de Defensorías Publicas
- Alerta Vida ONG
- Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos
- Asociación Respuesta para la Paz
- Conciencia – Sede Zona 1
- Fundación Directorio Legislativo
- Fundación Nueva Generación Argentina
- Fundación Poder Ciudadano
- Grupo de Mujeres de da Argentina
- ISEGORIA
- Mesas Redondas Latinoamericanas
- Observatorio Internacional de Prisiones de Argentina
- RATT Argentina contra la Trata De Personas
- RATT Internacional & Países Asociados

- Sindicato de Empleados de Comercio de Ciudad de Buenos Aires
- Synergia Initiatives For Human Rights
- Transparencia Electoral
- Universidad de Lanus
- URBE & IVS
- Usuaría

BARBADOS



General Comments

- El The Government should use its best efforts to become a party to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
- The Government should, as a priority, involve the input of Civil Society in all follow up mechanisms of these and related conventions.
- The Government should, as a matter of urgency, accomplish these tasks before the Summit of Americas meeting in Lima, Peru in April 2018.

Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Broad-based independent institutions should be established to disseminate and analyze information and data on activities in the public space.
- Civil Society should participate in these bodies and should be allowed access to

information and data from public and private sector entities.

- Parliaments should, with the participation of civil society, employ the full range of mechanisms in their Constitutions to support transparency and ethical standards in the public and private sector.
- Governments, utilizing national consultation and dialogue, should pursue constitutional reform to strengthen checks and balances within their Constitutions to reduce the possibility of corrupt practices.
- National consultations and dialogue should be a requirement before Government becomes a party to any international convention or agreement.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Civil Society, should elaborate a Strategy to educate the national community on their rights and responsibilities.
- The Strategy to be efficient and cost effective should employ modern technologies and social media.
- Civil Society should form national coalitions to monitor activities in the public and private sector and seek to steer public policy in the direction of sustainable development.
- Civil Society must develop mechanisms, at the national level, to make

parliamentary representatives during their term of office directly accountable to the electorate.

- Civil Society must be afforded space and opportunity to voice their concerns and be provided with relevant data and information.
- Civil Society must continue to agitate for the modernization of government procurement rules and reporting on the award of contracts.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

Participating organizations

- Aspire Foundation (Barbados) Inc.
- Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organizations
- Caribbean Centre of Excellence For Sustainable Livelihoods
- Caribbean Congress of Labour
- Congress of Trade Unions
- CPDC

- Governments must put in place stronger mechanisms to encourage donor coordination within the country.
- Civil Society must be afforded the opportunity to engage international organizations and participate in the setting of national priorities.
- Governments, as a priority, should exercise their best efforts to simplify the procedures of international agencies to allow Civil Society to have access to grants and concessional resources.
- Government agencies should deploy public officials and structures in a manner to ensure the efficient utilization of grant and loan funding.

BELIZE



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

Education and Awareness

Promote:

- Public understanding of the effects of corruption at all educational levels.

- Civic responsibility and democracy throughout the population.

FOI Commission (Freedom of Information)

- Establishment of an independent entity.
- Obtain Civil Society support.
- Amend current laws for Commission.
- Place ALL Contracts on line consistent with the example of the Cayman Island ICO (Information Commission Office).

Whistle Blowing

- Strengthen mechanisms.
- Establish an independent body.

Finance and Audit Act

- Revise the Finance and Audit Act to clearly define its terms and to avoid existing loop holes in procurement process.

Public Ethics

- Proper vetting of Public Officers.
- Cost-benefit analysis.
- Proper vetting for government services (jobs).
- Ethics training for public sector.
- Management for development by results (Results-based management).
- Need for campaign financing legislation.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

Education

- Increase awareness of opportunity (Public Knowledge).
- Develop parental educational/programs on roles, responsibility, mentoring and human rights.
- Open access to educational opportunities without political interference.
- A strong foundation in the home will contribute to the fight against corruption.

Health

- Greater transparency in procurement and distribution of medication, mechanisms to deal with nepotism should be put in place.
- Social security board rules and regulations should be applicable to all citizens, particularly those in remote areas.
- Monitor referrals to private clinics by medical doctors to minimize conflict of interest.

Social services

- Distribution of services should be more equitable.
- Improvements are needed in the area of socio-economic development.
- Integrate foreign investment joint ventures with local entrepreneurs for sustainable development and partnerships.

Law Enforcement

- Priority should be given to safety and security of population, particularly youth.
- Greater accountability for actions of the Gang Suppression Unit (GSU) to avoid misuse of authority.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Promote awareness/advocacy Campaign on governance issues.
- Call for OAS support to Youth Organizations/Entities to enhance youth participation in national issues.
- Profile local role models with honesty, values and integrity.
- Conduct an economic valuation on the cost of corruption.

Organizaciones participantes

- ASR Belize Sugar
- Bar Association of Belize
- BCCI
- Belize Audobon Society
- Belize Redcross Society
- Belize Workers Union
- BPM/BWPC
- EYBM
- Hand in Hand Ministries
- Humana People to People Belize
- National Council on Aging
- National Kriol Council
- NOACE-Belize
- Oceana
- Restore Belize
- Samuel Hayns Institute of Excellence
- SJC-JC
- THERET
- UWI Open Campus

BOLIVIA



General Comments

During the civil society consultation in Bolivia for the VIII Summit of the Americas, a highly productive forum was held in accordance with the programmed agenda that was based on the methodology proposed by the Summits Secretariat.

Following a comprehensive debate on the initial question: How is corruption reflected in your local context and what are your ideas for combating it? Participants then formulated specific recommendations for

presentation to the Summits Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

The recommendations refer to the following three thematic areas:

- Democratic Governance and Corruption;
- Corruption and Sustainable Development;
- Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks, and Public-Private Partnerships.

One positive piece of information is that Bolivian civil society decided to go a bit farther and make recommendations, to the extent possible, on each indicator of the thematic areas.

Before providing a breakdown of the defined recommendations, it should be noted that the civil society representatives requested that a recommendation be made to the Summits Secretariat regarding the need for more time for virtual consultations and to ease the stipulation to form coalitions and for additional civil society actors to participate, which to them meant that greater dissemination by the Summits Secretariat was required.

Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

Transparency and Access to Information

- Develop and implement and comply with transparency norms and mechanisms in the public service.
- Promote and guarantee the right to citizen participation and citizen oversight of the public service.
- Provide sufficiently large budgetary allocations for implementation of public transparency policies, subject to fiscal and social oversight.

- Ensure the independence of the public service and its institutional role from party or private commitments and pressures.
- Incorporate and enforce sanctions on natural and legal persons that promote corruption, and generate a list of those subject to sanctions.
- Comply with the due process principle in the equitable punishment of corrupt acts.
- Guarantee the right and duty of citizens to report and exercise societal oversight, freedom of expression, and freedom of association without prosecution and criminalization of reporting.
- Advance the implementation of mechanisms and norms for government, open data and information sources.
- Guarantee the right of access to reliable, impartial, comprehensive, uniform, and timely government information and data.
- Develop and implement an integrated system for the production of accessible and comprehensible data.
- Promote the greatest possible publicity on and dissemination of government and official information.

Public Ethics and Effective Government

- Develop a system of indicators for verification of compliance with public ethics.
- Strengthen, maintain, and include in academic curricula the topic of ethics in public service.
- Establish mechanisms that facilitate and monitor compliance with sectoral plans and budget execution.
- Strengthen technical and human resource capacities in the levels of government.

- Interinstitutional coordination for government effectiveness and efficiency.

Participation and Societal Oversight

- Recognize, promote, and respect the right of citizen participation and citizen oversight at the national and international levels, with effective mechanisms for its exercise.
- Establish mechanisms to measure consistency between normative provisions and/or political discourse and the political will to respect societal participation and oversight.
- Recognition by the States of societal participation as an essential element of democracy and of accountability and transparency in the public service.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Participatory urban development planning, with compliance with international norms and standards, an oversight mechanism and technical norms, to ensure public services, citizen security, and migrant inclusion.
- Guarantee the exercise of social rights through adequate and transparently allocated resources.
- Establish mechanisms for decriminalization and non-prosecution of the protection of human rights, including, among others, freedom of expression, freedom of association, labor rights, and freedom of protest.

Private Companies and Risk

- Clear and transparent norms for awarding national and international contracts.
- Establish or comply with mechanisms for reducing trade balance asymmetries among the countries of the region.

- Restrict the international monopolies of large transnational companies.

- Strengthen and diversify the sustainable industrial production apparatus through reasonable tariff terms.
- Much more effective regional agreements for the prevention and punishment of offenses such as smuggling and drug trafficking.
- Establish mechanisms that make transparent sanctions on transnational companies that engage in unlawful acts.

Foreign Investment

- Encourage foreign investment while safeguarding national labor rights, natural resources, and the environment.
- Develop processes to strengthen sustainable and profitable production chains that generate development, inclusion, and technology transfer.
- Supremacy of national norms in foreign investment processes.
- Guarantee the exercise of social rights through adequate and transparently allocated resources.

Environment

- Integrated protection of the natural resources of each State.
- Promote respect for the international standards on prior consultation.
- Create an entity for regional reporting and punishment of actions detrimental to the environment.
- Develop mechanisms for monitoring and compliance with international environmental agreements.
- Break away from the system that replicates natural resource exploitation, safeguarding sustainable development.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

Cooperation and Information Sharing in the Fight against Corruption

- Provide greater information on and further disseminate the MESICIC for the measurement of corruption, with greater civil society and private sector participation.
- Establish an international corruption reporting system that protects those who report, similar to the Inter-American Human Rights System.
- Institutionalize the permanent Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors, with country chapters.
- Organize an agenda for research on the most promising anti-corruption policies that includes research on the most emblematic cases at the national level.
- Improve conditions for civil society participation in the Summits.

Participating organizations

- Academia Diplomática Plurinacional
- APDM-B
- Centro de Mujeres Candelaria
- Fundación Construir
- Fundación REDES
- IIPS GGTFB
- Instituto de Investigación y Capacitación

Promote the work of governments with private companies to develop internal oversight mechanisms in institutions (public and private).

- Further dissemination of and information on agreements and mechanisms for government and civil society oversight.
- Create mechanisms that promote civil society participation in combating corruption.
- Create conditions for enabling environments for civil society organizations, in fulfillment of high-level agreements and international instruments.

BRAZIL

In the Brazilian context, corruption has proven to be a major complicating factor for national progress in the economic, social, and environmental arenas, given its influence on the country's strategic decisions and its effects on various government policies. Corruption hinders Brazilian progress under the new development paradigm; persistent disregard for legislation, lack of transparency in contracting, and the flawed and inefficient judiciary system serve to perpetuate a scenario of fraud and shady deals involving public resources, driving off investment and setting the country on a path away from sustainable development.

1. Democratic Governance and Citizen Participation

Context

The United Nations (UN) includes access to information in the set of fundamental human rights, as stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the key argument supporting that right is that persons have the right to know about their own situations and to know how decisions are being made that affect their lives and the society in which they live. Furthermore, access to information is important because people need to be well informed in order to make good choices in any context.

In order to guarantee this right effectively, we propose:

- Strengthening active transparency in public institutions by promoting the systematic release of public information and data. Today, a great deal of information remains undisclosed; access to it is acquired only upon request. Enforcement of access-to-information law must be strengthened.

- Providing the public with ample information on the existence of access-to-information law.
- Public information should be released in an open format and be easily understood by the public. The format of data released to the public makes them difficult to analyze and to cross-check – and this hinders society's exercise of its right to transparency and access to public information. Another problem is the content of responses, which are persistently generic.
- Make government-agency websites more user-friendly, so that it will be easier to find already-available information and to use information-request mechanisms

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

Context

Despite the difficulty of calculating exactly how much corruption costs a nation, we know the problem has done enormous harm to Brazil--in many cases taking the country backwards. According to a study released by the World Economic Forum, Brazil is the fourth most corrupt nation in the world. This affects both investments in infrastructure and government policies on poverty eradication, fighting hunger, health, education, gender equality, water, sanitation, reducing inequality, climate change, combating violence, and other topics on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

- Ensure that the social and structural policies of sustainable development are exempted from the New Fiscal Regime instituted by Constitutional Amendment 95/2016.
- Stricter monitoring of public-services contracting, so as to ensure punishment

of those involved in the commission of crimes of corruption in such contracting.

- Revise the cumbersome and bureaucratic legal framework of government procurement, which encourages corruption.
- 3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships**

Context

The system for punishing crimes of corruption and money laundering remains highly ineffective. The involvement of government agents who enjoy legal

protection (special forum) lengthens proceedings and such crimes tend to go unpunished.

- Establish mechanisms for international cooperation on joint investigations and the exchange of information on businesses investigated or involved in corrupt processes.
- Improve ways of monitoring financial and currency flows, severely punishing crimes of money laundering and corruption.

Organizaciones participantes

- ANDI – Comunicação e Direitos e da Fundação Abrinq
- CCBB – Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil

CHILE



General Comments

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

Incorporate the subject of rights and corruption in primary and secondary school education because this type of

subject is not being addressed in schools. As an organization they have experienced long waits and barely any clarity from the Ministry of the Environment and Health regarding a response to their requests. They have had to depend on making requests for information to learn about how to proceed.

Review the candidacy of citizens running for office to be members of parliament or president and who are being investigated for tax offenses. The processes for choosing civil servants must be revised because oftentimes the persons who are appointed do not have the skills needed to provide adequate service, and the subject of human rights or civic culture is not examined. In autonomous governments, there is no parity in appointments, and

most women are appointed to the civil service because of kinship ties. The case of the armed forces must be examined, as they are widely known for being condemned by civil society, and renewal of their functioning must be assessed very soon.

- Restructuring the armed forces and police force, review of their functioning.
- Percentage of civil service appointments made on the basis of trust.
- Preventing citizens from registering their candidacy if they have legal cases pending in court.

There is a discrepancy between civil society's perception and what governments think it is. There is no broader assessment by civil society that might highlight what the problems are and what solutions could be proposed. On the issue of transparency and access to information, there are no penalties imposed by the Transparency Council that would enforce the deadlines set by law.

- Incentives to deliver responses to requests for access to information and enforcement of established deadlines, along with educating civil society on how to use the law. Including the legislative and judicial branches of government must also be considered.
- To establish a common definition for corruption for the Summit of the Americas.
- To ensure that requests for access to information be answered in clear language.
- To establish real internal assessment mechanisms in the state apparatus in order to contribute to meeting goals and mandates. Raise assessment goals and encourage assessments conducted by an external agent.

Give greater importance to the Law on Transparency and Access to Information and its dissemination for use by all citizens, as it is widely known that most requests for information come from an elite sector. There is no international funding to investigate issues of corruption. This funding could enable a kind of autonomous and impartial auditing to be exercised by civil society over government.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

Strengthening and recognizing human rights in the Constitution of the Republic. There is no inter-sector communication between ministries. Importance of private interests with respect to human rights. There is no auditing about whether or not minimum standards for human rights and the environment, among others, are being met.

- Strengthening the participation of civil society and auditing of the exercise of human rights. Inclusion of binding mechanisms by civil society.
- Establishment of a mixed board to oversee the businesses of private enterprise, which will be comprised of members of civil society, the private sector, and government civil servants watching over the enforcement of standards for human rights, the environment, etc. Thus cases of collusion, corruption, among others, can be prevented.

Conflict of interest between auditors of enterprises and decision-making authorities

- Forbidding the revolving door in decision-making sectors.
- There is little good will among civil servants to tackle problems that might be very easy to handle, for example, not

sending a letter to solve the problem of a garbage dump.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

As for international cooperation, consideration should be given to establishing funds aimed at having civil society and social actors involved in investigating and auditing because we, as civil society, are constrained in terms of financial and human resources to spend the time needed on this very important issue.

It must also be considered that, depending on where the funding comes from, the results of an investigation could be seriously challenged, because there may be suspicions that the body or institution providing the funding is pursuing its own political agenda.

Control mechanisms mentioned in the conceptual paper operate better when they are autonomous, but in political decision-making sectors that may be dangerous. In the case of Chile, international cooperation funding has been much lower when it became a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), because of which there should be a fund for cross-cutting investigation.

- Enhance cross-funding in order to observe best practices and promote investigation: ensure the transparency of funding for political parties, justice, and local government.
- The second area for control mechanisms between private and public institutions must involve the drafting of clear implementation plans, with specific results, transparent appointments, and more open public calls for proposals.

Final Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Restructure the armed forces and the police force, review their functioning, and revise their education and training system.
- Downsize the number of civil servants who are appointed to a position of trust and ensure the transparency of the criteria used for selecting them.
- Ensure that persons running for publicly elected office are not involved in any pending court cases when they are registering as candidates.
- Establish a common definition for corruption for the Summit of the Americas, which would make it possible to engage in discussions using consensus-based language.
- Encourage the delivery of responses to requests for access to information and enforcement of the deadlines set. Along with this, provide better education to civil society about use of the law. The law must include the legislative and judicial branches of government. Replies to requests for access to information must use clear and user-friendly language for citizens.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Establish standards that forbid government decision makers from switching to the private sector and vice-versa without any regulation.
- Establish real internal assessment mechanisms in the state apparatus and ensure compliance with goals and mandates, by measuring skills and competencies.

- Raise assessment goals and encourage the use of an external agent for this assessment.
- Set up a mixed supervisory council for overseeing the businesses of private enterprise, comprised of members of civil society, private sector, and government civil servants, ensuring that standards for human rights and the environment, among others, are met.
- Enhance cross-funding to enforce best practices and encourage investigation in issues of ensuring the transparency of funding political parties, justice, local government, and the armed forces and police force.

In the second area of control mechanisms between private and public institutions, implementation plans must be drawn up with specific results, clear appointments, and open public invitations for proposals.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Secure international cooperation funding aimed at developing civil society investigations, projects, or initiatives on corruption.

Participating organizations

- Chile Transparente
- Corporación Humana
- Fundación Nacional para la Superación de la Pobreza
- ONG ECO

COLOMBIA



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

States must define and implement public policies for citizen participation and governance, considering the following issues, among others:

- Political education to establish ethics for the public sector and ethics for the private sector, where the value of honesty is praised and corruption is discredited.
- Transparency and accountability in both the public and private sectors.
- Disclosure, availability, access to, and use of timely, clear, contextualized, and relevant information.
- Monitoring, follow-up, and control of public resources and project implementation.

States must introduce reforms into information and data-reporting systems with differentiated and inter-sector approaches (disabilities, gender, first-nation peoples and rural population). This makes it possible to

observe demographic shifts and draw up suitable public policies.

- States must pledge to fully apply the current regulatory framework, combating corruption or drawing up the framework in order to prevent corruption, for both government and private-sector actors, and to establish mechanisms that discourage corruption, among which higher penalties and tougher sanctions.
- Define control mechanisms for actors who hold or aspire to hold public office. To provide citizens a broad range of information about these actors, not only about their personal or professional career, but also reporting on whether or not they have been charged with corruption offenses.
- Increase control over political campaign funding. To prevent all natural persons or legal entities, who contribute to political campaigns, from entering into contracts with government institutions. To ensure that the accountability of political campaigns is public knowledge.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Establish a special justice mechanism that punishes enterprises for human rights violations and ensure that these enterprises provide reparations to the victims, regardless of the domicile of the enterprise.
- Ensure that states promote scenarios of transparency, accountability, and binding joint responsibility between enterprises, the state, and communities, for the purpose of creating favorable conditions for overseeing compliance.
- Ensure that states have comprehensive information systems that provide traceability of contract implementation and the provision of services such as health, food, education, housing, and environment.

- Ascertain that government management is measured on the basis of results, for both civil servants and government institutions, to guarantee attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Establish a joint mechanism with civil society that makes it possible to oversee and ensure the auditing of the transparency of high-impact industries and projects, as well as to prevent and report poor practices to local, regional, and national authorities when implementing projects, guaranteeing a framework of reliability and security for the communities.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Create an empowering environment for civil society making it possible to strengthen and respect citizen participation bodies and mechanisms and provide guarantees for their effective intervention and the protection of their human rights.
- Implement permanent inter-regional and inter-sector working groups providing follow-up and monitoring of initiatives of common interest.
- Implement national and Inter-American public information systems, with up-to-date, high-quality, and comparable data on health, access to public services, education, energy, and the environment to carry out monitoring and assessment of government investment and its results.
- Guarantee that the time-frames for planning, drafting, and implementing projects are adequate to the context (environmental, social, political, cultural, and institutional) and that communities learn sufficiently about these projects and their implications so that the results expected by the parties involved can be achieved transparently and satisfactorily.

Participating organizations

- Alianza Ecosocial
- Defensoría militar
- Fundación Latinoamericanos Unidos
- INSUCO Colombia
- Jóvenes para Jóvenes/ Fundeincampo
- ONG Funsocial Crecer Colombia
- PASCA
- Profamilia
- Red de Jóvenes de las Américas
- REDLAD
- Women's Link Worldwide

COSTA RICA



General Comments

How is corruption reflected in its local context and what ideas have emerged to combat it?

- Although irregular situations are often denounced, they continue. There is a population in distress that is becoming increasingly aware of many irregular situations. Corruption is reflected in the political class, in infrastructure projects, in pettiness, and in institutions.
- What is currently happening in the country, which has perhaps been concealed for a very long time, can be called a “phenomenon,” but what is important is that there is light at the end of the tunnel. A series of international organizations are focusing their interest on trying to improve all systems to tackle corruption. A shift is taking place in regard to social networks and how the citizenry can use them. All of these systems, when organized intelligently, can be extraordinarily positive and can contribute to achieving the goals proposed to combat corruption. Whistleblowing and expressing oneself is important.
- The judicial branch has weaknesses. Costa Rica’s judicial system is being undermined by some of its top officials. Otherwise, there are 13,000 people working in the judicial branch of government, and most of them are very honorable and do their work appropriately. Because of that, it is necessary to strengthen the auditing of probity.
- Corruption is affecting Costa Rica’s social and economic development. The public must participate more broadly, for example, in social auditing committees. The efforts of the OAS are positive in involving members of civil society and social actors, but participation is minimal and they are somewhat skeptical about being able to effectively exert an impact. Civil society organizations are always complaining; nevertheless, when it’s time for them to participate, they do not attend. A recommendation is made to examine the reasons why civil society and social actors are not involved and do not participate in activities to which they are invited locally by various institutions.

- The importance of amending regulations, even in Costa Rica's Legislative Assembly and the Election Law for Political Parties. Examples from other countries should be considered, such as Sweden, where the people individually elect their congresspersons.
- Costa Rica is not considered to rank very high in terms of corruption, compared to other countries. The issue of corruption has been undermining all governments and, as reflected in the national context, with misappropriations and embezzlement of resources that were allocated for other purposes, thus impacting education and health, which leads to lags in the development of essential elements of society. Many things can be done to combat corruption, but what is serious is that the concept of corruption is beginning to acquire a subjective bias, and this is dangerous. There are various interpretations of the concept of corruption, and even various opinions about it are provided by politicians, who point out that corruption is almost "normal." In conceptual terms, corruption is a matter that should be very clear in all three branches of government.
- Much or little corruption? There must be no comparison about whether or not there is more or less corruption compared to other countries. The responsibility of combating corruption is the responsibility of all citizens, but it is not that simple to report because there are no means available to facilitate doing it.
- We call upon everybody to reflect upon how Costa Rica's traditional political class, from a bipartisan perspective, has damaged the workings of democracy, participating at certain specific times in corrupt activities, and how corruption has permeated institutions.
- The importance that social networks and databases might have, not only to create information but also to report corruption. It is indicated that, unfortunately, Costa Rica, at present, ranks very low among the developed countries, although Costa Rica has been redressing itself from previous decades of corruption.
- In Costa Rica, there is a very wide gap between the perception and reality of corruption, because it is what reaches the citizens that is creating a huge problem in democratic governance because the people's empathy is very high and will lead to absenteeism in the next elections in 2018, which undermines the government's institutional framework. Much work with society should be done. There are too many very negative comments, oftentimes because of ignorance and perception about what is causing corruption. Most people do not want to vote, and they even question the Supreme Court of Elections, jeopardizing, in this type of situation, Costa Rica's democracy.
- It is assumed that everybody is ethical and has values, but it is evident that this is not true. Corruption is present from the smallest of jobs up to the highest offices. There are cases where paperwork is facilitated and certain permits are granted thanks to favors rendered. This means corruption is not being tackled in basic things, but only at the political level.
- Education is essential to instill ethics and values. It is necessary to reinforce civic education in elementary and high schools. To combat corruption, it is essential to build up the bases of the student population.
- The high costs of Costa Rica's infrastructure are a concern for the population, when compared to that of other countries, because there are substantial differences that are evident. The public should have a parameter based on average international costs so that persons can compare what it costs in other countries and know about the difference between a public-private contract and the real costs in nearby

countries for projects having the same scale.

- Corruption is gender-based. In Latin America, women only account for one fourth of leadership positions. There are studies indicating that women who have jobs in private enterprises earn higher benefits in terms of profitability, the companies run a lower risk of going bankrupt, and performance is much more positive. It would be highly advisable to transfer these benefits to the public sector. Work should continue in order to ensure that women hold more high-ranking and political positions in institutions, are empowered, and are given the tools to work more actively. To do this, it is necessary to benefit from the international cooperation of various organizations. International cooperation has a major challenge: to continue putting this issue among the goals of the 2030 Agenda.
- To foster a cultural change towards responsibility and to improve the processes of scrutiny. As for bidding processes, there are no assessment processes and civil society is not included to examine the processes of transparency. The results can be seen, but there is no consultation about who shall participate or how it was guaranteed, which leads to concern about citizen participation. The problems must begin to be contextualized and divided into short-, medium-, and long-term issues in order to improve civil society's auditing capacity over the short term, such as applications that could begin to be created so that citizens can audit an entire series of contracting processes. There are entities that are working on achieving transparency, such as Open Government and working with municipalities.
- Design plays a very important role. Design of the government sector, design of the civil service, and design in staff mobility whether they do their job well or poorly, which mostly is not important,

although this is a matter of corruption. It is inconceivable to pay for a series of services that are provided without striving for objectives of excellence. The public has the responsibility to evaluate the services provided to it. For this purpose, there should be instruments to evaluate health and education services, and these evaluations must be tied to the budget allocation. There is distrust in paying taxes, because there is much questioning about where these resources are allocated, since there is no infrastructure and poverty is rising. In addition, a natural phenomenon highlights a major problem in allocating resources in Costa Rica. To create change, there must be regulations and sanctions.

- Emphasis on education, the private sector, and awareness-raising. What is perceived is that, in Costa Rica, the private sector lacks sophistication and lapses into corrupt behavior because of ignorance about national and international tools that are available on the subject. Legislative work is required. Criminal liability of companies and the possibility of using anti-corruption programs inside the companies as an affirmative defense measure. What it would do is encourage the private sector to self-regulate and use these internal protection mechanisms in the event of an investigation.

Additional Comments

- Promote more the participation of civil society and social actors.
- There are many initiatives functioning at the same time, in terms of combating corruption, such as the OAS Open Government Program, access to information, Summits, OECD, among others, but there are no mechanisms for incorporating civil society into these efforts.

Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

We recommend:

That civil society organizations, through permanent social participation committees, assess the public processes carried out over a two-year period, such as:

- National budgets, monitoring of public services, mechanisms for participating and whistleblowing to make them more efficient (including those that are already in the OAS);
- Mechanisms for access to information, including procurement and public contracts so that there can be unified and uniform systems; and
- Standardized accountability systems so that they can meet the demands of the citizenry.

These social participation committees must be established in the various branches of federal and local government. They are responsible for monitoring implementation and enforcement of codes of conduct and good governance codes, whether current ones or those yet to be drafted.

Promote a culture of legality and “anti-corruption” by means of the following:

- The education system by including elements of civic training;
- Organizations that currently work on the subject and cooperation agreements with the OAS; and
- Taking into account each country’s reality, the design of a program to disseminate and provide training on ethics and corruption, so as to teach the population

how to identify cases of this kind and where to report them.

Endow state institutions with larger amounts of resources for a punitive and investigative system and structure, over a two-year period, as well as create a body where statistics and indicators to measure corruption can be followed up (risk heat maps, cost of corruption, among others).

Establish a Governance and Transparency Observatory comprised of the academic community, civil society organizations, and government and private-sector institutions, taking other established observatories as a potential model³, over a two-year period, in order to follow up on the actions carried out by the government and lay the groundwork for updating legislation on the basis of international standards (criminal liability of enterprises and affirmative defenses by internal anti-corruption programs).

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

Corruption directly impacts the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as those for education, public health, infrastructure, elimination of poverty, among others. In order to reduce the impact of corruption on sustainable development, we therefore recommend the following:

- Guarantee that government management processes are transparent and resources achieve the goals set for attainment of the SDGs, preventing resources from

³. See examples from: Transparent Puerto Rico (<http://www.puertoricotransparente.org/http://transparenciaciudadana.org/observatorio/>), Anti-Corruption Observatory of Chile (<https://observatorioanticorrupcion.cl/>), Anti-Corruption Observatory of Peru (<https://www.minjus.gob.pe/observatorio-anticorrupcion-documentos/>)

becoming bogged down in certain parts of the bureaucracy. To this end, it is necessary to create controls that make it possible:

- To foster the self-improvement system and ensure that civil society organizations appropriate these processes with financial support from the OAS and other international organizations, and
- To design effective public monitoring mechanisms (for example, implementation and creation of social auditing committees).
- All actions that are carried out must use a multidisciplinary approach to guarantee comprehensiveness, taking into account the many different social actors.
- Take measures promoting transparency and good governance to combat acts of corruption such as organized crime, money laundering, influence peddling, as they are linked to corruption.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

We recommend the following:

- Join forces with civil society organizations to coordinate already existing cooperation

Participating organizations

- FUNPADEM
- Universidad de Costa Rica
- Etiquetas Impresas Etipres S.A.
- Asociación Pro Hospital San Rafael de Alajuela
- Costa Rica Integra

projects and programs, so as to prevent efforts from overlapping, through thematic committees.

- Have international organizations ensure high standards of quality in how resources are used and guarantee the participation of civil society in follow-up and monitoring of these resources.
- Promote regulatory frameworks to foster public-private partnerships that promote social corporate responsibility (SCR) programs, technical cooperation for development, and clear guidelines for procurement.
- Promote, in a transparent fashion, South-South cooperation initiatives between states on anti-corruption issues.
- Identify best practices and share them in dialogue forums with OAS mechanisms.
- Draw up regional and international corruption maps to understand the nature of each one, grouping them together, supplementing them, and strengthening them to take maximum advantage of resources. At the same time, publicize anti-corruption movements being carried out with OAS collaboration. Funding is required for these investigations.

- Fundación Mujer
- Abriendo Datos Costa Rica
- Programa Estado de la Nación
- Fundación Omar Dengo

Bearing in mind the Participation Guide for Civil Society and Social Actors in the Preparatory Phase of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, Cuban social actors and civil society organizations decided to meet, convened by the United Nations Association of Cuba, the National Association of Economists and Accountants of Cuba (ANEC), and the National Union of Jurists of Cuba (UNJC), all of which are organizations in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to conduct their National Consultation in preparation for the Eighth Summit of the Americas to be held in Lima, Peru, in April 2018.

The (face-to-face) National Consultation of Cuban social actors and civil society organizations took place on Friday, October 27, 2017, at the headquarters of the National Association of Economists and Accountants of Cuba (ANEC). It was attended by 56 representatives of 42 Cuban civil society organizations and 13 social actors.

The discussion regarding the proposed thematic areas was conducted in panels with one speaker for each theme. The breakdown was as follows:

- Moderator: Mr. Fermín Quiñones Sánchez, President of the United Nations Association of Cuba (ACNU).
- **Subtheme 1:** Democratic Governance and Corruption – Dr. Daniela Cutié Mustelier, a member of the National Union of Jurists of Cuba (UNJC).
- **Subtheme 2:** Corruption and Sustainable Development – Dr. Gladys Hernández, researcher at the World Economy Research Center (CIEM).

* National consultation convened and organized by Cuban civil society organizations. The recommendations of this national consultation were remitted by the Cuban Association of the United Nations (ACNU) to the Summits Secretariat.

- **Subtheme 3:** Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks, and Public-Private Partnerships - Dr. Faustino Cobarrubias, researcher at the World Economy Research Center (CIEM) and a member of ANEC.

Core ideas emerging from the discussion of subthemes.

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

Corruption is a scourge affecting every society, the common good and the public administration. It constitutes a structural problem in crisis situations with policies conducive to unequal distribution of wealth and a reduction in the role of the State.

Corruption has multiple causes and moral, ethical, economic, and political commitment implications. It is exacerbated by neoliberal globalization, the ever more sophisticated use of information and communication technologies, the lack of State-backed social and administrative prevention and oversight structures, the decline of moral values, and the constant movement of people. It has economic triggers, too, such as the lack of job incentives, precarious social conditions, and shortcomings and lack of opportunities in the labor market.

Current legislation in Latin America suffers from lacunae, a lack of legally binding instruments, and ill-defined distinctions between the public and private sectors.

Transparency in access to information is essential so that citizens can see what governments do and how budgets and financial resources are allocated.

It has to be stressed that a democratic government is of the people, by the

people, and for the people, in which the representatives of the people must be accountable to it as a way to oversee the implementation of public policies. Considerable importance is attached to active public participation in oversight processes.

Corruption is found in Cuba, but it is not endemic. It is not a technical or structural phenomenon, nor is it deeply embedded. There is extensive and comprehensive legislation for combating and preventing corruption. Civil society plays an active part in internal control activities in institutions and enterprises; and citizens participate in the main political, economic, and social processes. That is a way of ensuring citizen participation and transparency in our society.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

Corruption is an obstacle to the sustainable development of nations, because it hampers economic growth, exacerbates poverty, and greatly weakens the role of the State. It fosters the development of organized crime networks and of crimes such as trafficking in persons, arms smuggling, drug trafficking, and others.

Corruption has a direct adverse impact on individuals, communities, and nations. It weakens social security, health, and education services; distorts electoral processes; and reinforces injustices by undermining criminal justice systems and the rule of law. Corruption is synonymous with less prosperity, less observance of rights, less provision of services, and less employment.

Corruption is inversely proportional to attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and weakens citizens' resolve to implement the 2030 Agenda. It makes it harder to achieve not just some but all of the SDGs.

Corruption thwarts economic development and prosperity and undermines democracy, human rights, and sustainability. It does harm to indigenous communities, women, children, and the disabled (in short, the vulnerable segments of society).

Combating corruption requires a comprehensive, transparent approach in which all governments cooperate with one another.

There are often attempts to associate corruption with certain geographical regions, levels of development, or political ideas. All countries need to combat corruption, not just developing countries.

The concept paper for this subtheme only examines the impact of corruption on human rights, leaving aside its repercussions on the environment, the economy, social values, and the credibility of governments and their representatives.

The corruption issue may also be manipulated for political purposes.

Cuba attaches great importance to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, because it is a document guiding the international community toward sustainable development and the total eradication of poverty within the next 15 years. The notion of human rights is much broader than that envisaged in the background paper, in that it encompasses the observance and promotion of all rights for all citizens.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

The benchmark for combating corruption should be the United Nations Convention against Corruption, even though, in our region, there are notable differences with respect to its implementation.

Participants pointed out that the background document for this subtheme should refer to the position and potential role of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC): efforts to combat corruption need to observe the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and foster cooperation.

In public-private partnerships in which civil society participates, the State needs to have the key role in monitoring, preventing, and combating corruption.

R e c o m m e n d a t i o n s

- Mandate the United Nations Association of Cuba (ACNU) to coordinate the participation of Cuban social society organizations and social actors in the Eighth Summit of the Americas.
- Suggest to the organizing committee that it form three coalitions of like-minded organizations and social actors and encourage the participation of representatives of Cuban civil society organizations in other coalitions.
- Urge the organizing committee to form inclusive coalitions encompassing a wide range of positions to foster useful discussions of the three subthemes.
- Acknowledge in the background papers on the subthemes that corruption has multiple causes.
- The paper for subtheme1 needs to address the real spheres in which socio-economic rights are realized in the region.
- Subtheme 2 needs to underscore the impact of climate change in the region, particularly for Caribbean countries and the disastrous role of transnationals.
- Ensure that the subthemes and concept papers include analysis, evaluation, and impact of political corruption in the Hemisphere.
- Mainstream a gender approach and language in the subthemes.
- Recommend the adoption of a comprehensive, totally transparent approach, with accountability and the participation of all members of society, together with governments, the private sector, the media, and the general public, to prevent and combat corruption.
- No supranational agency should be established to combat corruption. Instead, make the most of the mechanisms established in the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
- Consideration needs to be given to the principles governing CELAC: flexibility, gradualism, respect for diversity and political and ideological pluralism when it comes to dealing with the scourge of corruption.
- Include in the mechanisms for combating corruption in the region the principles upheld in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and address them in the subthemes of the Eighth Summit of the Americas.
- Discussions of corruption in the Hemisphere need to give consideration to the following elements: the persistence of high levels of social and economic inequality; the relationship between social exclusion and corruption; the correlation between public policies, prevention and social protection; the generation of policies for inclusion; and the forging of international cooperation mechanisms and bodies.
- Incentives need to be provided to develop civic education and training in values from an early age, as a preventive measure in the fight against corruption.
- Defend sovereignty against globalization and governance by the people vis-à-vis representative democracy.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Establish a governing body to deal with matters of ethics, transparency, open government, efforts to combat corruption, conflicts of interest, and free access to information in government administration.
- Comply with the constitutional mandate in Article 63 – Right to Education, which provides that the purpose of education is integral development of the human being throughout life. It must be geared to the development of her or his creative potential and the ethical values that must govern their lives.
- Institutionalize the Citizen Oversight System in all State entities.
- Promote the requirement that a sworn statement of wealth be deposited prior to anyone taking public office.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Those business organizations adhere to the anti-corruption movement and sign the business integrity protocol, as a commitment to prevent corrupt practices.
- That enterprises train their personnel in corporate integrity and in the consequences of noncompliance.

- Strengthen people's access to social rights through accountability and transparency so that they can enjoy the benefits of human dignity and achieve full satisfaction of their needs.
 - Those vulnerable groups are involved in compliance with the Constitution, international treaties, and sectoral laws, to ensure enjoyment of their rights.
 - That the Dominican Republic improves the ways it measures its Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Global Competitiveness Index, through a public policy designed to strengthen institutions and highlight the consequences of noncompliance (*sistema de consecuencias*).
- ### 3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships
- Systematize the experiences with best practices and policies based on anti-corruption models that have been developed regionally and in some countries in the Hemisphere, with the support of the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), United Nations, European Union, the IMF, as well as other experiences, within one year from now, and ensure that they address civil society and both the public and private sectors.
 - Promote the initiative in the Dominican Republic aimed at implementing CICI-RD, so as to achieve an independent Public Prosecutors' Office (*Ministerio Público*)
 - Design (within one year) a hemispheric mechanism for dialogue and consultation for cooperation-for-development agencies with a view to ensuring that the investment of funds for countries is not sidelined by official practices toward the funding of private plans.

- Conduct an assessment of public policies and regulations for preventing and combating corruption, and of how they relate to cases denounced and convictions, as a way of ascertaining how effective and efficient they are, at both the local country level and in the region as a whole, with a view to proposing legal reforms or validating existing regulations.
- Put a figure on the cost of corruption and impunity in terms of the damper it puts on opportunities for development in the region (2-year project).
- Establish a hemispheric portal for accessing information on convictions of officials and enterprises and/or those with case histories of corrupt practices, with a view to their social disqualification (6 months project).
- Establishment of a specialized fund to provide incentives for strategies and investment in the strengthening of civil society mechanisms for observing and monitoring public funds and the national budget (1 year).
- Establishment of a Permanent Anti-Corruption Forum to promote continuous sharing of experiences and denunciations about the State's role in combating corruption in the different countries. This Forum would provide an opportunity for the public and private sectors to meet and discuss and its results would be made available to international public opinion (1 year).

Participating organizations

- AFROS RD
- Alianza De Mesas Redondas Panamericana
- DC Soluciones Legales
- FUNCEJI
- Fundación Nación De Lideres RD
- Hospital General Oliv Pino
- Instituto Virtual De Programación Avanzada (INVIPROA)
- MOSCTHA
- MUDHA
- Palacio Municipal Santo Domingo Este
- Participación Ciudadana
- PE
- TRANSITO

ECUADOR



General Comments

- Civil society fully observes corruption, which is evident in all state institutions, at both the local and national levels, whether public or private.
- Most social actors agree that society is going through a crisis with respect to values and that this is directly connected to the human, political, and civic training given to citizens. This entails involvement of actors where citizens, civil society, households, and the state (armed forces, social security) all intervene with their state institutions.

Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Strengthen social organizations and their organizational capacities in terms of social control and the fight against corruption, in order to guarantee an open transition toward successful democracy with civil society's social and political impact on the public stage that is binding for the decision-making sector.
- Repeal Decrees 16 and 739 which regulate social organizations, as well as the Law on Citizen Safety and Public Security.

- Amend the Democracy Code so that representatives of the Citizen Safety and Social Control Council (Consejo de Participación Ciudadana y Control Social—CPCCS) are voted by means of public elections and meet the requirements of a human profile and so that there is real participation by civil society organizations that have interdisciplinary working interactions with political institutions and the state.
- Rigorous implementation of enforceability mechanisms that guarantee the return of stolen money stemming from corruption.
- Ensure that the State guarantees the implementation and enforceability of international United Nations and OAS treaties on anti-corruption, to which Ecuador is a signatory.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Enforce ISO 37001-2016, the standard for anti-bribery management systems.
- Review the regulatory framework for government procurement.
- Review the measures to monitor and comply with environmental standards currently in force.
- Comply with the process for authorizing a declaration of a state of emergency.
- Change the political culture to shift from a populist welfare approach to the promotion of empowerment and autonomy for vulnerable groups.
- Reinstate the policy of decentralization.
- Recover resources misappropriated by corrupt officials so that they can be returned to the Ecuadorian people.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- All international agreements must be consistent and implemented when Ecuador is a signatory to them.
- Improve the conditions for international organizations working in member countries.
- Amend the regulatory framework stemming from the OAS to facilitate organized civil society participation at the regional level.
- Secure funding to strengthen civil society organizations so that they can have a model similar to that of Guatemala.
- Restore the institutional framework by drafting public policies that exert an impact on the autonomous establishment of civil society organizations in financial

terms, without the need for support from the state.

- Amend the regulatory framework for the participation of international organizations in the domestic processes of member countries.
- Interdisciplinary coordination between the public sector, the private sector, and international cooperation organizations for the participation of civil society.
- Create a process for the active involvement of civil society representatives in the Summit's prior follow-up and during its development, in order to guarantee that the civil society criteria are considered. To this end, it is recommended setting up the Ecuadorian Commission for Follow-up and Participation in Democratic Governance to Combat Corruption.

Participating organizations

- Amnistía Internacional
- Cámara de Agricultura Zona 1
- CEDEAL
- Consejo Nacional Electoral
- Coordinadora Política de Mujeres Ecuatorianas
- Corporación Internacional de Derechos Veedurías & Mediación Cidecive
- Ecología Real States
- Foundation ESQUEL
- Fundación Equidad
- Fundación Mission Verde
- Fundación para la Salud y la Vida
- IASIM
- Izquierda Democrática
- Partido Social Cristiano
- Plataforma para la Defensa de la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos
- Red de Mujeres Políticas del Ecuador
- REMPE
- RENAL
- Toko Arias Law
- Universidad Central
- Veeduría Salud Sexual Y Salud Reproductiva

EL SALVADOR



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- The urgent need to adopt a Comprehensive Law on the Civil Service.
- The requirement for country-by-country assessment of corruption issues identifying, by sector, the principal areas that are prone to corruption. This assessment must provide reliable and measurable data enabling the adoption of law or public policy initiatives aimed at redressing these areas.
- Strengthen cooperation work of institutions belonging to the Anti-Corruption System.
- Foster non-criminalization of civil society participation (law/protection system) in order to promote its inclusion and work in areas involved in providing education about the costs of corruption.
- Requirement for auditing of international cooperation or organizations regarding funding granted in order to benefit from additional accountability mechanisms.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Strengthen the country's justice system in order to implement an international commission [like the] International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) under a different judicial system.
- Require that the Court of Auditors present a rendering of accounts no more than six months after an administration ends its term.
- Advocate for tax authorities to send a list of tax evaders that can be made public.
- Work in keeping with Sustainable Development Goal No. 16.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks, and Public-Private Partnerships

- Create national mechanisms to deliver transparent grant funding for allocation of public and partnership cooperation resources.
- Create and strengthen existing mechanisms for enforcing international instruments that fight corruption.
- Encourage governments to work with local businesses.
- Bolster States' institutional integrity.
- Improve conditions for civil society participation so these are less restrictive or limited.
- Discuss corruption issues in open forums.

Participating organizations

- A.s.p.s.
- Acides
- Ámbar Alfaro
- Asociación entre amigos
- Aspidh
- Astrans
- Cecade
- Colectivo LGBTI estrellas del golfo de la unión
- Erick Ortiz
- Eva López
- Fespad
- Francisco burgos
- li jovlter el salvador
- Joven en acción política
- Lilian Arrieta
- Marco tulio Cardona
- Roxana elizabeth lazo molina
- Youth tu load

GRENADA



Does your government have mechanisms which provide free and transparent access to public information? If that is not the case, what mechanisms would you suggest to improve access to public information?

Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

How is corruption reflected in your country and what are the consequences?

- Nepotism – Persons should be chosen on competence.
- Lack of availability of information on capital development.
- Strengthen the framework for the public on existing laws pertaining to corruption.
- Strengthen the framework of the ‘Freedom of Information’ act through community discussions.
- Have the Freedom of Information Act enacted.
- Utilize ITC to make information accessible.
- Implement law clinics.
- Teach Ethics in the three (3) senior forms in Secondary school and junior colleges and skills training institutions.
- Ease of access to the information.

Do you feel that citizen participation in your country has decreased in the past few years? If so, what factors do you believe have contributed to this?

- Access to information is limited, participatory Democracy has diminished, the absence of an Opposition party in government.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

How do you think corruption affects your ability to enjoy your inherent human rights in your country?

- Impacts funding, access to fairness, employment, wastage of public financial resources, lack of values, lack of access to higher education, lack of access to good healthcare.
- Transparent system, sector consultations, Transparency in Government Procurement, Elections commission, public discussion on the disposal of assets.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, International Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

Do you feel that governments and the private sector can consolidate strategic partnerships to fight corruption?

- Yes

How?

- Strengthen our existing framework and legislation.

Do you know of any institutions that fight corruption in your country?

- Yes

What measures could be implemented to improve them?

- More support from other organizations.
- A collaborative voice.
- Youth involvement as they are the largest demographic.
- More resources to drive the process.

Education and Advocacy against Corruption

- Creation time frame: 12 Months.
- Who is involved: Coalition of Civil Society, Community based organizations and other social actors.
- Where: Grenada (Island wide).
- *Methodology:* Community Education/Awareness using the three tires of education: Leadership & media, student and community.

Activities:

- Listing the laws pertaining to corruption that do exist
- Making the laws reader-friendly; Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms, community theatre, etc.
- Partnership with local media to assist in publication of the laws that exist.
- Reference to case studies.
- Monitoring and Evaluation to ensure the milestones are achieved.
- After Action Review (AAR). Feedback from the communities to ensure that the actions had required impact.
- Source of funds: Crowd funding.

Participating organizations

- Caribbean Association for Youth Development
- Clozier Development Committee, Inc.
- GCSI
- Gda Bar Association
- Human Rights Organization (GHRO) Inc.
- Grenada Organization for Consumer Affairs
- Made in Grenada
- Media Workers Association of Grenada (MWAG)
- People in Action GERRI
- Progress Party

GUATEMALA



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- According to the law on parity, foster the participation and presence of women in public affairs through the media, promoting capacity building of leadership skills and political training based on ethics for the next elections scheduled for 2019.
- Up to the year 2019, ensure 90% training of women who join political parties registered in Guatemala on subjects of political training and governance.
- As of the year 2019, contribute to the dissemination of public information in the first-nation language of Kaqchikel to bring low-income population groups closer to processes of transparency.

- As of the year 2018, include no less than 5% of Guatemala's indigenous population in the discussion of, and involvement in, public affairs on the basis of this population group's social and academic organizations.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- By the year 2018, consolidate a federation of all of Guatemala's civil society organizations that are working directly with parents and teachers, in order to stress the importance of education and to ensure united strategies and goals in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the purpose of optimizing interventions.
- During the year 2018, steer the activities of this federation to strengthen public policies for the benefit of families and education, by compiling the experiences of parents in each one of the interventions.
- During the year 2018, propose implementation of the program "School of Values and Public Spirit" throughout the country, which shall be aimed at Guatemala's school population and shall promote discussion of subjects related to corruption and public affairs, to build up

the public's knowledge of, and involvement in, the matter.

- By the year 2018, implement a dissemination strategy for school support programs (meals, teaching toolkit, free-of-charge schooling) for the purpose of publicizing them in all schools nationwide, through the CTA and MINEDUC.
- By the year 2018, ensure that 100% of schools in Guatemala include, on their agenda of meetings with parents, the results of school program beneficiaries for all the last quarters of each year, involving them in issues of accountability and transparency in the schools.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- By the year 2018, be represented as civil society in the partnerships or agreements with international organizations, where practices are promoted to improve access to public information and transparency.
- By the year 2018, mainstream the participation of Guatemala's minority

population groups into public institutions on the basis of their organizations, with the participation of their representatives in meetings convened for discussing issues related to their problems and where research and knowledge stemming from their own organizations are presented.

- By the year 2018, participate in implementing a model for best practices against corruption, which shall be proposed by international cooperation, which shall act as an active auditor for all activities.
- By the year 2018, request training on transparency for international cooperation processes from relevant international organizations, for the purpose of achieving equity in support provided to civil society organizations.
- By the year 2019, actively support the 100% institutional formalization of Open Government in Guatemala, on the basis of civil society's representation. In addition, request logistic, methodological, and technological resources to follow up on the processes, with support from international organizations.

Participating organizations

- AGIP
- ARQUIFAR
- Asociación la Familia Importa
- ENLACE, A.C.
- Fundacion Prosperiti Guatecivica
- Guatecambia
- Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales
- IRIPAZ
- OTRANS/RN
- Rede de Mujeres para la Democracia
- Universidad Maya Kaqchikel
- Women's Democracy Network (WDN)

Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Create legislation that holds leaders accountable.
- Lobby for reformation of legal system: creation of laws that are “strict” and demand transparency.
- Provide education for public on the importance and need for transparency.
- Creation of review board to overlook procurement processes.
- Create Code of Conduct and Ethics for all public officers.
- Make information available all citizens.
- Selection of leaders should be on a basis of academics and ethics.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Creation of legislation that expressly makes it illegal to bribe Government and International Officials.
- Implementation of procurement laws.
- Enforce laws that govern soliciting.

Participating organizations

- CPIC Monique's
- Guyana Volunteer Consultancy
- Guyanese Women Roundtable
- Inter-Religious Organization
- National Youth Development Network
- SASOD Women's Arm Guyana

- Implement laws that protect the Human Rights of all Guyanese (like those that govern discrimination of persons in accordance with the Discrimination Act Sec 142 of the Constitution).

- Prosecution of all persons who violate public ethics.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, International Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Strengthen democratic institutions in Guyana.
- Lobby for meaningful partnerships between Government and Civil Society to work together in an effort to eradicate corruption.
- Formation of external investigative bodies.
- Engagement with International Organizations to have a stronger Civil Society and to have their support on national issues.
- Greater advocacy of Civil Society in communities.
- Insert Constituency based groups from Civil Society.

- Sophia Community Development Association (SOCDA)
- Women Across Differences
- World Natural Health And Healing/Guyana
- Young American Business Trust



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- In order to more effectively fight corruption in Haiti, we want to ensure that the existing oversight and anti-corruption organizations, specifically, the Haitian Anti-Corruption Unit [l'Unité Anti-Corruption d'Haïti] (ULCC), the Central Financial Intelligence Unit [l'Unité Centrale de Renseignements Financiers] (UCREF), and the Superior Court of Auditors, and Administrative Disputes [La Cour Supérieure des Comptes et du Contentieux Administratif] (CSCCA) are fully independent with respect to appointing their personnel and allocating their operating and capital budgets. They should have a strategic plan that is prepared independently.
- To ensure greater transparency, we request implementation of a more robust accountability mechanism with respect to the national budget and allocation of government resources. We further request that the Haitian State put in place educational and training mechanisms to improve communication with the Haitian people about decisions made on expenditures and revenue collection throughout the fiscal year.
- We propose establishing a Citizen Observatory so that civil society can be consulted from the budget preparation

stage. Civil Society should also be able to participate in oversight of decisions made about the budget and use of public funds, donations, and grants.

- We recommend a far-reaching reform of the Haitian justice system. The State should work to make the justice system fully independent. First and foremost, the Ministry of Justice should transfer its powers to oversee and manage the justice system to the Supreme Council of the Judiciary [Conseil Supérieur du Pouvoir Judiciaire] (CSPJ), which must be provided both technical and material resources to effectively discharge its mandate.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- The State should strive to develop public policies that first and foremost take into account human capital, Haitian social reality, and an ecological environment. The State should restore confidence and place the country's general welfare at the heart of all its actions.
- The State should urgently and effectively promote a job-creation policy, in particular by encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and facilitating credit to young entrepreneurs in order to reduce job insecurity, which very often is the main cause of corruption.

The State should foster transparency at all levels in implementing public projects and programs. It should ensure that there are:

- Objective feasibility studies of the projects;
- Field assessments showing a knowledge and awareness of local realities;

- Public audit mechanisms during the preparation, implementation, and evaluation of public programs executed.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, International Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- In order to strengthen national monitoring and coordination of international aid, we request that civil society involvement be bolstered in the mechanisms that already exist in this regard. Consultation and dialogue with the authorities in charge should be consolidated, in particular, with the Ministry of Planning and the Framework for Coordinating External Development Aid [Cadre de Coopération de l'Aide Externe au Développement] (CAED).

- We request that a new strategy be established to allow civil society to interact more effectively with the Organization of American States (OAS) and its different entities, especially on the issue of corruption. Consultation with civil society actors should be strengthened and systematized through already existing oversight mechanisms that aim to ensure the Haitian State respects and complies with the commitments it has undertaken regarding international law [for example, through the framework of the Mechanism for Follow-Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC)].

Participating organizations

- BDHH
- BRAP
- CADOL
- CEDH
- CINÉCOLO-HAÏTI
- Confédération Des Organisation de Société Civil du Nord-Ouest PPX
- CONHANE
- Fondation du Troisième Age (FTA)
- Global Shapers Community
- GRAHN
- Institut Mobile d'Éducation Démocratique (IMED)
- Jeunesse Haitienne
- JILAP
- Kouraj Pou Pwoteje Dwa Moun
- Lakou Lape
- Métro Security SA
- Observatoire De La Jeunesse Haïtienn
- OREDEM
- Organisation Des Jeunes Solidaires Pour Un Développement Viable
- PCC
- SOJEPROD'H
- Team Organization
- VIP FEMMES

HONDURAS



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- In the third quarter of the year 2018, the National Congress shall amend the Constitution of the Republic for the purpose of recognizing and guaranteeing the right to access to public information as a tool to guarantee transparency and accountability of public administration institutions: the branches of government, centralized, decentralized, deconcentrated, and autonomous government institutions, and municipalities.
- In the fourth quarter of the year 2018, the National Congress shall amend the Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information, for the purpose of making the chair of the Access to Public Information Institute (Instituto de Acceso a la Información Pública—IAIP) a rotating position and thus preventing power from being concentrated. Likewise, in order to establish a democratic and transparent process for choosing candidates for office in state institutions, this system is being proposed to candidates who hold positions as commissioners in the General Prosecution Service of the Republic (PGR), the Office of the President of the Republic, National Congress, and the National Convergence Forum (Foro Nacional de Convergencia—FONAC), in order to prevent the election from becoming the target of political bargaining.
- In the fourth quarter of the year 2018, the National Congress shall repeal the Law on Classification of Public Documents Related to National Defense and Security, thus strengthening, on the basis of this amendment, transparency, the right to access to public information, and accountability, in the framework of international standards for the right to access to public information.
- By the third quarter of the year 2018, the Public Information Access Institute shall update and reschedule implementation of the National Public Policy and Plan of Action for Transparency and Access to Public Information of Honduras. It must submit this rescheduling to the Executive Branch and to the required institutions, at a public event where it will pledge to do so, at the latest, by June 2018. Inclusion of a comprehensive follow-up and monitoring commission comprised of civil society organizations must be considered.
- In the second semester of the year 2019, the National Congress shall enact a Law that provides for the organizational functioning of the Citizens against Corruption Commissions, which shall be in charge of auditing and monitoring government resources in each one of the state's institutions, in the framework of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and as a local auxiliary mechanism for MESICIC. It shall also strengthen the National Network of Citizen Commissions for Transparency and Social Auditors to promote effective social auditing, accountability, and transparency practices.
- In the second semester of the year 2019, the National Congress shall enact a Law that provides for the organizational functioning of the Citizens against

Corruption Commissions, which shall be in charge of auditing and monitoring government resources in each one of the state's institutions, in the framework of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and as a local auxiliary mechanism for MESICIC. It shall also strengthen the National Network of Citizen Commissions for Transparency and Social Auditors to promote effective social auditing, accountability, and transparency practices.

- By November 2018, the Government of Honduras and OAS must have amended the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Honduras and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States whereby the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) was established. The amendment would be for the purpose of incorporating the following: 1) filing public criminal proceedings as one of the duties of said body; and 2) providing monthly reports via nationwide broadcasts using state, private, community and social network media to provide information about the Mission's progress.
- In the third quarter of the year 2018, the National Congress must have repealed the Law to Incentivize and Promote the Communications Sector, because it is a law that, in addition to fostering corruption, undermines freedom of expression, access to public information, and transparency.
- Support the bill submitted by the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) to National Congress in order to amend the Law on the High Court of Auditors.
- By the year 2018, the Executive Branch shall identify and incorporate key support sectors such as the academic community, in order to build up mechanisms for scientific research and enforcement of transparent processes in the public sector

which can contribute to academic and scientific training for justice operators.

- In the first quarter of the year 2019, the National Congress shall amend the Law on the High Court of Auditors (TSC) so that sworn statements on the assets of civil servants can be made public, thus enforcing the Law on Transparency and the Law on the Code of Ethics.
- In the third quarter of the year 2018, the State Secretariat in the Office of the General Coordination of Government, shall instruct state institutions to report on the actions they have undertaken to comply with the Law on Administrative Simplification, including progress in implementing measures to ensure compliance with Open Government, which has been established on the basis of its international regulatory framework.
- In the third quarter of the year 2018, National Congress shall rectify the amendment it made to Articles 475, 476 and 478 of the Criminal Code and shall increase penalties and sanctions against corruption-related offenses.
- At the end of 2018, the State Secretariat in the Office of Education shall incorporate issues on anti-corruption, transparency, accountability, and social auditing into the curriculum of primary and secondary education, for the purpose of training the young people of Honduras and thus strengthening democracy.
- At the end of the year 2019, National Congress, shall have enacted a law: a) to regulate state publicity, establishing general and democratic criteria for use of resources that the institutions of the central government and municipalities shall be allocating to the item of publicity such as the press, radio, television and for access to equitable conditions for all the media; b) to audit transparency and rationality in the use of public resources for the hiring of publicity services in the press, on radio and television; and c) to

forbid the dissemination of the image of civil servants in the media using the state's financial resources.

- In the third quarter of the year 2019, the National Congress shall revise and amend, depending on natural interests, the Law on the Civil Service System for the purpose of strengthening the administrative career stream system, incorporating criteria that reduce the practices of arbitrariness, nepotism, or cronyism.
- At the end of the year 2018, the General Prosecution Service of the Republic (Procuraduría General de la República—PGR) will have filed at least 10 lawsuits against high-ranking government officials for abuse of authority, pursuant to Articles 321 to 327 of the Political Constitution of the Republic.
- In the first quarter of the year 2018, the National Congress must have adopted the General Law on Archives.
- Adopt the Law against Corruption and the Law on Effective Collaboration.
- Capacity building and sustainability of the institutions administering justice against corruption (Prosecution Service against Corruption and new court judges against corruption) in the areas of anti-corruption investigation and judicial proceedings, in order to effectively combat impunity.
- Encourage the reporting of acts of corruption and build up protection for whistleblowers.
- Carry out media campaigns and hold forums and conferences to highlight and raise awareness about the problem of corruption in order to build an active citizenry.
- Amend the Law on the National Anti-Corruption Council so it would have further powers and duties, ensuring

budget allocations needed to discharge its functions.

- Implement actions aimed at removing partisan politics from the judicial branch and ensuring its autonomy and independence, enabling it to administer justice correctly and efficiently in cases of corruption, applying international standards and jurisprudence.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Adopt laws and public policies to combat corruption in keeping with the 2030 Agenda and other international legal instruments.
- Improve access to justice, professional development, and increase in the budget.
- Strengthening public participation mechanisms for the social auditing of state resources aimed at vulnerable population groups (indigenous peoples, Garifunas, Afro-Hondurans).
- The State of Honduras signs and ratifies conventions and optional protocols.
- Remove partisan politics from the election of candidates to positions in institutions that guarantee the promotion, defense, and guarantee of human rights.
- Audit and monitor social programs to prevent their use for political purposes.
- Adopt a national budget that ensures the allocation of state resources on the basis of development and social equity priorities, not only corporate interests.
- Capacity building for citizens to monitor, investigate, and understand financial and fiscal issues, as well as the impact of corruption on the human rights approach, for the purpose of promoting social auditing, impact of the citizenry, and corruption whistleblowing.

- Revise the Law on Procurement and Hiring by the State for the purpose of specifying who can provide goods and services to the state.
- Restructure ONCAE and HONDUCOMPRAS.
- Draft the Law on State Trust Funds, which sets up trust funds to avoid complying with standards for government procurement.
- Measure the economic impact on private enterprise and investment levels in the country as a result of compliance with the obligations set forth in the state's regulations applicable to the sector in order to take measures that would boost national and international investments.
- Revise administrative simplification processes and strengthen the state's control processes to prevent acts of corruption or bribery for the purpose of minimizing their adverse impacts on the private sector.
- Increasing the fines and sanctions for those who break administrative laws and procedures, to reduce the impact of corruption between the private sector and the state.
- Validate and harmonize domestic laws and international conventions, striving to avoid contradictions or discrepancies between the laws and conventions that have been ratified.
- Create new mechanisms for international cooperation and exchange of experiences and best practices to build up the organizational and institutional development of civil society, in terms of both financial assistance and technical and political support to combat corruption and impunity.
- Strengthen citizen leadership by promoting common agendas and partnerships that take into account citizens in general and the interests of women, young people, indigenous peoples, and Afro-Hondurans.
- Temporarily suspend cooperation between international organizations and the state's public institutions, in the event that acts of corruption are detected. Said support shall be re-established when the problem has been cleared up.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Private-Public Partnerships

- Create programs for the investigation, analysis, and case studies of national and transnational corruption networks and promote exchanges to share experiences in combating corruption and impunity.

Participating organizations

- APUVIMEH
- Asociación Para Una Sociedad Más Justa
- ASONOG
- CEA
- Centro De Desarrollo Humano
- COHE

- Colegio Administradores de Empresas De Honduras
- Consejo Hondureño de La Empresa Privada
- Consejo Nacional Anticorrupción
- FLASCO Honduras
- FOPRIDEH
- Foro Nacional de SIDA
- FPOSC
- Fundación Amitigra
- Indignados
- Organización De Desarrollo Étnico Comunitario

JAMAICA



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Effective, robust, and impartial enforcement of existing anti-corruption laws; the drafting passage and coming into effect (gazetting) of new laws where no suitable law exists and the timely drafting of regulations for laws already passed, such as those governing Campaign Finance Reform, Political Party Registration and the Integrity Commission.
- Enforce more severe penalties/sanctions for acts of corruption.
- Reform and improve the justice system to include greater budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Justice, to address the existing human and physical resource shortages.
- Support and strengthen the local governance framework, which in essence

seeks to encourage citizen participation at all levels.

- Hold Government accountable to enforce basic law and order and encourage citizens through education and awareness campaigns to uphold basic law and order.
- Educate citizens on how parliament works, on fiscal budget efficiency and how to monitor and hold government accountable.
- Strong and sustained advocacy against corruption by the private sector and civil society.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Continuous awareness and education campaign to clearly explain the effects of corruption to every citizen and how corruption impedes their sustainable development.
- Increased and consistent advocacy, through awareness in schools, through the media and vigorous civil society campaigns to heighten awareness and get all actors involved to do their part to fight corruption.
- Corruption should be viewed as a human rights violation and its long term effects should be translated into how it negatively affects sustainable development.

- Monitor and report on government's progress on achieving the SDGs.
- 3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships**
- Strengthen Public-Private Partnership model by including civil society organizations and social actors to increase the advantages gained in the fight against corruption.
 - Encourage direct funding, from international development partners, to register and financially competent civil society organizations, which uphold anti-corruption principles.
 - Ensure that procurement and anti-corruption rules are practical, enhance transparency and avoid bureaucracy.
 - Advocate strengthening of the media and increased freedom of the press.

Participating organizations

- Association of Development Agencies
- Caribbean Policy Research Institute
- CUNA Caribbean Insurance Jamaica
- Development Foresight Institute
- East Jamaica Conference of SDA
- Equality for All Foundation
- Global Vision Media
- ISPUR Accelerator Network (ISAN)
- Jamaica Accountability Meter Portal
- Jamaica Association for the Deaf
- Jamaica Society for the Blind
- Joy Town Community Development Foundation
- National Integrity Action
- Reset Caribbean Foundation
- Spring Village Development Foundation
- Street Law Caribbean
- Williams Enterprise

MÉXICO



Recommendations

- 1. Democratic Governance and Corruption**
- Install citizen observatories in the countries participating in the OAS/Summit of the Americas in order to establish an open parliament tracking the preparation of laws, lobbying, and public expenditure aimed at avoiding conflicts of interest and acts of corruption.
 - The idea here is to follow up on agreements reached in Lima, because it is important to know the status of the agreements and commitments entered into during such meetings in order to ensure effective participation by civil society organizations.
 - Anti-corruption prosecutors must be chosen democratically, not according to political quotas.

- Establish a decent minimum wage in order to narrow the disparity between rich and poor and thereby help reduce corruption.
- Establish civic education campaigns aimed at forging citizenship, because some citizens are unaware of the functions their lawmakers are supposed to perform and do not know how to evaluate and measure the effectiveness of their work.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Consolidate the mechanism for protecting human rights defenders, bearing in mind the objectives and guidelines of the 2030 agenda.
- Strengthen the institutions making up the Administration of Justice and Public Security Systems, with the effective participation of civil society organizations in educational and training activities, with a view to keeping track of them and evaluating their performance.
- Prioritize and reaffirm the role of specific segments of the population in the area of sustainable development, with a view to eradicating the violence, inequalities, and impunity they are subjected to. They include youth, older adults, women, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, Afro-descendants, indigenous peoples, children and adolescents, and the LGBTI population.
- The aforementioned segments of the population are mostly also victims of acts of corruption and lack both access to justice and effective enjoyment of human rights.
- Enterprises and government institutions, as well as decentralized and autonomous agencies at the federal, state, and municipal levels, should have in-house social rights superintendents, comprised of civil society organizations specializing

in the subject and of individuals directly harmed by corruption cases.

- Guarantee the autonomy, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of government audit and oversight bodies.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Establishment of the position of a Civil Society Ombudsperson for social rights, empowered to establish a direct connection between the OAS and civil society (one for each country, with a two-year mandate).
- Installation of a multidisciplinary and sectoral council that would work together with such an Ombudsperson. The following sectors would be represented:
 - Business
 - Civil Society
 - Academia
 - International organizations (acting as observers of all the processes involved).

This council would be responsible for cataloguing all the needs of existing coalitions, because in many cases the coalitions are unaware of the function they perform as hemispheric observers and of their diagnostic assessment work with respect to human rights and corruption issues.

- Alongside this council, the idea is to form a coalition between civil society and international organizations, so that instead of each country making its own diagnostic assessment it would perform a diagnosis of another country it is interested in. The rationale behind this decision is that it may avoid a conflict of interest and avoid jeopardizing the security of the members of the coalition.

- The coalitions would function not just as hemispheric platforms or coalitions. Rather they would be able to form their own working groups to encourage countries to generate reports and assessments which would be remitted to the council and would make it possible to establish an ongoing follow-up process.

The intention here is to disseminate the information each country has on events, actions, and statistics relating to corruption and in that way encourage the introduction of accountability processes.

Participating organizations

- Agenda Nacional Política Trans de México A. C.
- Caminos de la Libertad AC
- Centro Terapéutico Integral Psicosomático
- CERTIFICA-TED
- Comité Nacional de los Derechos Humanos de la República Mexicana
- Corresponsabilidad Social y Desarrollo Humanista AC
- DECA, Equipo Pueblo, AC
- Familias Unidas de Guanajuato A.C.
- Fundación Arcoíris A.C.
- Fundación Jaff Morelos
- Fundación Juntos Podemos
- Fundación Juntos Podemos Más
- FUNDAR
- GODAC Grupos de Oportunidades Desarrollo y Apoyos Ciudadano
- Grupo Unido de Madres Solteras A. C.
- IPAS México
- MAS ACC SER
- Mexicanos Contra la Corrupción y la Impunidad
- Ollin, Jóvenes En Movimiento, A.C.
- RED Liberal de América Latina
- Revista G Internacional MX
- Semillas de Igualdad y Esperanza A.C.
- SKE
- Transformarte 2.0 A.C
- UNAM.FAC. Contaduría
- Unidad industrial Iztapalapa A.C.
- Universidad Autónoma Del Estado De Morelos



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Implement a judicial career service.
- Strengthen the independence of the judiciary and increase its budget allocation to three percent.
- One suggestion is to adopt Brazil's initiative of investing a percentage of the money recovered in corruption cases in civil society organizations.
- Establish an inter-agency and international commission that uses indicators, monitors the recovery of funds, and invests a portion of the money recovered in corruption cases in civil society organizations.
- Conduct a civic education and anti-corruption program in all public and private schools and universities to promote respect for others, the right of association, non-discrimination, and equality in respect of the human rights of all persons before the law.
- Foster a bill against all forms of discrimination against vulnerable individuals and groups.
- Promote the non-criminalization of protest and the recognition of human rights

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Adopt the amendments to the Government Procurement Act that prohibit the awarding of contracts to enterprises being investigated for acts of corruption or already convicted of such acts.
- Follow up on efforts to foster decentralization and citizen participation instruments, by insisting on it being measured in social audits of projects, budgets, and public works.
- Revise the wording of the point entitled: "Make arrangements for technical counseling and financing of citizens' anti-corruption observatories and oversight bodies supervising government works contracts."
- Provide funding for follow-up/monitoring activities and establish a meeting place for conducting analyses.
- Publish the national budget.
- Create access to information for the provinces.
- Follow up on cases of journalists or the media denouncing attacks on freedom of expression or investigative journalism and establish protocols for dealing with such complaints.
- Respect alternative media.
- Adopt the bills presented to the National Assembly on conflicts of interest and on the inapplicability of the statute of limitations to corruption offenses. Revise the wording, replacing the concept of the inapplicability of the statute of limitations with inclusion items.
- Follow up on and monitoring of compliance with Law 37 of August 2, 2016, which establishes the requirement

to consult indigenous peoples and obtain their prior, free, and informed consent and of ratification of ILO Convention No. 169 – Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Guatemala has managed to introduce changes. Use OAS regional mechanisms and regionalize the Guatemalan experience. Example: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and AESIC in Spain.
- The right of (formal and informal) association is a constitutional right.
- Apply the concept of governance in transparency to comply with international agreements and be clear about governance presupposing an educational model
- Urge member states to create and establish an International Commission against Impunity to track investigations into high-profile corruption cases and to abide by the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and international instruments on the subject.
 - Urge governments to uphold Codes of Ethics.
 - Strengthen existing regional mechanisms (Inter-American Convention against Corruption) and other mechanisms established in

international agreements and treaties to combat corruption.

- The aforementioned International Commission against Impunity should establish and monitor a judicial audit.
- Urge governments to foster the exchange of information.
- Establish some constitutional standards for preventing corruption. Sometimes we do not see corruption because it strikes us as natural. Examples of corruption: gifts to government officials. That being so, first corruption needs to be identified. Then we need to identify the appropriate way to combat it.
- Through the OAS, the inter-American system should establish an anti-corruption program promoting workshops and awareness-raising campaigns for civil society leaders. Civil society should produce periodic reports and conduct a social survey, every two years, to measure corruption. This initiative should figure on the OAS agenda.
- Provide financing in keeping with all the Codes of Ethics, to ensure the effectiveness of the programs funded by private enterprises and international organizations and conducted in connection with public-private partnerships.

Participating organizations

- AESIC-BCN
- APPT
- Asociación de Sordos de Colon
- Asociación Mujeres Ngäbe-Buglé
- Asociación Panameña De Derecho Constitucional
- Autogestión Artesanal
- CEASPA
- CODETAC

- Colectivo Voces Ecológicas
- Comisión de Justicia y Paz
- Comisión Derechos Humanos CNA
- CONAMUIP
- CONEGPA
- COONAPIP
- EDERA LGBTI
- Fundación de Mujeres Afrodescendientes Profesionales
- Fundación Levántate y Anda
- Fundación Ofrece Un Hogar
- Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana
- FUNPROI
- Generación Sin Límite
- Global Brigades
- Grupo Génesis Panamá Positivo
- Iniciativa por la Paridad
- IPEF
- Juntos Decidimos
- La Perseverancia
- MDDP
- MELEDIS
- Movimiento Campesina de Defensa del Rio Cobre
- Organización De Desarrollo Comunitario / Centro De Salud NVO Veranillo MINSA
- Red de Mujeres Afro latinoamericanas Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora
- REMAP
- Unión Nacional de Abogadas (UNA)
- Voces de Mujeres Afrodescendientes en Panamá
- Young American Business Trust

PARAGUAY



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- The State, in particular and together with civil society, needs to formulate educational policies at all levels of the educational system with a view to

repairing the harm done by corruption to citizens, both individually and as a society, and to combat the increase in poverty.

- Weakness of public institutions and social disintegration.
- The imperative need to have a budget that covers the costs of campaigns against corruption (preventive measures, access to information, public ethics regulations, and rules on conflicts of interest).
- Effective enforcement of the political party financing law, which was adopted several years ago, and the imposition of sanctions for failure to comply with it.

- Promote oversight and punishment mechanisms and prepare appropriate regulations for reducing impunity in the administration of justice and in other branches of government.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Introduce transparency into the binational entities (Itaipu and Yacyreta) by promoting access to information, including information on the hiring of personnel and the procurement of goods and services and on the extent to which procurement decisions are regulated or left to the discretion of officials, and accountability to citizens through a public hearing.

Participating organizations

- Asociación Trinidad
- CEAMSO
- Semillas para la Democracia

PERÚ



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and (Anti)Corruption

- Strengthen the Government oversight system (Office of the Comptroller General), incorporating citizen

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Expand hemispheric cooperation in investigations of corruption with respect to the freezing of illegally obtained assets.
- Analyze the feasibility of introducing into the Convention a clause making the statute of limitations inapplicable to offenses involving acts of corruption.
- Analyze the feasibility of an inter-American supranational treaty granting powers and criminal jurisdiction for prosecuting corruption offences and similar mechanisms.

participation in it. Systems and plans to combat corruption and prevent impunity.

- Improve the regulatory framework for transparency and accountability of political party financing.
- Strengthen the regulatory framework for the law on citizen participation and oversight mechanisms that ensure intervention at the various levels of government and in the different branches of government with a gender equality, sexual orientation, gender identity, and intercultural approach.
- Establish guarantees for organizations of citizens and/or individuals who investigate or denounce cases of corruption.

- Ensure that there is an autonomous body to guarantee transparency and access to public information.
- Improve the regulatory framework for guaranteeing fiscal transparency and regulate access to information regarding the end beneficiaries of enterprises involved in corruption cases.
- Promote open governments with an emphasis on open data, digital governments, and interoperability of information (open link data).

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

Corruption is an age-old, pandemic problem that severely undermines institutions and governance and creates the conditions for dictatorial and/or anti-democratic governments, violations of human rights, and pervasive impunity.

It also disproportionately affects and exacerbates the plight of the most excluded groups and segments of the population, such as children, women, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities, older adults, and others. Likewise, it prevents real and effective achievement of the SDGs (in which, we note, little attention is paid to Afro-descendant populations).

Accordingly, we formulate the following recommendations to States:

- Establish an autonomous and self-sufficient civil society mechanism to oversee and monitor investments by governments and the private sector.
- Facilitate access by civil society to accurate and timely information of the agencies, such as the National Strategic Planning Center (CEPLAN), responsible for monitoring the effective implementation of the SDGs.

- Carry out structural reform of the administration of justice so as to guarantee investigation and effective punishment of those responsible for acts of corruption and all levels and areas of government.
- Reinforce and respect the autonomy of the governmental regulatory and oversight agencies safeguarding the rights of the groups and segments of the population mentioned in this document.
- Establish an Honor Court confirmed by legitimate and recognized representatives of civil society organizations and academic entities with a view of controlling, in an ethical manner, public policies and decisions adopted by state entities, favoring those related to corruption.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

Considering that corruption exists at the international level and it is usually associated with other illegal activities and feeding transnational organized criminal networks that generate important capital flows that are laundered in “tax havens” and offshore mechanisms; efforts to combat corruption need to be systemic, global, and coordinated in all countries of the international system.

Accordingly, we recommend:

- Building effective civil society participation into the oversight mechanisms that have been, or are still to be, established.
- Reaching agreements among countries to prevent corruption, disseminate information, monitor public policies, as well as expedite the extradition and capture of persons who have committed, or who are being prosecuted and investigated for, corruption offenses.

- Encouraging the sharing of experiences and the dissemination of best practices in fighting corruption at different levels, in which civil society participation has been crucial.
- Joint investigations by countries with civil society participation, which will be focused on the elimination of corruption.
- Establishing expeditious mechanisms (virtual platforms open to the public and with easy access) for social oversight of policies that eliminate corruption and whistleblowing.
- Countries need to engage in resolute efforts to prevent corruption, through educational policies promoting ethical values, honesty, responsibility, and transparency.
- Member states must facilitate the active participation of civil society in decision making regarding:
 - Public expenditure at every level (local, regional, national)
 - Corruption investigations and cases
 - Legislative reforms
 - Approval of tenders (independent administration of public works), and
 - In face-to-face spaces or via Information Technology (virtual platforms)
- All measures taken need to be backed at each level of government by the legal arguments required for their implementation.
- Private funding of political campaigns needs to be transparent and local, regional, and national government procurement tenders and contracts must be free of bias.

Participating organizations

- Asociación Pluriétnica, Impulsora del Desarrollo Comunal y Social
- Asociación Angel Azul
- Asociación Nacional de Centros
- Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos
- Campaña por una Convención Interamericana por los Derechos Sexuales y Derechos Reproductivos –Perú
- Centro de Estudio y Promoción del Desarrollo
- Colectivos Uniones Peru
- CONADES
- Comisión de Damas Invidentes del Perú
- Consejo Interreligioso del Perú
- Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos
- Democracia & Desarrollo Internacional
- Diversidades Trans Masculina
- Federación Latinoamericana de Magistrados
- Foro Indígena de Abya Yala
- Frente Nacional contra la Corrupción
- Gelacorp S.A.
- Gobernabilidad Perú
- Grupo Propuesta Ciudadana
- Instituto Pro Desarrollo de la Persona con Discapacidad
- IPL PERU
- Mesa de Trabajo Liberales por la Diversidad
- MOFLIM
- Movimiento Negro Francisco Congo
- Mujeres Emprendedoras HUMEP PERÚ

- Organización de mujeres en política y al poder
- Palenque Regional Callao
- Proética
- Raíces Afroperuanas
- Red Interconfesional de Mujeres de Fe y Espiritualidad
- Red Interquorum
- Red Triple Hélice para el Desarrollo
- Religiones por la Paz América Latina y el Caribe
- Salud Preventiva Andina/Grupo Ambiente y Clima
- Sociedad Organizada Frente de Lucha contra la Corrupción
- Universidad Seminario Evangélico de Lima

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS



General Comments

- Monthly meeting should be held between youth and government ministers. Youth engagement should start from the age of 12.
- Develop an app to rate public performance.
- Mandatory consultation with key stakeholders, conduct of EIAs, Legislation – 4 months at the community level.
- Legislative review of incomplete legislation and activation of a grievance body.

Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- We are currently dealing with Generation Z where youth speak out openly. However, there is a concern of retribution. When one stands up for their rights one gets respect. Governments in the Caribbean and around the world have to realize they are dealing with a more educated population with access to media that allows them to broadcast their views. If you speak out you may be circulated throughout the Government ranks or demoted. There is too much division amongst small organizations. For the sake of a common goal, we should be able to come together and speak about the issues. We are here for a common goal.
- Citizen engagement in government is lacking.
- We should be able, as civil society, to hold government accountable. We can conduct surveys, random monitoring, etc.
- There needs to be more advertisement of opportunities from Sustainable Development and with enough notice. There should be open consultation with government on matters of sustainable

development and greater transparency in the process of public procurement. There should be technical review panel when recommendations are put forward (internal review). There should be a registry of experts

- Regulatory Commissions that form part of legislation should be enacted within 18 months of the passing of the law.
- There should be more citizen engagement.
- There should be a technical review panel.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- We should add implementation of regulatory commissions which can help enforce. The commission as part of the NGO Act has never been enacted. All commissions should be enacted in 12-18 months.
- Initiatives don't always meet the target level. Actions are inefficient and wasteful. We come up with more policies when we think something doesn't work. Policy should be designed with science (policy science). This will aid implementation.
- We need to have greater transparency. Activities that support strategic plans need

Participating organizations

- Caribbean Youth Environment Network SKN
- Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College
- Dare 2 Be International & KVK Enterprises
- FAWCS
- FAWM
- Saint Kitts And Nevis Agriculture Youth Forum

to be made available to the public. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) need to be a key component.

- Some organizations need to be upgraded in terms of their governing articles.
- All regulatory commissions should be enacted in 12-18 months.
- Policy should be designed with science (policy science). This will aid implementation.
- There needs to be greater transparency subject to monitoring and evaluation.
- There should be open consultation with government on matters of sustainable development and greater transparency in the process of public procurement.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- There needs to be an inter-agency platform that reduces the level of inefficiency by reducing duplication across agencies or within an individual agency.

- SKNCIC
- St Kitts National Youth Parliament Association
- The Ripple Institute SKN
- The UWI Open Campus

SAINT LUCIA



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Provide training in administrative law and human rights at entry level in public services, statutory agencies and the judiciary.
- Capacity building for managers in the public service.
- Constitutional reform.
- Strengthening of the Integrity Commission.
- Access to information.
- Improved regulatory framework to ensure accountability.
- Independent public service commission.
- Independence of the judiciary, by strengthening the selection of judges and adequate remuneration.
- Provision of adequate infrastructure to facilitate the proper functioning of the judicial System.
- Advocacy against corruption.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Accountability in the Public Service, through the establishment of an efficient and effective monitoring and evaluation system.
- Human rights education.
- Reform of planning legislation and the enactment of regulations to facilitate the enforcement of planning laws.
- Effective legislation to combat economic crimes.
- Enacting domestic legislation with the full and effective engagement of civil society in the implementation of the provisions of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and Inter-American Convention against Corruption.
- Study / research of existing international and regional anti-corruption instruments so as to stamp out corrupt practices.
- Public Education campaigns.

Participating organizations

- Eastern Caribbean Alliance For Diversity And Equality (ECADE)
- Indigenous People Of Saint Lucia Governing Council
- National Centre for Legal Aid and Human Rights Inc.
- Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc.
- Saint Lucia National Youth Council
- The Caribbean Youth Environment Network
- United and Strong Inc.
- WINFA

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

Legislative Measures

- Integrity Legislation for Public Officials to be passed (against Conflict of Interest).
- Introduce and pass Whistle-blower Protection Legislation (protecting freedom of expression to expose corruption).
- Enforcement of Freedom of Information Act for public access to information for informed decision, accountability, scrutiny and exposure of potential corruption and corruption.
- Uniformed Application of Procurement Legislation across the board, for proper accountability.

- Implement Laws to regulate/limit foreign, big funders NGOs, unelected, influencing local NGOs and government policy with their globalist agenda.

Procedural & Educational Measures/ Requirements

Implementation and use of White and Green Papers in parliamentary procedures of making laws.

- Town Hall and other community meetings to be used to inform and solicit feedback from the public about new policies and intended legislation, for improved citizen participation in the making of legislation to govern them.

Requirements (in all sectors) of the publication of citizens/employees' charters of rights and responsibilities, for assurance of citizen participation in monitoring corruption.

Sectors should have:

- Policy document on good governance.
- Policy document/position on social responsibility

Corruption Court

- Establish an independent agency with powers to investigate and implement proceedings against corrupt officials.
- Create judicial opportunities for redress and compensation for damage by the state's corrupt or irresponsible activities. E.g. National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) in the United States of America.

Tax Reform

- Fair and Just taxation - uniformed application of tax measures.
- Constitutional Reform should be considered for Term Limits for Prime Ministerial Position.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

Use and Development of Natural Resources

- Promote and encourage a mechanism for citizens to engage in a deeper process of dialogue on the use, development and/or sale of the peoples' resources – land seas/water, minerals and historical artefacts etc.
- Establish legislative measures to protect citizens' rights to their income, local resources and indigenous practices and livelihoods and provide opportunities for redress against potentially corrupt investors and state actors.
- Ensure that when development of any natural resources does occur, that due consideration is given to the peculiar circumstances of the area(s) by State Actors and Local/Foreign Investors. Eg. Local/Indigenous populations must not be left landless, unemployed, or robbed of their patrimony in any way or fashion.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks, and Public-Private Partnerships

- International Organizations should consider incorporating in their funding agreements clauses that:
 - Reference and promote the use of relevant legal instruments (domestic and international) to combat corruption.
 - Promote the use of and where possible incorporate whistle blowing instruments to combat corruption.
 - Promote a corruption measurement tool; similar to the anti-corruption agency Transparency International.
- Encourage beneficiary countries to meet a corruption free standard. The OAS should consider the creation of a hemispheric institution to monitor and give feedback on this matter. Similar to MESICIC; which is a follow up mechanism that monitors the Convention against Corruption. They should report to the public annually.
- Strengthen the internal capacity of the relevant national or regional monitoring agencies. To this end, the creation of corruption monitors/auditors should be considered.
- The enactment of relevant integrity legislation to combat corruption in public life.
- Member countries should consider the creation of the Office of an Ombudsman, which will be independently appointed and resourced.
- The establishment of an independent Electoral Body, that will be independently staffed and resourced to combat corruption before, during and after General Elections.

Participating organizations

- AJ'S Variety Store
- ASK
- CARICOM Youth Ambassadors
- CED
- Chamber Of Commerce And Industry
- CKDO Central Kingstown Development Organization Inc.
- GHSCC
- Glen Community
- Graduates Tent
- IICA
- Instead Inc.
- Island Media Marketing, Inc.
- JCI St. Vincent
- Lazarus Foundation
- National Society of Persons With Disabilities
- National Workers' Movement
- Public Service Union
- SVG Bureau of Standards
- SVG Christian Council
- Thusian Institute for Religious Liberty Inc.
- University of the West Indies Open Campus

SURINAME



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Strengthen the oversight capacity of civil society, the media and parliament.
- Support for inclusive and responsive democracy, in which structural dialogue with the participation of civil society and other non-state actors are expected.
- Support already established national institutions that are legally required to counter corruption, so that they can

effectively perform their work, such as the Audit Office, Constitutional Court, Tripartite Socio-economic Council, etc.,

- Support the establishment and utilization of instruments required to counter corruption and encourage accountability, such as:
 - Fiscal transparency
 - Open data initiatives
 - Open parliament
 - Parliamentary inquiry
 - Legislation on public accountability
 - Ombuds institutes
 - Strengthen youth participation and understanding of good governance and anti-corruption, for example, through the introduction of civic education and human rights education in schools.
- ### 2. Corruption and Sustainable Development
- Support and stimulate an independent civil society at all levels, so as to enable an optimal dialogue between government

and civil society, as well as an active role of civil society in an oversight capacity.

- Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to utilize a bottom-up approach to undertake initiatives aimed at monitoring development projects and activities.
- Support transparency and full accountability of all development partners, including organizations and individuals who are introduced as representatives of national civil society in international meetings.
- OAS should promote active participation of civil society and social actors in all its own events and activities.
- Develop awareness programs on the effects of corruption on development.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public Private Partnerships

- Since transparency is the best instrument to counter corruption, international institutions and multinationals should formulate and make public their

respective codes of conduct, and apply due diligence for their in-country activities.

- Multilateral financing institutions should play a more active role in promoting transparency and accountability among governments, and apply the same recommendations to their own work.
- More insight is required into the sensitivity of the SDGs to corruption beyond the narrow forms of corruption referred to in goal 16.4, and this information should be shared widely with all member country governments and civil society in order to promote the agenda of governance and anti-corruption.
- International and national civil society need to be strengthened, and network or collaborate more closely in order to exchange information and demand transparency and accountability from international organizations and multinationals operating in the respective countries.

Participating organizations

- ADEK
- Algemeen Directeur Pcs
- Allied Collective
- BINI
- Chamber Of Commerce And Industry
- Institute For Graduate Studies And Research, Anton De Kom University
- IRIS
- LGBT Platform Suriname
- Nationaal Jeugdparlement
- Organisatie Van Gerechtigheid En Vrede
- PROJEKTA
- Ravaksur
- River of Jordan Foundation
- Suriname Bar Association
- Surinamese Business Development
- Vids Suriname
- VSB
- Women's Way Foundation

THE BAHAMAS



General Comments

In The Bahamas, we see democratic governance and minimizing corruption as an immediate priority. Our focus must be on addressing some fundamental and structural issues within Government and Civil Society. Through a collective and collaborative multi-sector approach sustainable development can be achieved. International Institutions and Public-Private Partnerships can be critical tools to reaching these outcomes.

Recommendations

Policy Implications

Follow the Constitutional Reform of 2013 related to limiting the powers of the PM and removing the AG from Cabinet

- Push for national referendum (24 months).
- Push for the Public Sector Act/ State Sectors Act to specify the power of the Minister to focus on policy (24 months).
- Provision must be made for public consultation, engagement and education (6 months).

Legislation for Good Governance and Assorted Anti-Corruption must pass and be enacted. Need a timeline and budgetary implication of the legislation.

- Pass Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) with CSOs recommendations (3 months).
- Pass tabled Integrity Commission and Ombudsman Act with revisions from public consultation to reflect CSOs ongoing involvement and independence (3 months).
- Enforcement of a Public Disclosure policy (1 month - from passage of the Integrity Commission Bill)
- Introduce and pass legislation for Whistle Blowers, Campaign Finance, Electoral Reform, and Public Procurement (12-24 months).
- Pass Independent Deputy for Public Prosecution (with revisions limiting the AG power for direction - 3 months)

Challenges

Increase Legitimacy and capacity of Civil Society.

- Organize a Civil Society Conclave, and series of activities, to join the sector and develop strategies for sustainability (3 months).
- Provide technical support and funding to create CSO cooperative committee to serve as a functional and independent resource to combat culture of corruption and monitor it (6 months).

Create CSO activities that relate to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16.

- Civil Society can participate and promote Citizens for a Better Bahamas (CBB) y Transparency International (TI) as local corruption barometers.
- Push for endorsement by government and private sector (3 months).
- Adopt the National Development Plan outside of government and use it as a multi-sector roadmap to address issues of governance and corruption and to foster democracy (6-12 months).
- Develop Public FOIA education efforts to run concurrent to Government preparations to comply with the act (18-24 months).
- Monitor and report on whether the government is adhering to its commitments under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (6-12 months).

Government Operations – Practice

- Move to more open communication. Establish a separate Parliamentary Communications office arm from Government to make information on Parliament, Bills, development, policies and practices easy to understand (36 months).

In performance reviews of international bodies and partners, ensure a broader based and inclusive spectrum of consultation with Civil Society

- Create an open central register of CSO's with expertise (12 months).
- Push for trainings for CSOs on international/ regional treaties and obligations (12-24 months).
- Push for completion of The Bahamas UNHCHR reports and fund CSO's to issue shadow reports (24 months).

Improve public interface with government (timely and responsive website, accurate contact numbers, call back or ticket based service, customer service protocols, user evaluations).

- Training and evaluation of government employees (24 months).
- Offer standardized and functional expedited service fees across government (6 months).

Institute ethics and civic education for all ages.

- Mandated Civic Education in Public Education System (9 months).
- Establish Institute Social Emotional Curriculums in Education (9-18 months).
- Grassroots Community based Civic Education and engagement opportunities such as town halls and Freedom Schools (1-12 months).

- Complete Public Finance Management and Performance Monitoring Project (E-tendering, Deliverology, etc.) to make government more effective and efficient (3-36 months).

- Adopt ParlAmericas citizen engagement toolkit and standardize and regularize Public Consultation (24 months).

- Digitize government transactions and tendering process. Need to upload past date and move to open sharing of information and results (12 months).

- Widespread cameras and enhanced tools of security (including police body cameras) and integrated IT system to evaluate and address transactions, expenditures and use of cash (36-60 months).

- Create a safe space for Whistleblower issues to support and sustain this within the culture (12 months).
- Engage Civil Society in policy development and monitoring functions (FOIA, Ombudsman, etc.-12 months).
- Create quarterly meetings with Civil Society and government to proactively work on legislation and coordinate public education and consultation (1-12 months).
- Create opportunities for greater public-private partnerships.
- The Chamber and National Committee to address Ease of Doing Business Issues (move to single electronic window, etc. - 0-12 months).

Participating organizations

- Bahamas AIDS Foundation
- CAFRA Bahamas
- Citizens For A Better Bahamas
- Equality Bahamas
- Organization For Responsible Governance
- RISE Bahamas
- SSB
- The DMARCO Organization

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Management audits conducted at all institutions (public, private and civil sectors requesting funding or business from monies generated by tax revenues) to deal with issues of inefficiency as one

of the causes of corruption, and comply with the recommendations of the audits. Multi-year audits that straddle the institution's financial years and strategic plans. This will require:

Legislative mandates to implement the Management Audits, including:

- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)
- Compliance mandates;
- Accreditation mandates;
- Robust and applicable regulatory framework; and
- National Quality Policy for Procurement;

Timeframe: 3 years

- Use the methodology of conversational intelligence to reduce the levels of corruption, build trust, and promote a culture of accountability and transparency.

Timeframe: 30 years

- Change the political system to eliminate patronage in public affairs.

Timeframe: 30 years

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Develop a values-driven society, emphasizing the values of respect, honesty, fairness, ethical behavior, using the best-practice methodologies available. We recommend the following:

- Consider supporting the recommendations of the Transparency Institute Corruption Conference

Timeline: 3 months

- Support the proposed National Parent-Teachers Association Integrity Clubs at Schools to promote the values of respect, honesty, fairness, ethical behavior at a young age, beginning with the early Primary stage. The current methodology of utilizing the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) can be considered, among others.

Timeline: Immediate

- Proposed: The Commission for Combating Corruption. An Independent Multi-Stakeholder Organization created by Act of Parliament, to be part of the checks and balances on state actors. It will be responsible for:
 - Legislation/policy/GRP to regulate legislation. Apply GRP (Good Regulatory Practices) in the development and implementation of

legislative frameworks, so that stakeholders have the opportunity to have an effective input.

- Regulatory impact assessments to be instituted within Legal Affairs Ministry
- Oversight and monitoring using evidence-based decision-making.
- Measure the existence of indices of corruption, and their movement over time (increasing/decreasing).

- Expand public awareness of Constitutional Rights and Responsibilities, utilizing information literacy education campaign and critical thinking training.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Review all existing instruments and tools for measuring levels of corruption.
 - The Commission for Combating Corruption (CCC) MUST develop a local series of instruments and tools.
 - All International Institutions should cater for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as for local, regional and international levels.
 - There must be criteria/regulations for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), for Local, Regional and International.
 - There must be continuous measurement of levels (perceived and “real”) of corruption.
- Foster PPPs nationally, regionally, and internationally in order to:
 - Implement sustainable projects;
 - Qualify for access to grants;
 - Access best practice methodologies.

Participating organizations

- Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Centre of Trinidad And Tobago Inc.
- Environmental Club
- Families in Action
- Firecircle!
- G.O International Academy of Learning
- Gayap Violence Prevention Peace and Love Movement
- GOAL
- Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago
- International Education And Resource Network Trinidad And Tobago
- Men against Violence against Women (MAVAW).
- National Centre for Persons with Disabilities
- T&T National Council of Parent - Teacher Associations Inc.
- Trinidad And Tobago Bureau Of Standards
- Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society

UNITED STATES



- Educators at the elementary and secondary levels should develop curricula focused on government structures, opportunities for citizen engagement and participation in public life.
- Implement systems to combat corporate capture of democratic institutions.

Protection

- Recognizing the importance of freedom of expression, association and of an independent judiciary, we recommend that there are systems that support journalists, Human Rights Defenders (HRD), vulnerable populations and individuals, denouncing citizens, whistleblowers, and public officials engaged in the pursuit of justice so that they may engage in their work safely.
- Systems of support could include financial, education, and technical support, as required by the particular context.

Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

Engagement

- Improve civil registries and access to identification to ensure democratic participation from all members of society, particularly vulnerable individuals and groups.
- Ensure that all people have access to civic education so they are empowered to actively participate in their democracies and hold their public officials accountable.

Accountability

- Create strategic action plan for MESISIC to involve civil society organizations and actors.
- Strengthen enforcement and monitoring of MESISIC.
- Encourage the participation of civil society organizations in anti-corruption mechanisms as partners.
- Improving mechanisms for holding accountable those who engage in diverse practices that harm (including but not limited to threats, defamation, silencing, financial strangulation, torture, murder, etc.) journalists, HRD, vulnerable populations and individuals, denouncing citizens, whistleblowers, and public officials engaged in the pursuit of justice
- Invest in technology to improve transparency and accountability.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- States must have effective mechanisms to guarantee the right to free, prior and informed consultation and consent throughout the planning, implementation, and evaluation of projects.
- Ensure the accurate collection, analysis, and publication of relevant data on the various components of sustainability, as well as protection mechanisms of individuals and organizations conducting this exercise.
- Reinforce the voice and mechanisms for afro-descendants and indigenous populations to protect their rights, territory, and land, and protect the ILO Agreement 169 (Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention of 1989).
- Guarantee transparency and accountability in public bids and procurement processes. These processes

should ensure respect for human rights and guarantee that neither forced labor nor child labor are used in those supply chains.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, International Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- Strengthen MESISIC's outreach efforts with civil society organizations to raise awareness about its mandate and the mechanisms for their engagement.
- Expand role of civil society in MESISIC's review meetings.
- Propose a formal role for civil society organizations in the appointment process of members of MESISIC.
- Recommend the implementation of systematic financial sanctions/pressures from international financial institutions, such as the IDB, to governments, corporations and other entities that conduct corrupt practices.
- OAS member states should ensure that hybrid mechanisms such as CICIG, MACCIH, GIEI (Grupo Interdisciplinario de Expertos Independientes), etc., are fully funded and their recommendations are implemented as well as those from the Inter American Human Rights System.
- Incorporate lessons learned and best practices from those mechanisms.
- Call for more transparency in public-private partnerships, for example, through a public registry of public-private contracts.
- How to improve MESISIC more in terms of civil society participation, how do we strengthen it, how do we give it "teeth".
- Include/develop a regional index to begin monitoring corruption at the regional level.

- Look into CICIG and MACCIH and see which lessons we can draw from them.
- OECD Anti-bribery Convention has been recognized as having more teeth. Maybe look into it.
- Local legislation: How we make sure that local legislation is aligned/harmonized with international standards and institutions?

Participating organizations

- Alliance Defending Freedom
- CEJIL
- Creative Associates International
- Defiende Venezuela
- Freedom House
- Global Peace Services USA
- Partnersglobal
- REDLAD
- Sin Mordaza
- YABT

URUGUAY



Recommendations

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- Suggestion: Establish effective and confidential channels or vehicles for denunciations of alleged corruption (whistleblowing). Existing methods/institutions need to be strengthened, with guarantees for transparency.
- Suggestion: Establish and/or revise the legal framework in the following areas: 1) financing of political parties; 2) bank secrecy; 3) enabling regulations for the Law on Illicit Enrichment.

- Suggestion: Include the subject of corruption in the formal and non-formal educational system. It should also be taught at home.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Move ahead with the National Institutionalized Citizen Participation System (Open Government Network).
- Define more precisely the cases in which the State can keep information confidential and for how long. This has to do with implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio + 20 Conference.
- Submit conditionalities imposed by foreign capital and multinational enterprises in the event of concrete initiatives to public and parliamentary debate.
- Support and promote a binding treaty on businesses and human rights, such as the one being analyzed by a United National intergovernmental working group. It aims to set human rights standards for businesses all over the world.

Participating organizations

- AAFRIB
- CLAN CHONIK
- Colectivo Ovejas Negras
- Cotidiano Mujer
- Damnificados Por Régimen De AFAP
- DITEC
- Idas y Vueltas
- Iglesia Anglicana Del Uruguay
- UDELAR - University Of British Columbia
- Voto En El Exterior Uruguay
- YABT Uruguay



VIRTUAL FORUM OF THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS



From October 9 to 25, 2017, representatives of civil society and social actors from 184 States participating in the Summits Process shared, through the virtual forum of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, a space for dialogue and exchange of ideas on the issue of corruption and its impacts on democratic governance.

A synthesis is presented below of the main conclusions drawn by forum participants regarding the three thematic pillars proposed by the organizers.

Impacts of corruption

During the forum, participants made a list of the main impacts of the cycle of corruption on their countries' governance. This open list is the following:

- Increase in inequality, exclusion, and poverty.
- Decrease in real investment in the implementation of public policies.
- Limited aptitude of officials responsible for making political, technical, and budgetary decisions.
- Limited impact of policies, programs, and projects inasmuch as these are focused on a particular interest.

Effects on the exercise of human rights

Participants also reflected on how corruption affects the exercise of human rights:

- It reduces resources that the States invest in solving problems and ensuring fundamental rights. The money lost from corruption could and should be channeled to more and better social programs, technological innovation, productivity, and infrastructure.
- Safeguarding rights is conditioned by the ability to obtain perks. This fact perniciously intersects with the inequality of our societies, reinforcing perceptions of privileged classes, biased pursuit of justice, and impunity.

Existing mechanisms to fight it and those that can be implemented in the future

Many countries in Latin American have tools and laws on transparency and access to public information. However, it is crucial to take the next step, i.e.—to make this information accessible to the greatest number of people possible and thereby enabling civil society and the free press to exercise oversight. The role of these sectors should not be seen negatively, given that they supplement the work undertaken by state bodies.

With respect to actions that governments take to fight corruption, participants found the following recommendations extremely useful:

⁴ Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, United States, and Uruguay.

- Begin education on democratic and anti-corruption values in school.
- Create or strengthen mechanisms for access to public information with a view to transforming isolated measures into a concrete open government policy.
- Create or strengthen institutional mechanisms that ensure independence of oversight bodies. This means, bolstering competences and capacity for action by State institutions charged with implementing the fight against corruption.
- Include the justice administration as an indispensable actor in reforming the system to fight corruption.
- Facilitate citizen oversight and create partnerships with organizations that implement these initiatives.

On this last point, it is important to point out that citizen oversight is evolving toward a model in which the use of new information technologies and data journalism have and will have a great impact.

Thus, normative frameworks that make data on government activities available to citizens (transparency laws) mean it possible for there to be oversight of this information and for civil society and investigative press to make revelations that point to clear acts of corruption or circumstantial evidence thereof.

Cooperation, International Institutional Frameworks, and Public-Private Partnership

The fight against corruption should involve all of society. Thus, participants found that

it was crucial that partnerships be formed between private institutions, States, and citizens.

In this sense, creating international standards and the very pressure exerted by international organizations with regard to governance problems associated with corruption are essential for bringing about changes in government anti-corruption policies. Additionally, efforts to establish advisory bodies or councils made up of international experts are concrete examples—although not without difficulties and problems in their execution—of the usefulness of expertise from other countries in addressing the problem, above all in situations in which objective perspectives are sought from outside.

The private sector should also commit to transparency, public information, and accountability in cases where they execute resources of the State. Here the participation of business trade associations is key to create codes of conduct and transparency practices that are more than necessary given the sector's interrelation with the State.

Final conclusion

Forum participants collectively built a comprehensive vision of the phenomenon of corruption. Hence, the measures suggested address the problem from various perspectives and entail the commitment of all democratic institutions. The strategy envisaged, for that same reason, can only come about as the result of an overall national and international consensus with respect to the prevention and the fight against corruption. In this sense, partial approaches can mitigate aspects of this phenomenon but will always be insufficient.



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NOTICIAS

- Informe Nacional sobre la Implementación de los Mandatos e Iniciativas del Proceso de Cumbres de las Américas Brasil PT | Colombia ES | Estados Unidos EN
- Informe final del Foro Virtual en seguimiento a la VII Cumbre de las Américas EN | ES
- Más noticias aquí.

FOROS

[Foro Virtual sobre la Conformación de Coaliciones](#)

EVENTOS

Tercera Reunión Ordinaria de 2017 del Grupo de Revisión e Implementación de Cumbres (GRIC)
Lima, Perú, 2-3 de noviembre de 2017
[EN](#) | [ES](#)

HEMISPHERIC DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS



The Hemispheric Dialogue, which was held in Lima, Peru on March 23, 2018, provided each of the official coalitions of the Eighth Summit with an opportunity to report on progress in their work on the thematic areas of the Summit. The reports were presented for the consideration of the countries participating in the Summits Process.

The report on the official coalitions' progress can be found at the following link: bit.ly/CoalitionsReport2018.

In order to facilitate broad, equitable, and inclusive participation in the preparations for the Eighth Summit of the Americas and the activities immediately prior to the Summit, civil society organizations and social actors were invited to organize into self-managed hemispheric thematic coalitions.

In all, 28 official coalitions were formed, which were represented by the participating countries at the Eighth Summit. The following official coalitions were formed:

- Coalition for Good Governance and a Strengthened Civil Society
- Transparency, Human Rights, and Participation through ICTs for Better Governance and Citizenship
- Transparency, Open Government, and Public Participation
- A Civic Observatory for an Open Parliament

- American Drug Policy Coalition for the Summits of the Americas (CAPD)
- International Networks Saving Lives in Response to Human Trafficking
- Social Actors Partnering with International Institutions To Advance to More Just Societies
- Coalition for Human Development
- Interfaith Alliance for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Religions, Beliefs, and Spiritualities in Dialogue with Civil Society
- Coalition for the Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas
- Regional Coalition for the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities
- Comprehensive Care and the Right to Health in Latin America





- Alliance against Corruption but for Sustainable Development in Central America, North America and the Caribbean
- For an Inclusive and Respectful World
- International Coalition of Human Rights Organizations in the Americas
- Movement for Human Rights and against Corruption
- Democracy, Business, and Human Rights
- LGBTTTTI Advocacy in the Americas Coalition
- Afro-Descendent Movement in the Americas Coalition
- Comprehensive Early Childhood, Childhood, and Adolescent Care against Corruption and for Sustainable Development
- Regional Forum for Child and Gender-Related Social, Cultural, and Political Rights
- Population, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, and Development
- Abya Yala Indigenous Coordination
- Citizen Forum of the Americas
- Youth and Human Rights Coalition against Corruption and for Transparency in the Americas
- Democratic Governance and Corruption Coalition
- The Role of Young People against Corruption and for Sustainable Development

Through the Summits Virtual Community (CVC), each coalition was provided a working space to enable their members to coordinate and generate input for the dialogue sessions envisaged in the preparatory process for the Summit and immediately prior to it.

HEMISPHERIC FORUM AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN SOCIAL ACTORS AND HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES



The Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors, which was held on April 10-11, 2018 in Lima, Peru, was a space that provided each of the 28 official coalitions⁵ of the VIII Summit with the opportunity to assemble its members to exchange ideas and lessons learned on the themes of the VIII Summit, as well as to finalize recommendations that would be presented at the Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives.

The Dialogue between Social Actors and High-Level Government Representatives took place on April 12, 2018, in Lima, Peru, in the framework of the VIII Summit of the Americas. This event was organized in coordination with the host country of the VIII Summit, and it had the support of the area of Relations with Civil Society Organizations of the Organization of American States. During the Dialogue, each spokesperson of the official coalitions made an intervention focus on these actors' recommendations with regard to one of the three (3) thematic

pillars⁶ of the VIII Summit for consideration by the States participating in the Summits process.

For more information about the activities carried out with civil society and social actors during the preparatory process for the Eighth Summit, please visit: www.summit-americas.org/cs.html



The statements made by each one of the coalitions are included below:

THEMATIC PILLAR 1: DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION

Coalition for Good Governance and a Strengthened Civil Society

We are witnessing an unprecedented crisis of corruption throughout the continent that is devastating the democratic system, its institutions, and above all human rights. Where there is no democracy, we observe the emergence of authoritarianism and impunity that undermines the credibility of the

⁵ For purposes of the Summit, an "official coalition" is understood as a group of at least 10 organizations and/or social actors with similar positions on at least one of the three thematic pillars of the Summit. The main objective of the work in coalitions is to foster dialogue and constructive reflection among civil society organizations and social actors of the Americas and their advocacy in the Summits process. To find out more about the 28 official coalitions, click on the following link: http://www.summit-americas.org/cs/coalitions_list_en.pdf.

⁶ The thematic pillars of the main topic of the Eighth Summit of the Americas are:
Thematic pillar 1: **Democratic Governance and Corruption**
Thematic pillar 2: **Corruption and Sustainable Development**
Thematic pillar 3: **Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks, and Public-Private Partnerships**

democratic system. For this reason, we urge governments to strengthen the independence of their branches and in particular the justice system.

The social cost of corruption affects human development because it robs us of basic rights and condemns us to live in a context of economic and cultural impoverishment that impairs our development and hinders the creation of laws and/or democratic institutions that ensure full rights.

For all these reasons, States must build, develop, and ensure enabling environments to work together with society to strengthen transparency, institutions, and democracy; environments that allow for participation and freedom of information, expression, assembly, and peaceful protest, among others.

At the same time, it is important to generate greater connectivity in the countries of the region because the internet can be a powerful tool in reinforcing trust as well as transparency processes, and in restoring an enabling environment. However, a process should be launched to teach responsible use of the internet that can empower citizens and legitimize authority through mechanisms of democratic participation.

We are losing the battle against corruption. Let's not let corruption steal our democracy and human rights.

A Civic Observatory for an Open Parliament

Our understanding is that civic observatories' main role is to monitor, assess, oversee, and advocate in certain aspects of public life. Additionally, they promote citizen participation and empower it by legitimizing information available on public activities. Civic observatories have a two-pronged purpose—they are monitoring closely to underscore areas of opportunity, not only

to highlight problems, but also propose solutions.

Description

The Civic Observatory for an Open Parliament is an initiative whose goal is to promote effective citizen monitoring, assessment, and participation regarding the discussion and preparation of legislation and budget allocations, as well as to learn about the agenda of issues to be debated in the parliamentary plenaries of every government of the countries participating in the Eighth Summit of the Americas. This must be an open, plural, inclusive, diverse, and active forum that allows the voice of citizens to be heard and strengthens democracy through transparent information regarding parliamentary work, as well as compliance with the principles of open parliament, thus hindering acts of corruption impunity, and conflicts of interest.

General Objectives

The Civic Observatory for an Open Parliament aims to have access to sessions of parliaments and promote broadcasting parliamentary proceedings in real time on open media channels. It further aims to make lobbying more transparent and implement assessments that measure compliance with the principles of open government. Thus, citizen trust in parliaments grows through actions that promote transparency, access to information on legislative work, and prevention of corruption and conflicts of interest.

Specific Objectives

- To facilitate citizen's access to information on parliamentary work.
- To collaborate with parliaments to open their data and increase their legislative transparency indicators, especially in relation to participation, citizen services, and accountability.

- To promote collaboration with different political groups that make up parliaments so that they implement anti-corruption measures and make information more transparent.

Youth and Human Rights Coalition against Corruption and for Transparency in the Americas

Our Hemisphere and in particular the Latin American region continues to be marked by enormous inequalities. The concentration of wealth and power mutually reinforce each other through different practices like corruption, especially affecting the development of those in a more vulnerable position, such as persons with disabilities, youth, and minority groups of all kinds. The limitation of fundamental rights of social groups in our region has brought about impoverishment and marginalization of such groups. Dictatorships are extreme examples of this, as in Cuba and Venezuela where the human rights of entire peoples are systematically violated and the minimum salary of both countries together does not exceed 30 dollars.

We have identified the need for citizens to have greater access to information on the State's activities. Transparency and accountability on the part of State institutions vis-à-vis society ensure that the reasons behind every governmental decision and its resources are clear and public knowledge—in other words they strengthen democracy.

We call attention to the government corruption that exists in functioning democracies such as the cases of Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru. This phenomenon undermines the principles and requirements of a democratic State, hindering the full exercise of rights, destroying the legitimacy of institutions and increasing the perception of impunity. Immunity is no excuse for impunity and effective justice must be independent and

ensure equal treatment of all citizens under the law.

We highlight that many corruption cases in the last two years involve the main actors of the so-called socialism of the 21st century. This methodology, driven and propagated by the Sao Paulo forum, an organization linked from its inception to armed groups such as the FARC and created by the dictator Fidel Castro and former President Lula Da Silva, now convicted of crimes of corruption.

Socialism of the 21st century has been used by the Cuban dictatorship's intelligence apparatus to extend its influence throughout the region spreading authoritarian practices with the economic support of Chavism. It threatens security in the region through its ties with organized crime and by forcing massive migration. The impunity of the Castro regime's interference is shocking. This regime maintains an army of occupation in Venezuela, according to information revealed by the Secretary General of the OAS. The imperialist behavior of the dictatorship is an essential part of the destabilization of the rule of law in that country, and presumably other countries like Nicaragua where it has crushed political participation of the opposition and Bolivia where the government in power seeks to ignore the will its people expressed on February 21, 2016, in order to remain in power.

We underscore the work of Peru and urge the rest of the States to show solidarity with political refugees and those who migrate for social and economic reasons like Haitians and Salvadorans.

It is urgent that the democracies that are members of the Organization of American States must:

- Demand the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Bolivia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Cuba;

- Apply the Democratic Charter to Venezuela;
- Commit to abolishing laws that restrict freedom of assembly and condemn those States that do not do so;
- Ensure protection of human rights defenders, civil society actors, independent artists, and journalists;
- Recognize the legal personality of forward-looking Cuban civil society actors not recognized by the government;
- Put an end to the Cuban regime's impunity, condemning the anti-democratic succession announced for this April 19 and supporting the right of the Cuban people to decide on a democratic change of the system on the island through a free vote with guarantees.

Transparency, Open Government, and Public Participation

The 44 organizations of coalition 3, “**Transparency, Open Government, and Public Participation**”, encourage the States meeting at the Eighth Summit of the Americas to make the most of this opportunity and come up with agreements to tackle corruption effectively that include monitoring and outcomes indicators and that take civil society input into account.

Coalition 3 has identified five strategic areas in the fight [against corruption] that should have, as crosscutting pillars, commitments to the right to access to public information, open data, effective citizen participation, detailed accountability, and independent and autonomous oversight agencies. These areas are as follows:

1. Political party and campaign financing

States must commit to: Monitoring election campaign spending and assigning financing oversight to autonomous and independent institutions;

establishing compulsory mechanisms for recording all inflows and outflows; instituting mandatory systems for managing and disclosing all resources; making presentation of integrated financial reports (pre- and post-election) to the public in an open data format a requirement; banning and penalizing the improper use of public monies in the context of election campaigns; and ensuring citizen monitoring and access to all information about political financing.

2. Open budgets, with citizen involvement and subject to oversight

States must commit to having effective systems for managing public resources. We urge the States to adopt commitments aimed at boosting budget transparency via the online and timely publication of documents that make it possible to monitor the reliability of the budget; implement public participation mechanisms throughout budgeting process; and ensure an effective system of accountability for national budgets by guaranteeing the management capacity and autonomy of oversight entities.

3. Autonomous and independent judiciary

States must endow systems for the administration of justice with greater autonomy, independence, technology, capacity, and resources; and create transparent and competitive processes for selecting justice system operators. Regionally, the States must ratify and implement international instruments having to do with international cooperation against corruption; improve and harmonize substantive legislation in all areas of government; move toward direct cooperation between national prosecutors' offices and judicial actors who investigate cases of corruption; create formal tools for international cooperation; explore the use of informal communication tools among authorities responsible for criminal prosecutions; and encourage the creation and

implementation of centralized bank account records.

4. Open government procurement

States must commit to: Prohibiting confidentiality clauses in the public procurement of works, services, or goods; ensuring publication of public servants' asset and interests disclosures; guaranteeing punishment for individuals, businesses, or institutions that violate the prohibitions or fail to comply with requirements; providing in-house units with both authority and material, human, and technological resources; including anti-corruption clauses in contracts; and ensuring the full release of information about public contracts.

5. Inter-American institutional framework

States must commit to supporting the organs of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in order to bring about protocols and procedures that will enable an ongoing and thorough monitoring of the forms and ways corruption manifests itself and the impact thereof on guarantees of rule of law and the prevalence of human rights.

Coalition for Human Development

Democracy is a sovereign and representative form of government, aimed at the common good. Corruption is an act committed for purposes of securing an advantage that is at odds with the moral duty that public servants have vis-à-vis the rights of others. A democratic government must necessarily hold the trust and will of the people in order to prosper. Government corruption leads to a loss of national social wealth, which in turn precludes citizens from living in a society that is fair to all.

The Coalition for Human Development understands that corruption can be mitigated or brought to an end through sound human development in society that is aimed at achieving true social

wealth, which primarily includes the following four assets:

1. The basic human rights that are inherent to all people are the most vital assets of national social wealth. This includes, first and foremost, recognition of the right to life from conception until natural death, as well as parents' right to raise and educate their children within the environment of the family, formed according to natural order. The exercise of such rights fosters a culture of ethics and legality, which is essential for discouraging acts of corruption in society.
2. Population growth offers economic growth to the individual and to society, thereby creating stability in the region. Public policies along these lines reinforce in the social conscience the principle that each person is considered to be invaluable. Corruption has no place in a society that upholds that principle.
3. Education is key to having an informed and active citizenry. Ethics have to be fostered in comprehensive education in the interest of preventing corruption. Education is ongoing and drives technology and improvements to society that will be creative and innovative. A society that creates educational opportunities based on morals will turn out citizens with strong principles. Every individual is endowed with unique gifts that can be developed and that will lead to prosperous societies.
4. Infrastructure. Investment in infrastructure produces stability and growth for social and human development, which in turn deters corruption, thereby creating quality of life. Where necessary infrastructure is lacking, a nation's social wealth wanes, leading to an environment of poverty and social injustice that can easily result in corruption.
5. At the same time, in view of the consideration given to the United Nations Sustainable Development Plan, the

Coalition is proposing that, rather than talking about “sustainable development,” the discussion should instead be about “human development.” If the individual is understood to be the reason for and engine behind development, society will then grow its essential assets for achieving national social wealth, wherein needs are met and limitations are overcome. Human development and social development go hand-in-hand. In this way, democracy is strengthened and corruption has no place in society.

Democratic Governance and Corruption Coalition

Our coalition is comprised of 44 social and human rights organizations and movements in Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Venezuela, and Peru.

We come today to state our views on democratic governance and corruption in our region. We believe that the approach to this issue must extend beyond its conceptual meaning and be examined more broadly, with more inclusive indicators, and from an anti-imperialist and Latin American standpoint.

Our coalition is concerned about the type of “democracy” that is being fostered and legitimized in our region—a type of democracy whose exercise is negated when its formal stakeholder, the people, becomes invisible. A democracy is real when it embraces policies of social inclusion and respect for older persons, women, sexual diversity, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, workers, and children. A democracy becomes an empty shell and separate from the people when it negotiates the adoption of neoliberal policies with transnational capital and international financial organizations behind the population’s back and against its legitimate interests.

In recent decades, Latin America and the Caribbean have been spearheading the adoption of new roles in direct political

participation, displacing the representative system that has been negotiating away our peoples’ interests. Our active and participatory vision stands in opposition to the interests of economic capitalism and therefore, the NORTH considers us “an uncommon threat to its interests” and criminalizes populist leaders, depicting them in the media as threats to “democratic stability.” The real threats to our peoples are transnational corporations and economic institutions.

Today we see the impunity with which leaders from the business and financial sector – people who have sworn fealty to capital accumulation – have been installed in the region and how practices such as “lawfare” have become mechanisms for delegitimizing progressive leaders in Latin America. Alleged cases of “corruption” camouflage summary political trials that circumvent due process, becoming genuine coups d’état, delegitimizing the popular will and the vote.

We protest in the strongest way the unilateral and arbitrary barring of Venezuela from this Summit. This decision, which was strictly political, is an assault on multilateralism and international law. It denies participation to a democratically elected Head of State while permitting and celebrating the participation of heads of genocidal governments responsible for military invasions and millions of deaths in the Middle East; Heads of State responsible for acts of corruption; Heads of State financed by narco-trafficking; and others who have collaborated in the impunity of the repressive agents of Operation Condor.

Far from weakening us, coercive diplomacy such as the unilateral measures and economic blockades imposed against Cuba and Venezuela, harden the commitment of our peoples to a sovereign and independent future. For over 500 years, we have resisted the domination of imperialist countries and

fought to build a humanity characterized by greater solidarity, justice, and equality, and we will continue staunchly down this path.

International Coalition of Organizations for Human Rights in the Americas

The International Coalition of Organizations for Human Rights in the Americas consists of 36 organizations that have worked together for over two decades to promote and defend human rights in the region. We salute the VIII Summit of the Americas for turning its attention to corruption, a phenomenon that impacts democratic institutions and the full enjoyment of human rights in all our countries.

We have witnessed with concern how public administration has been undermined through the collusion of criminal networks, lack of judicial independence, and political control of the judiciary, thus facilitating acts of corruption and impunity. Coupled with this are the particular risks to the human rights defenders that report these practices, including those who defend the earth and people in situations of special vulnerability.

We will now present some recommendations about matters that we consider vitally important for fighting corruption and respectfully request that they be considered by the States present.

1. First, we believe it essential to increase transparency and strengthen the mechanisms for accessing information with a differentiated approach. It is likewise important to reform MESICIC to make it more independent, transparent, and technically-oriented, and especially, for it to guarantee effective civil society participation. Furthermore, the States should enforce standards in the areas of ethics and probity in public administration, declarations of interests, open budgets, political financing, asset laundering, open data, transparency about real

beneficiaries, the protection of informants and journalists, etc.

2. Second, to combat corruption, the justice system should have mechanisms for prevention and internal control, early detection of risks, and a disciplinary code that guarantees preparedness to prevent co-option by organized crime. Moreover, it should enforce standards for the election of high officials, with criteria and methodologies that are merit-based, participatory, and respect the principle of equality and nondiscrimination.
3. Third, when the level of corruption precludes the possibility of a national investigative and punishment process consistent with human rights standards, the States should endorse the support and creation of hybrid mechanisms. We are specifically concerned about the threats to CICIG and MACCIH, and we call on the States to guarantee their independence and financing. We urge them to guarantee the permanence of CICIG and the tenure of its commissioner Iván Velásquez. Given the resignation of Juan Jiménez Mayor of MACCIH, we urge the OAS, in broad consultation with Honduran civil society, to elect a commissioner who meets the international standards of independence, fitness, and competence.
4. In conclusion, we have presented the concerns and recommendations that are most important to our coalition. It is essential to recognize that corruption has serious and varied consequences for different populations. Corruption demonstrably affects economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights. Indigenous peoples in particular have been the victims of projects constructed without prior consultation and free and informed consent, in addition to irregular concession and bidding procedures
5. With regard to human rights defenders, the alarming wave of threats, assaults, and assassinations affects not only their right to physical integrity but the right to do their work, which includes fighting

corruption, under secure and adequate conditions. We therefore urge the States to promote public policies to protect human rights defenders; investigate, punish, and grant reparations for these acts; and comply with the numerous recommendations of bodies of the universal system, particularly those of the inter-American human rights system.

Movement for Human Rights and Against Corruption

We, 26 American organizations of the International Federation for Human Rights, call on the States of the Americas to address the issue of corruption from a human rights standpoint. This means defending democratic institutions. Several governments are facing serious crises of legitimacy associated with acts of corruption directly related to violations of human and environmental rights. In some countries, corruption secures the inaction of the justice system or the complicity of the authorities in organized crime; in others, it fuels the appropriation of lands and the diversion of public funds; in some States, criminal gangs have even infiltrated the public sphere with the sole object of profit. We call on the States to welcome the recommendations issued by the IACHR in its resolutions on corruption and human rights, promote a culture that discourages corruption, and foster closer ties between human rights and the national and international anti-corruption frameworks.

We likewise call for:

1. The participation and real protection of civil society in anti-corruption strategies. Transparency, accountability, access to information, and participation have a correlate in the right to association, freedom of expression, and access to public information. The States must recognize the importance of the work of individuals, groups, and organizations that defend human rights and take action to fight corruption; guarantee their life, physical integrity, and an environment conducive to their work, including guarantees of freedom of the press, the right to protest, and social mobilization, making the search for, access to, and dissemination of information possible with mechanisms that guarantee inclusive approaches.
2. Strengthening of the democratic rule of law and the administration of justice. The obstacles to securing swift and effective action in the justice system are related to the lack of judicial independence; the arbitrary granting of amnesty, pardons, and immunity; the corruption of public officials, including prosecutors and judges; and the absence of guarantees for the protection of informants. We call on the States to increase the independence of the judiciary and investigative entities; to permit the participation of civil society groups in criminal investigations; to reform institutions so as to raise the political costs of corruption—for example, sanctions on political parties, longer sentences, limitations on sentence reductions and bail, etc.
3. The strengthening and expansion of transnational mechanisms to fight impunity. Operation Car Wash in Brazil and the work of the CICIG in Guatemala have uncovered webs of transnational corruption and complex crime comprised of illicit political and financial networks that have co-opted the State. We call on the States of the Americas to declare at this Summit their support for and recognition of the work and results of the CICIG and the urgency of revitalizing the MACCIH in Honduras and to endorse the creation of an international mechanism to fight impunity and corruption for Mexico. All States in the Americas should develop cooperation mechanisms that will make it possible to fight hemispheric corruption jointly, effectively, and in a timely manner.

Regional Forum for Child and Gender-related Social, Cultural, and Political Rights

We declare the importance moving forward with the implementation of IACHR Recommendation 1/18, considering corruption one of the most serious regional and global issues for democratic governance. We recommend a strategic plan of action for the region with standards, indicators, and State action that include a specific role for civil society and social stakeholders in collaboration, auditing, and oversight.

In view of the crisis of nation states and their vulnerability, given the growth of corporations, global economic factors, and transnational organized crime, there is an urgent need for regulatory bodies in the region with binding decision-making capacity in the judicial, administrative, commercial, criminal, and civil spheres, bearing in mind the digital world, its impact, and the potential of the new technologies. These factors also affect the independence of the judiciary, co-opting and undermining this branch of the State. We consider it urgent to pass new laws and establish rules for the financing of political parties, since a web of corruption is found in the relationship between the high cost of political campaigns and the concessions made to finance them, resulting in public programs, activities, or contracts that are skewed by corrupt practices.

Democratic governance requires a sharp focus on the consideration of new practices in civil society advocacy and citizen participation in public administration, including codes of ethics for public officials, public reporting, and citizen audits and oversight to prevent corruption; this must be backed by a culture of values and anti-corruption at all levels of government, with periodic evaluations by advisory bodies made up of civil society and citizens who have no political connections with them, permitting transparent action and decisions,

including evaluations and audits of the personnel that deal with providers.

Alarmed at the way corruption affects the rights of women and children as victims of trafficking, exploitation, discrimination, oppression, violence, and abuse, we demand adequately budgeted prevention measures and victim assistance. We recommend that the States respect human rights at borders, guaranteeing the respectful treatment of women and girls who have been raped and discriminated against. The #Niunamenos, #Niunamás, #VivasNosQueremos, and #MeToo movements have shined a spotlight on the urgent need for national gender policies with strategies and protocols to guarantee inclusion, prevention, and care for victims of gender violence. As the democratic principle of this century, parity is a more egalitarian basis for decision-making. Full access to education and the full exercise of rights must include sexual and reproductive health programs and policies that effectively reach women and youth, regulating the decriminalization of abortion. We underscore the importance of implementing inclusive public policies, social policies that restore citizenship status to the most vulnerable sectors by offering equality not only of opportunity but of outcomes, especially for women and children, in the educational, economic, social, cultural, and political sphere, encouraging active citizenship from early childhood on to ensure full development.

It is vital to work collaboratively, develop opportunities for dialogue, creatively improve relations between society and State, democracy and citizenship, and eradicate discriminatory sexist and patriarchal intercultural practices. Fighting corruption, meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, and implementing the 2030 Agenda in diverse and pluralistic societies require an inclusive culture in States with the consolidated rule of law. As members of civil society, we pledge our commitment, our action, and our

support for meeting this goal in this 21st century.

Population, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, and Development

Our coalition, made up of different movements of youth; indigenous women; Afro-descendants; people with HIV; people with disabilities; sex workers; Catholics; human rights, environmental, and sexual and reproductive rights defenders; feminists; and LGBTI people throughout the Americas, voices our concern about:

- The alarming increase in cases of corruption, the criminalization of protest, and the militarization of governments in the region – a situation that exacerbates the weakness and breakdown of democratic institutions, undermining the main pillar of any State: the guarantee of human rights without any discrimination whatsoever.
- The weakness of democracy in the face of a fundamentalist, anti-rights, racist offensive in the majority of countries in the region, seen in the threats against, lack of protection for, and inequality of human rights defenders, girls, adolescents, youth, women, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, women with HIV, sex workers, and LGBTI people.
- Even though gender equality is a basic obligation of the States, grounded in the principle of equality and the mandate of non-discrimination, this fundamentalist offensive against gender equality works to the detriment of sexual rights, reproductive rights, and LGBTI people, denying them access to comprehensive sex education, culturally relevant sexual and reproductive health services, the right to live free of sexual violence perpetrated with impunity, and the guarantee of access to justice without risk to the health and lives of women.
- The growing criminalization of protest and the persecution of human rights and

sexual and reproductive rights defenders, including traditional midwives. The systematic assassination of human rights defenders, such as the recently murdered Marielle Franco – black, lesbian, and feminist defender – is a clear example of this.

We therefore consider that:

- In a democratic system, respect for human rights and their guarantee without any discrimination whatsoever is fundamental. It is the States' responsibility, therefore, to make a commitment to end discrimination of any type and contribute to the eradication of all forms of inequality and violence against girls, women, youth, and LGBTI people.
- Compliance with the international standards on respect for human and sexual and reproductive rights is essential, admitting no retreat or interference by religious groups. Progress toward the guarantee and administration of secular States is therefore a basic commitment.
- Ensuring procedures for reporting, investigating, and punishing acts of corruption is fundamental, guaranteeing active monitoring and participation by civil society, establishing legal frameworks that protect whistleblowers, witnesses, and people under investigation. A genuine and effective fight against corruption and for democratic governance implies that cases like Marielle's are never repeated.

Abya Yala Indigenous Coordination

We, as representatives of the indigenous peoples, nations, and nationalities of Abya Yala, within the framework and exercise of the right to free determination and in defense of our Mother Earth, present the conclusions and proposals that we formulated during the Indigenous People's forum of the VIII Summit of the Americas, held in Lima on April 10, 2018.

Whereas:

There are approximately 826 indigenous peoples in our Hemisphere that predate the States and have lived in harmony with Mother Earth since the time of our ancestors.

Since the European invasion, we have suffered from the imposition of an economic model based on resource extraction, which has resulted in the dispossession of our lands and their systematic pillage.

The republican States were born excluding original peoples, with a policy of cultural assimilation marked by racist, genocidal, patriarchal, and unicultural practices aimed at colonizing our minds.

We are currently faced with a destructive predatory model in which corporations seek to accumulate wealth for a few, violating our rights and destroying Mother Earth through the imposition of mega resource-extraction projects, in areas such as mining, hydroelectric power, fossil fuel exploitation, logging, monoculture, and infrastructure, in the name of development, executed without prior consultation or free and informed consent.

Throughout history, our peoples have resisted and fought for respect for our free determination, autonomy, and self-government and for an end to all forms of colonialism and subordination.

We indigenous women play a key role in protecting and transmitting our cultural identities, practices, and ancestral wisdom, conserving biodiversity and defending the land and food security.

Thanks to our struggles, we have successfully influenced constitutional and international law, seen in examples such as United Nations Resolution 1514 (XV), ILO Convention 169 of 1989, the Vienna Declaration of 2003, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples of 2007, the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the doctrine and jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, instruments with which the States must comply.

The States have institutionalized corrupt policies and practices, evidenced in laws and regulations, public management and administration, and the justice system, favoring transnational corporations and violating our rights as peoples. Despite the binding obligations of the State concerning indigenous rights, criminalization of the exercise of our authority and jurisdictional functions and the defense of collective rights persists, along with assassinations, disappearances, jailing, threats, harassment, stigmatization, and other arbitrary forms of persecution.

The agreements of the six Summits of the Americas have not yielded concrete action to guarantee the full exercise of the collective rights of indigenous peoples in the member states.

We ask the following of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas:

1. That the States effectively meet their international obligations concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, adopted in the exercise of their sovereignty through treaties, precautionary measures, judgments, and other international mandates, repealing national legislation and regulations that counter these obligations.
2. That the States respect and guarantee our right to free determination, autonomy, and self-government; ways of life; development models; and plans for living and well-being.
3. That the States recognize the legal status of indigenous peoples, nations, or nationalities and their organizational structures.

4. That the State guarantee the peoples' institutional participation in the State structure at all levels, along with decision-making power.
5. That the States guarantee our right to full ownership of our ancestral territories, including the natural resources necessary for our subsistence, such as water, forests, uncultivated land, etc.
6. That the States adopt legislation, regulations, and policies to guarantee food security and food sovereignty, which includes prohibiting patents on our native seeds and products; prioritizing domestic consumption over exports; and vetoing the use of genetically modified organisms.
7. That they end policies allowing the individual parceling and titling of collectively-held territories and the fragmentation and expropriation of territories through conservation policies and the creation of protected areas.
8. That the States repeal legislation and regulations that facilitate the loss of indigenous territorial ownership through judicial mechanisms such as: "cession of forest use"; the ability to sell lands; expropriation and forced servitude; the cession of property for infrastructure projects.
9. That the States end policies of colonization, invasion of indigenous territories, and all forms of violence that particularly affect indigenous women.
10. That the States establish mechanisms for participation, consultation, and free and informed prior consent before adopting legislation and regulations, policies, programs, and measures that could affect indigenous peoples, such as concessions, permits, contracts, etc.
11. That the States guarantee effective measures to facilitate the full participation of indigenous women and youth in decision-making about public policies that could affect them.
12. That the States implement bilingual intercultural public health and education policies that incorporate the history, world view, philosophy, and ancestral wisdom [of indigenous peoples] into the process fostering decolonization and well-being.
13. That the States respect ancestral medical knowledge and practices, ways of transmitting knowledge, and cultural and artistic expressions and guarantee the means for their autonomous development.
14. That the States promote the right to indigenous media, community networks, and the use of communication technologies in our own languages.
15. That the States adopt legislation and regulations to eliminate all forms of institutional discrimination and racism.
16. That the States investigate and punish public officials and public servants involved in acts of corruption, establishing the imprescriptibility of this crime and preventing such individuals from holding public office again.
17. That, to set an example, the States investigate and punish corporations – and their officers – involved in acts of corruption, rescinding contracts secured by illegal means and preventing them from securing other public contracts or funds again.
18. That [the States] end the criminalization and stigmatization of authorities and members of indigenous peoples for exercising their authority, jurisdictional functions, and protecting their territories and other rights, repealing laws that criminalize them, halting judicial proceedings, and releasing people who have been detained.

19. That the States respect and guarantee egalitarian judicial pluralism; that is, that they respect the decisions of indigenous courts as *res judicata* and that, with the peoples' participation, they establish mechanisms for coordinating with the ordinary courts.
20. That the States promote the training of judges, prosecutors, and police to ensure that they are familiar with, respect, and value the legal systems of indigenous peoples.

In order to further the peace of all the indigenous peoples of our Abya Yala, we reject all acts of violence and arbitrary persecution, militarization, and states of emergency imposed on our peoples in Latin America. In particular, we wish to express our solidarity with our brothers and sisters:

- Of the original peoples of the district of Chahuahuacho (Aurimac) and Chulmivilcas (Cusco), currently living with a police and military presence and under a state of emergency, which we demand be lifted.
- Of the Mapuche, Awajun, Achuar, and Kichwa peoples, for the arbitrary persecution that they are suffering for defending their rights.
- Of the indigenous peoples of Venezuela, who are in the throes of a humanitarian crisis, related primarily to health and food security.
- Of the original peoples of Cajamarca, particularly Valle Laguna Azul, who have been sentenced to 10 years in prison for the alleged crime of extortion due to the exercise of their jurisdictional functions. Issued in the City of Lima on April 10, 2018.

Religion, Beliefs, and Spiritualities in Dialogue with Civil Society

Corruption is a scourge that Latin American societies have endured since the creation of the nation-states. It is an issue generally associated with the exercise of power, but in reality, touches basic aspects of social harmony and ethics. Therefore, talking about corruption implies a task that concerns all citizens, the political class, and the civil society organizations that live with this dynamic in the countries day in and day out and must deal with its structural consequences.

Corruption is an assault on the ethical values of our societies. Its evils are not linked to isolated events that compromise specific sectors but are matters that require a comprehensive approach aligned with an understanding based on a human rights perspective in which respect for human dignity and social development are paramount.

From the religious and spiritual perspective promoted by this coalition, we advocate for a broad approach to corruption. This, due to the compelling need for it to be discussed within the framework of human rights, and mainly, through the repudiation of all types of action intended to legitimize an area or position of power for one's own benefit to the detriment of the dignity of society, pluralism, and diversity. Even faith-based and spiritual institutions should perform an in-depth self-assessment of the levels of corruption in their public activities, institutional dynamics, and theological discourse, in which world views contrary to human dignity can be found

We therefore alert the States and civil society organizations to the need to consider the following to develop an inclusive and committed social ethic that addresses the ethical issues associated with corruption, especially their consequences for groups in situations of vulnerability.

1. We recognize the importance of communities of faith and voices in the public square in dealing with these issues, but at the same time we question perspectives put forward as monopolistic expressions of any faith or belief—especially Christian—that mingle particular moral positions with the totality of voices that are part of their community and other faiths. Faith is a pluralistic and diverse phenomenon with no single mode of practice and discourse to govern life, relationships, or world views of reality. Thus, we denounce groups and sectors that, in the name of faith, call for the rejection of different perspectives on gender, sexual diversity, family models, educational projects, and desirable types of society, undemocratically stigmatizing differences, and what is worse in our view, in the name of the Divine. Religions do not speak with a monopolistic voice in their own communities or in society as a whole. Even less so are they based on single views about the family, sexuality, or society.
2. One of the most sensitive issues of our time is the still-present resistance to an inclusive political agenda, where sexual diversity, sex education, and reproductive health policies are issues that can be addressed and applied with the freedom they deserve, without serving as instruments of discrimination and condemnation. Thus, we denounce the use of the widespread term “gender ideology” as an expression employed only for the purpose of condemnation and discrimination with no real foundation. Recognizing that this expression is used particularly in religious circles, we wish to state, from an alternative vision of faith and beliefs, that historically, religions have not taken monolithic positions on gender, nor do they today. Instead, there are countless aspects of theology, discourse, symbolism, and ritual where faith and religion are inclusive areas that recognize and promote difference and pluralism; this is why communities of faith are actors that can support the development of public policies in these areas.
3. A troubling situation is the growing number of femicides and cases of gender violence. Unfortunately, these issues have been normalized by the public, and very often by religious figures, who stigmatize women for their behavior and life choices. We sadly note that many governments have defunded programs for women, women who are victims of violence, and education about gender perspectives, based, in some cases, on absurd critiques of feminism. We call not only for an immediate change in public policies that affect women but also in policies in communities of faith and their stigmatizing discourse on gender roles and the “new masculinity,” since nothing is farther from the ancestral and theological perspectives in which all human beings, in their sexual fullness, are equal in the eyes of the Divine, the cosmos, the community, and their neighbor.
4. This also leads us to say that neo-conservatism and fundamentalism are not synonymous with faith. Unfortunately, many religious institutions have been vehicles for policies and models of this type, newly endorsing them from a theological perspective through a slanted interpretation of sacred texts and sermons. This has caused religion to be viewed as alien to pluralism in both society and religion itself, since dissidents are persecuted within their own communities. Hence, we say again that religious beliefs, in all their expressions, engender alternative voices and perspectives, where diversity, pluralism, commitment to sectors in situations of vulnerability, the struggle for human rights, and the inclusion of marginalized sectors are not only part of an advocacy agenda but an expression of faith itself.
5. We therefore believe that an in-depth discussion of attitudes about the secular nature of our societies and States is warranted. On the one hand, while the majority of States in Latin America claim to be secular, they are in reality still Christianity-centric, in many cases to the point of financing the very structure of the

Catholic Church – a situation that hardly reflects a healthy spirit of secularism, much less democracy. On the other hand, we also see that the voices of faith generally consulted by the governments and political class embrace the traditional and patriarchal attitudes of the hierarchy, representing conservative visions resistant to human rights agendas.

We wish to conclude by calling on the States and civil society organizations to bring alternative religious voices into the discussion of sensitive issues related to public policies and the development of a diverse and pluralistic democratic environment, so that religion cannot be linked solely to particular moralizing views. These same struggles are echoed in religion itself, which is the foundation of all the dynamics present in our societies and is comprised of many people who, motivated by their faith, are willing to mobilize and actively collaborate in the defense of inclusion, pluralism, and justice and for an ethic that resists the corruption of social relations and human dignity.

For an Inclusive and Respectful World

This coalition actively participated during the preparatory phase and in the activities that took place in the days prior to the VIII Summit of the Americas. The Summits Secretariat did not receive the coalition's contributions at the end of this report.

THEMATIC PILLAR 2: CORRUPTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

American Drug Policy Coalition for the Summits of the Americas (CAPD)

Corruption and Sustainable Development is an issue of great concern for civil society organizations as we work on drug policies from the perspective of health, human rights, and development.

Corruption, by providing incentives for a lack of transparency and impeding the

participation of various sectors of society in the planning and implementation of national and regional policies, affects sustainable development and the population's access to its rights, thus becoming an obstacle to growth. This problem is clearly reflected in the current drug policy model, the success of which is seriously challenged and that establishes a spurious alliance between the State and drug trafficking. In this regard, by declaring the production, trafficking, and use of certain drugs an illegal activity, States played a role in the upsurge in drug trafficking, the power and scope of which cannot be understood without some protection from the State, the basis of which is corruption.

In this Eighth Summit of the Americas, the agenda of the continent's presidents should not fail to include a discussion of drug policies, as they represent a development problem that must be seriously addressed by the States. We call on the region's leaders to examine the negative effects that the war on drugs has had on the sustainable development of the people of the Americas and on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights. We urge consideration of the following proposals:

- **Put an end to punitive drug policies and the resulting increase in violence in the Hemisphere:** the sustainable development goals include a substantial reduction in all forms of violence and the corresponding mortality rates throughout the world, calling on governments and communities to find sustainable solutions to conflicts and insecurity. As is widely known, a consequence of the war on drugs has been increased violence, fueling existing armed conflicts. Countries where the drug trade has been met with a militarized drug policy have often experienced an increase in mortality rates due to homicides and other crimes, including extortion and kidnapping, which criminal organizations use as sources of income.

- **Develop and adopt alternative measures to conviction and punishment for minor and/or non-violent drug-related crimes and emphasize the prosecution of drug trafficking organizations:** the deficient policies the States have adopted in this area have led to violation of the human rights of the weakest links in the illicit drug trafficking chain. Along these lines, drug users, women, youth, the poor, ethnic and racial minorities are often subject to arbitrary detention, often for minor drug offenses, while ineffective laws and enormous corruption ensure that major drug traffickers rarely end up behind bars. In addition, the punitive model promoted by the war on drugs has not resulted in a reduction in drug trafficking but rather in the multiplication, concentration, specialization, and diversification of drug trafficking organizations, fueled by impunity, corruption, and the institutional weakness of States.
- **Reduce corruption and strengthen the institutions of the State:** corruption, along with intimidation, is the dominant tool that drug trafficking organizations use to permeate public life. The many ways in which criminal organizations incapacitate or colonize governmental institutions go beyond mere administrative procedures. Corrupting electoral and political processes like campaign financing, mass media financing, and forcing governmental institutions to cede their mandates to other organizations are mechanisms that corrupt the system and incapacitate governments.
- **End the policy of forced eradication of coca, cannabis, and poppy and replace them with sustainable policies:** some of the major problems faced by our region, like the forced eradication of illicit crops, cause irreparable damage to farmers and their communities, increase poverty, promote the violation of human rights, political instability and social conflict, and often benefit armed criminal groups. A comprehensive approach should be

based on local and regional scenarios, introduce measures for comprehensive rural development, modify concentrated land tenure structures, provide access to loans and markets for alternative products, and democratic governance. Opening up markets for natural coca products and medicinal cannabis is a trend from which the region can benefit.

- **Develop drug policies from a perspective of risk and damage reduction, to include health promotion from a public health perspective:** incorporate a complete and diverse range of public health responses. Addressing the various problematic drug use situations requires various responses, especially in contexts where such use is combined with extreme poverty.
- **Eliminate barriers to the population's access to controlled medications:** excessively strict enforcement of international drug control conventions to prevent the diversion of controlled medications to illicit markets results in significant limitations on access to essential medications such as opiates to relieve pain, particularly in low- and medium-income countries.
- **Move ahead on regulation of the cannabis and coca leaf market based on regional experiences:** efforts undertaken to exercise repressive control over the production and use of drugs and state policies based on the illegality of drugs have had the undesired consequences of increasing use, production, and violence linked to these markets. Regulated production of and access to substances currently considered illegal would make it possible to wrest from criminal organizations the monopoly they now hold over those markets and that has produced violence, corruption and a lack of access to health and social services for drug users.
- **Reallocate the resources intended for militarized drug control to comprehensive policies that put**

human beings at the center: we have for decades been wasting resources on belligerent responses that have served only to multiply the cycle of violence, corruption, and criminality in our countries. Government policies that promote peace, development, healthcare, and respect for human rights are needed.

Civil society urges the States to put an end to the war on drugs and calls for a democratic and transparent discussion of the subject that takes into account the lessons learned from the past.

Interfaith Alliance for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Public ethics is a fundamental concern for faith communities. However, their participation in anticorruption efforts in the region's countries has been uneven. Many religious organizations are unfamiliar with national anticorruption programs. The Eighth Summit of the Americas is providing an opportunity for more effective involvement of the Hemisphere's various faith communities in anticorruption efforts, considering that there is a broad range of shared concerns regarding corruption's harmful effects on the poorest and most vulnerable of people. Pope Francis has complained that: "Corruption is paid for by the poor, who are deprived of that to which they are entitled in order to support the greed of the powerful... It is paid for by hospitals without medicine, patients without treatment, and children without education."

We understand that the fight against corruption is linked to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030, which include goal 16.5 of substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms. We also understand that combating corruption requires a comprehensive response that includes a human rights focus, due to corruption's disproportionate impact on those belonging to the most vulnerable

and disadvantaged groups. The recent resolution 1/18 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) considers corruption a complex phenomenon that affects human rights in their entirety – civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental – as well as the right to development, and thus also weakens governance and democratic institutions, promotes impunity, undermines the rule of law, and exacerbates inequality.

Accordingly, our coalition proposes:

- 1. Fostering values education programs** at all educational levels to promote the capacity for discernment in order to generate behaviors based on integrity, understood as coexistence founded on the values of honesty, trust, and respect;
- 2. Promoting corporate or business ethical responsibility**, including all aspects of business conduct, which relates to the conduct of both individuals and the corporation as a whole, and thus rejecting the concept that the sole responsibility of business executives, provided they obey the law, is to maximize profits from their activities;
- 3. Establishing hemispheric public integrity goals**, to include commitments at the highest political levels, institutional responsibilities in the public sector, strategic foci based on empirical data, strict standards of conduct for public officials, collaboration of society as a whole, investment in integrated investment, appropriate sanctioning mechanisms and the participation of civil society;
- 4. Strengthening the fight against illegal financing of political parties and punishing the criminal liability of those who accept or deliver**, as individuals and/or legal entities, payments derived from corruption and/or disguised through money laundering activities;

5. **Encouraging citizen participation in complaints against corruption** in all areas of public administration and in citizen monitoring of court cases on corruption in order to eradicate impunity;
6. **Improving hemispheric cooperation in criminal matters**, to include sharing legal evidence through direct collaboration among prosecutors' offices without the intervention of the executive branch and facilitating plea bargains in multiple jurisdictions;
7. **Updating the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC)** in response to the growing wave of corruption in transnational companies headquartered in other countries of the Hemisphere; and
8. **Amending the Mechanism for Follow-Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC)** to make it independent, transparent, and technical, to include the active and effective participation of civil society.

Regional Coalition for the Rights of Women and Girls with Disability

This coalition of women and girls with disability uses as a reference the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, which recognizes that we face attitudinal and environmental barriers that discriminate against us and infringe on the full exercise of our rights. In this regard and considering international human rights standards as well as an intersectionality approach, we recommend that the States:

1. Recognize the right to full legal capacity of women and girls with disability, guaranteeing the existence of a system of supports for autonomy and safeguards;
2. Systematically incorporate the perspective of disability and gender in legislation, public policies, action plans, programs, regulations, technical standards, and

protocols that concern us, guaranteeing mechanisms for our active participation in their design, implementation, and monitoring as well as a budget for their realization;

3. Guarantee due diligence for prevention, treatment, punishment, and reparation in cases of violence against women and girls with disability, including family violence, sexual violence, institutional violence, forced abortion and sterilization, economic violence, etc. Accessibility in the justice system should be guaranteed, including procedural adjustments for reporting and testifying as well as training for justice operators with emphasis on the elimination of stereotypes;
4. Recognize our integrity by ensuring free and informed consent and guaranteeing systems of supports for autonomy, particularly with respect to our sexual and reproductive rights;
5. Eradicate all forced institutionalization, practices, and treatments;
6. Generate reliable qualitative and quantitative data on the situation of women and girls with disability, broken down by sex, gender, age, ethnicity, identity, economic situation, et al.;
7. Recognize the multidimensionality of our political participation, without reducing it to elections and ensuring inclusive, quality education, access to information and freedom of opinion in organizations like this. Nothing about us without us!

LGBTTTI Advocacy in the Americas Coalition

Secretary General, Ministers, members of official delegations, civil society colleagues:

The consequences of corruption in terms of governance and sustainable development are at the root of the problems that directly affect the

Hemisphere's populations, including those with diverse sexual orientations, identities, gender expressions, and bodies.

Appealing to the will of the majority, pseudo-scientific principles, cultural values, traditional values, or religious interpretations to justify the violation of legal standards or ethical principles guaranteeing human rights with the intent of capturing popular approval in electoral contexts or for other purposes is corruption as it involves trafficking with our rights.

When corruption results in normative, legislative, and public policy reversals as well as in the establishment of restrictive boundaries on universally recognized rights, violence, discrimination, and impunity are legitimized and promoted, which in turn generates greater risk for historically discriminated against populations.

International human rights standards and principles are clear in this regard and do not allow for elusive interpretations of any kind. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in Advisory Opinion 24/17 of November 24, categorically asserts that: "the lack of consensus in some countries as regards to the full respect for the rights of certain groups or persons identified by their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression cannot be considered a valid argument to deny or restrict their human rights or to reproduce and perpetuate the historical and structural discrimination that these groups or persons have suffered."

Furthermore, the Court pointed out that the State "as guarantor of all rights, must respect and ensure the coexistence of individuals with varied identities, gender expressions and sexual orientations and, therefore, must ensure that they are all able to live and develop with dignity and the respect to which everyone has a right."

We recall that the Court's Advisory Opinion is relevant for all OAS States, not

just for the States that are party to the American Convention.

In conclusion, we urge all OAS States to comply with their international obligations of respect and guarantee for the human rights of all, without any discrimination, including the adoption of comprehensive measures to prevent, investigate, punish and adequately repair all acts of violence and discrimination committed against LGBTTTI persons.

Coalition for the Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas

Our Coalition for the Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas is made up of more than 150 national, local, regional and subregional organizations led by the Latin American Union of the Blind (ULAC) and the Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS).

Widespread corruption directly affects goods and services. When they are not quality goods and services, persons with disabilities are subject to discrimination and excluded. Resources for education, health, job promotion, employability and economic development that are misappropriated among public officials and the private sector keep the disabled from accessing inclusive quality education, inclusive quality employment, and a dignified and decent life.

Outsourcing the purchase of goods and services is a phenomenon that fuels and nurtures corruption in the disability sector. Our sector is not exempt from corruption phenomena. When resources are exhausted, the State looks aside and nongovernmental organizations have to rely on public charity.

Public policies are not inclusive. When there is a public policy on disability, no consideration is given to indicators that would make it possible to compare public investment and the results thereof.

Moreover, our legal system allows the establishment of regulatory and participatory authorities that mix governmental institutions with civil society organizations, organizations representing the disabled, corporations, and NGOs. In the event of unethical practices, these entities could impede oversight, supervision, monitoring, and autonomous follow-up by organizations representing people with disabilities.

We also have a transparency system that is not transparent. Information is not accessible and the disabled cannot autonomously and independently ascertain public investment figures, the results of public policies, the results of wellness care projects and programs, or the quality of education, health, and other services.

Based on the foregoing, we recommend that the States:

- Honor international commitments. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides all the tools needed to facilitate the participation of this group and to keep corruption from continuing to damage and affect the effective enjoyment of rights and quality of life of people with disabilities
 - We demand accessible and timely information as provided in our Convention, a concept that must be incorporated by the States
 - [We demand] the immediate recognition of our organizations as representative organizations, as true social and democratic movements that are strengthened technically and technologically, economically, and administratively to enable their participation.
 - [We demand] the creation of specialized disability audit systems that will allow us to realistically evaluate public investment against results
- We ask the States and civil society organizations to work harmoniously and jointly to eliminate all forms of discrimination and aggression that fundamentally affect children and women with disabilities.
 - There must be a new perspective with regard to persons with disabilities as they are also the victims of corruption, violence and phenomena associated with forced displacement and there is no humanitarian assistance program that emphasizes persons with disabilities
 - There is an urgent need for the budgets of every State to incorporate programs that address the needs of persons with disabilities.

Alliance against Corruption but for Sustainable Development in Central America, North America and the Caribbean

We share our concern regarding the effects of natural disasters on the ability of States to respond to the challenges of mitigating and adapting to climate change and to ensure the efficient and effective administration of international aid.

The year 2017 was a challenging year all around the world, but specifically for the coastal countries of Central America, North America, and the Caribbean. Phenomena like hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and landslides affected millions of people who need access to guarantees on their basic rights to food, housing, health, employment, etc.

This is not a new situation. For decades, our coastal populations have been exposed to the threat and risk of natural disasters. The number of victims increases each time and this requires a greater recovery effort but governments, business, and civil society seem to have less ability to address the problem.

With regard to sustainable development,

corruption is key because of the damage that the theft of public resources does to the ability of various stakeholders to respond to the growing demands.

Recommendations

1. Each government should appropriately use the funds intended for protection of the environment and actions to prevent and mitigate natural disasters and the effects of climate change.
2. The governments of the countries of the region should define a common strategic plan, emphasizing protection of the environment in order to address problems such as global warming and climate change.
3. A land use policy should be established in the various countries to allow the citizens of coastal countries and those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change to have decent housing and to deal with natural disasters. In addition, homes should be built according to appropriate construction standards.
4. The governments of the Americas should ratify the commitments assumed within the framework of the Paris Agreement (COP21) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and move forward in allocating resources and implementing actions leading to achievement of the goals outlined therein.
5. International funds should be created to prevent, deal with, and mitigate disasters in the countries that are most vulnerable to and affected by climate change, with resources provided by those countries that make the largest contribution to the causes of this phenomenon.
6. Mechanisms should be strengthened to facilitate access to public information, monitoring, and accountability with regard to both public and private resources and resources from humanitarian assistance organizations, resources that are intended

to prevent and adapt to climate change, as well as handle emergencies.

Democracy, Business and Human Rights

Esteemed members, chiefs of government delegations, members of the OAS General Secretariat and civil society.

Democracy

Democracy on our continent has evolved constantly in some countries and regressed profoundly in others, thus weakening the democratic institutionality of the branches of government, making them vulnerable to the dangers of corruption and yielding negative results for guarantees on, protection of, and respect for human rights.

Effective mechanisms are needed from the OAS to guide the States in strengthening democratic principles and the participation and proactive involvement of civil society in public policies.

The OAS should promote technical assistance to strengthen the electoral machinery in the region's countries, consistent with the principle of respect for peoples' sovereignty and self-determination, by promoting the creation of transparent electoral systems that guarantee respect for the will of the citizens.

It is concerning that fraudulent practices persist that undermine the decision of the majority of the people, given the silence and passivity of this multilateral organization.

The OAS needs to take the lead in initiating a process of cooperation among the States. The role of this organization is fundamental for promoting dialogue and strengthening human rights. The essence of this multilateral body cannot be distorted, under a proselytizing concept. It is a matter of concern that OAS resources and actions are directed to specific

countries for reasons of political and economic interest, countries that do not conform to the principles established in the OAS Charter.

Civil society should be incorporated as an active participant in strengthening the mechanisms for oversight of public policies

The OAS should take the lead in supporting the various civil society actors in electoral processes in the region, in accordance with each country's internal regulations.

Companies

The OAS should take the lead in initiating a line of research and ongoing action regarding companies' responsibility with regard to human rights, including respect for mother earth.

On this aspect, the OAS should take the lead in adopting concrete actions to support the region's governments in updating their legislation on this subject. Companies are major stakeholders in the economies of our countries, but they should be so with respect for human dignity. These actions must be consistent with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and have the technical support of the United Nations Working Group on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Businesses and Other Business Enterprises.

The States should be on the side of the population and not the interests of capital and a group of transnationals operating in the region with impunity given the lack of justice and the absence of the international system for the protection of human rights.

Issues such as equal labor conditions, gender equity, the abolition of slavery (maquilas), respect for labor rights, and respect for the environment are necessarily problems that must be addressed from the Organization of

American States. Current governments must seriously include this issue in the public agenda.

Human Rights

The evolution and progressive nature of human rights have been recognized since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. From the OAS, concrete actions have been taken that contribute to respect for those rights. Mechanisms like the inter-American system provide a forum to which civil society can come, more easily now with the development of technology, to consult, investigate or report on issues related to human rights.

Nonetheless, greater commitment is required from the member states in the financing of the system, to guarantee effective responses consistent with the needs of our peoples, and governments must make a greater commitment to the system.

The polarization experienced by the inter-American system is a matter of concern in that it compromises its impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity with regard to the evaluation of governments. For this reason, a system with greater autonomy and independence is needed given the challenges the region faces.

The OAS needs to initiate a process to reform the IACHR, incorporating new rights and issues that affect the everyday life of civil society and that are not currently taken into account. Issues such as corporate responsibility for the respect of human rights should be continuously included in the working agenda and should not be a subject for possible discussions.

The Eighth Summit of the Americas must have a firm purpose and commitment to strengthening the various democratic systems in the region with regard to human rights and governments' efforts to combat corruption and impunity.

Finally, our coalition denounces the unconventional mechanisms used in the region to weaken democratic systems and to change sovereign governments.

Mechanisms such as financial boycotts, economic blockades, unilateral sanctions, vulture funds and risk rating agencies are new unconventional warfare components that threaten peace and the integration of our region. They are criminal actions, genocides that violate development and respect for the economic, social, and cultural rights of our peoples.

A GROUP OF GOVERNMENTS in the region has adopted a double standard, contradicting the principles of the United Nations Charter and the OAS Charter. These actions are very far removed from respect for and promotion of democracy and human rights. These governments are those primarily responsible for actions that violate sovereignty, the rights of self-determination, and the very existence of our peoples.

Comprehensive Care and the Right to Health in Latin America

Corruption infringes on the right to health, life, and sustainable development in the Americas.

In the Americas lives and well-being are diminished and lost due to deficient health systems, which are the result, inter alia, of the effects of corruption, as has been recognized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights itself in resolution 1/18: "Corruption in the management of public resources jeopardizes the capacity of governments to comply with their social rights obligations, including health (..), which are essential for the realization of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights and in particular, of the most vulnerable populations and groups."

Clear examples of corruption are bad practices in governmental management,

including weak mechanisms for citizen participation, as well as in private industry with unethical directives in the field of medications, food and beverages, tobacco, alcohol, extractive industries, etc. throughout the cycle of formulation, regulation, control mechanisms, and accountability in public policies on health.

Non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases cause 5.2 million deaths each year in the Americas and one-third of them are premature and avoidable. Rare diseases tend to be chronic, degenerative and produce disability and death, in addition to the marginalization of the State. Tuberculosis is the primary cause of disease and death due to infectious disease, primarily affecting the poorest population, with 273,000 patients in the Americas and 18,500 deaths in 2016 alone.

Esteemed Presidents, we cannot continue with this situation of neglect, ineffectiveness, and corruption. To confront it, Coalition 13 proposes the following:

That the text of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, a binding treaty, considers health as a fundamental and natural right. We urge that diseases such as tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases and rare or infrequent diseases be regulated with penalties for States Parties that fail to intervene with industries or organizations that produce acts of corruption that involve impinging on the aforementioned rights.

Governance and the construction of a democratic society are based on the participation of civil society in the development of public policies, the enforcement of ethical criteria, social justice, and equity in health.

Comprehensive Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescent Care against Corruption and for Sustainable Development

In the Americas, achieving the sustainable development goals and combating corruption are linked to compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by all the member states and to various factors, including:

- Comprehensive development of early childhood, childhood and adolescence with social programs providing comprehensive care to guarantee the rights to protection, good health, and inclusive, equitable and quality education.
- Structural changes in society that facilitate full human development, care of the planet and promotion of prosperity.
- Democratic governance with public policies and strategies conducive to social and economic Development.
- Quality public investment maximizing the use of resources based on social well-being to combat corruption by promoting transparency policies.
- The targeting of various kinds of violence and social problems, security problems, missing children, femicide, delinquency, migration, displacements, armed conflicts.
- Proactive participation on the part of civil society, the media, the family and social stakeholders in partnership with the government.

To achieve these expectations, we propose five pillars of regional work:

1. Political advocacy: to review, compare, and standardize legislative frameworks and public policies that guarantee the rights of the child and use the results thereof to approve a “regional framework agreement for care and comprehensive

development of early childhood, childhood and adolescence.”

2. Training and instruction: for government managers, legislators, social agents, protection agents, recreation and culture agents, housing agents, legal affairs agents, teachers, professionals and families to strengthen capacities and skills adequate to 21st century social and economic needs.
3. Identification of lessons on comprehensive care, protection systems, health, education, and job training as efficient benchmarks for adapting them and contextualizing them for other realities.
4. Research, monitoring, and evaluation to support with solid scientific evidence the decisions, advances, and challenges in achieving the sustainable development goals and combating corruption.
5. Generation of anti-corruption strategies with adequate and transparent investment directed to guaranteeing rights that improve the quality of life and lessons learned.

The Role of Young People against Corruption and for Sustainable Development

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, Representatives of the different member states, Esteemed Secretary General of this organization:

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this forum.

As a coalition of young leaders from diverse ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds, we come from many corners of Latin America hoping to be heard. We represent 13 organizations from seven countries in the Americas, in search of the comprehensive and authentic development of our region in its social, economic and political context.

Authentic development requires putting human beings at the center of policies, regardless of the stage of their development, which means protecting human life from conception until natural death. Only in this way is it possible to guarantee that people are fully able to develop during the different stages of their lives and thus attain their fulfillment.

We, the youth of the Americas, need opportunities in which we can develop our potential and in this way contribute to the society to which we belong.

We consider it important to address the following points in order to achieve sounder economic, social, and political development for our societies:

- The formation of future generations of leaders. The States must invest in scholarships and courses for the formation of new leaders, as today one of the greatest problems afflicting our societies is the lack of opportunities for young people with great potential for developing their skills and capabilities in order to dedicate them to the service of society.
- The States must dedicate and invest their resources in meeting young people's most basic needs such as job creation, access to education, security, and equal opportunity in order to achieve true development. Primary needs include strengthening the family, in that the family is the setting in which the young people who will be society's future citizens are developing.
- As young people, we need the support of our governments to have access to education, the only medium that gives us the tools for better opportunities in the future. Because education plays a transcendental role in the development of men and women in the Americas, so they can be free, they must be given real opportunities to access a suitable quality education.

- It is corruption that destroys the future opportunities that we young people need for our development. It corrupts youth from an early age and destroys their lives by submerging them in addictions that subject them to inhumane living conditions. Education in values like respect, solidarity, honesty is necessary to combat corruption but along with this the necessary opportunities must be created to give young people a reason to live. Excellencies, although it is true that young people want to work to improve the conditions of today's society, they need to begin focusing the work they do in their jobs on protection for youth and creating opportunities and programs that support the development of the potential of our countries' future leaders.

THEMATIC PILLAR 3: ASPECTS OF COOPERATION, INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Citizen Forum of the Americas

The **Citizen Forum of the Americas**, a hemispheric body for dialogue, coordination, and advocacy among civil society organizations and social stakeholders in the Americas, is made up of 23 organizations that joined together to participate in the Eighth Summit of the Americas. Since its formation, it has conducted various information dissemination activities, discussion forums, exercises following up the mandates from previous summits, dialogue with public authorities in our countries, as well as other activities in which it has gathered common demands and recommendations from the region's civil society organizations.

Recommendations

We believe that the recommendations we present below may provide the basis for important commitments for the peoples of the Hemisphere. We prioritize and

highlight citizen involvement in public decisions to combat corruption.

Corruption is an activity with global reach that is associated with other illegal activities, fueling criminal networks that generate significant flows of capital that are laundered through tax havens and off-shore mechanisms. Prevention and political and economic – not just police and judicial – policies for eradicating corruption must be systematic, comprehensive, and coordinated among the member states of the inter-American system.

In this regard, we recommend:

1. That the States promote the active participation of civil society in citizen oversight/supervision of:
 - Public spending in all spheres (local, regional, national).
 - Investigations of specific cases of corruption.
 - Legislative reforms.
 - Approval of tenders (independent administration of public works).
2. That the anti-corruption fight have no borders. Someone who is investigated or punished for corruption should not be able to find protection in third countries.
3. Creating a financial warning system between receiving and source countries when bank accounts are opened belonging to persons or companies that are the subject of complaints or an open investigation in which they may prove to be suspects.
4. Strengthening, coordinating and interconnecting the countries' financial intelligence units.
5. Improving the mechanisms for control of financial flows, severely punishing money laundering and corruption crimes.
6. Establishing international cooperation mechanisms for joint investigations and information-sharing on companies being investigated or involved in corruption proceedings, with the participation of civil society.
7. Promoting research, systematization, exchange of experiences, dissemination of good practices and successful cases in combating corruption at different levels, with the participation of civil society in those actions.
8. Establishing flexible and interconnected mechanisms (easily accessed public virtual platforms) for social surveillance of policies facilitating the eradication of corruption and for reporting crimes of corruption.
9. Standardizing the criteria and the action framework of bodies charged with combating corruption and promoting integrity in each public agency.
10. Incorporating transparency criteria (in public consultation, budgets, and accountability) and citizen surveillance of public-private partnerships as institutional policy of the States and multilateral organizations.

Finally, we recommend establishing a system to follow up the Lima Action Plan that incorporates representatives from civil society organizations based on a criterion of parity, interculturality, and diversity.

International Networks Saving Lives in Response to Human Trafficking

Trafficking and corruption in democratic processes

Human trafficking is an evil that affects thousands of persons in the Americas, particularly women and children. Despite these alarming figures, it continues to be one of the crimes with the most impunity, with extremely low prosecution rates due

to the lack of capacities among justice operators and ignorance regarding this crime. The lack of active public policies on handling this issue within the official structures means that services often fall to organized civil society.

It should be emphasized that programs for victims and witnesses are ineffective, in that the accusers sometimes face their exploiters. The corruption of public officials is a key point: border agents turn a blind eye in exchange for bribes; others fail to exercise the proper controls at operational sites when bribes are paid. Given this scenario, activists demand action from inter-American justice.

The numbers on human trafficking in the Americas are frightening. According to data submitted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) by RATT International, between 2007 and 2017, 50,166 victims were recorded in 14 countries of the region. The fog surrounding the available figures could mean a substantial increase in the number of cases. It is the crime with the most growth in the region. Corruption fuels this reality and robs women, men, boys, girls, and adolescents of their lives. Human trafficking affects more than 40 million people worldwide.

In particular, indigenous peoples, border populations or migrants are often not identified as trafficking victims by the States, since these vulnerable sectors do not succeed in reporting their cases.

The failure to combat corruption and organized crime represents a threat to the security of States. Drug trafficking and human trafficking cannot and will not ever be agents of genuine growth of economies; rather, on the contrary, they end up destroying economies, concentrating wealth and impoverishing and enslaving the population.

Afro-Descendant Movement in the Americas Coalition

Within the context of the Eighth Summit of the Americas on “Democratic Governance against Corruption,” the Afro-Descendant Coalition, with more than 136 members representing more than 350 million people in the region and reaffirming the theme of the International Decade for People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development and the 2030 Agenda, considers it important to:

Condemn corruption and we demand that the States provide greater oversight and participation mechanisms for the ethical use of resources intended for Afro-descendant peoples, in that this impacts the absence or implementation of public policies and affirmative actions.

Recognizing the persistence of racial discrimination, we demand of the States: constitutional recognition as peoples; implementation and sustainability of affirmative actions and public policies with allocation of sufficient resources, creation and strengthening of institutions with technical, financial, and administrative autonomy for serving Afro-descendant peoples. In addition, we demand the signing and ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Racism – Resolution AG/68.

We demand that Afro-descendent peoples be involved in actions to prevent and deal with natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

As guarantors of human rights, the States should incorporate the demands of women, girls, boys, adolescents, youth, older adults, the disabled, migrants, stateless persons, LGBTI persons, and Afro-descendants within the programs, plans and policies they have been implementing in the area of development and poverty alleviation, as well as the creation of areas that are relevant in terms of ethnicity/race, gender identity

and sexual orientation in bodies such as human rights ombudsman's offices.

Recognizing systematic violence in the form of murders, threats and harassment, as well as hate crimes against male and female Afro-descendant leaders, we demand that the States take on the commitment to record, investigate, punish, and publish human rights violations against our people and guarantee reparation of the damage done to the victims of these discriminatory actions.

We demand that the States create a Permanent Forum of Afro-descendants in the OAS and other multilateral bodies, and the Economic Development Fund of Afro-descendants therein, in addition to guaranteeing representation and effective participation in the various integration systems in our States.

We demand that the States collect official disaggregated statistical data guaranteeing self-identification and self-determination, incorporating this data in all administrative systems of public bodies.

Social Actors Partnering with International Institutions to Advance to More Just Societies

We appreciate the opportunity provided to express our position. Our voice represents more than 60 organizations in 15 countries of the Americas that were not given the opportunity to have their own coalition. We regret that the voice of those who attend to the needs of the population, which in principle is the responsibility of the States, is given less of a hearing every day and we lament the lack of transparency in the process of selection carried out by the Government of Peru.

Corruption is affecting our societies at all levels. The discussion of corruption cannot be limited to influence peddling, bribes, or abuses of power. Corruption also occurs when institutions fail to respect the legal framework under which

they were created, seeing to their own particular interests. In this sense, we are concerned by the actions of the Secretary General, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the International Commission on Human Rights and other OAS institutions that have strayed from the mandate authorized by the States and continue to assume powers that were not granted to them, undermining in this way the internal democratic processes of the States.

We represent the voice of millions of people in Latin America who have noted undue interference of the institutions of the inter-American system, through the imposition of policies that infringe on the rights to life and family and threaten the right of expression of those of us who defend those rights. We also view with great concern the expansive interpretation of the international instruments that make up the inter-American system of human rights, which has led its institutions to consolidate doctrines and practices contrary to the law. The potential that international organizations like the OAS have, working together with the States and civil society organizations, within a framework of adherence to the law, represents the best path for achieving the true development of society. However, when one of these actors exceeds its mandate, it falls into the process of corruption that promotes the ungovernability and instability of States by weakening the people's self-determination.

Focusing on the satisfaction of more basic needs such as food, potable water, access to basic medications, education, and other needs is the first step in being able to achieve sustainable development. This is the approach on which the OAS and the governments should be working.

We maintain, based on studies and experience, that the most effective way to guarantee the development of our societies in response to the scourge of corruption is through empowerment of the

family as the basic nucleus of society. Strengthening the family means strengthening future citizens who with education will cooperate in the development of stronger economies that are able to combat the problems of poverty, corruption, and violence. However, none of this is possible if the human right to life is not respected from conception, the first right without which no other right can exist.

We view with much concern the constant attacks of the inter-American human rights system on national laws that protect life and the family, contradicting the will of the people who constantly express their defense of these rights.

To conclude, we call upon our representatives and officials in each of the member states to exercise their obligation to defend the country they represent, its laws and its people against the attacks of these institutions that threaten democratic governance, the self-determination of peoples and true human rights.

Transparency, Human Rights, and Participation through ICTs for Better Governance and Citizenship

In summary, we propose amending or adding a paragraph to Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to read as follows:

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

“In our efforts to achieve the universal enjoyment of human rights, with dignity and justice, we recognize as universal values: transparency and integrity in functions of the State and operation of the market. A new world economic order must be constructed, through the commitment to build in each signatory country a transparent market and a transparent

state that in compliance with the right to be informed, shall inform its citizens at the beginning of each year on the source and use of public resources to be used by local governments. Based on a new social and international order, globally and locally, each year we shall achieve better results in our Sustainable Development Goals and construct resilient societies in urban and rural communities.”

According to figures from the United Nations, by 2050, 7.3 billion people or nearly 70% of the world’s population will reside in the cities, and 90% will do so in the emerging countries. There can be no open government without transparency regarding the source and use of public resources and the empowerment of preventive citizen participation against corruption. Only in this way will we achieve the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The amendment we propose entails commitments to be met, in a context of respect for human rights, social inclusion, and gender equality, requiring information and communication technologies (ICTs). One of the most important is for local governments to preventively combat corruption. In aspects related to cooperation, international institutional frameworks and public-private partnerships, the governments in power should set up intelligence systems in coordination with competent bodies to be installed in each country under the supervision of the OAS. They should also strengthen the efficiency of community telecenters and digital inclusion on relevant and diverse topics and promote from the outset the active participation of small entrepreneurs. This means that by informing and communicating as universal values transparency and integrity for children, we shall build better humans and citizens who will better enjoy their youth in creative solidarity in harmony with the ecology and social peace. Citizen participation should be empowered in strategic alliances with governmental and

academic institutions that strengthen democratic governance, federalism, the separation of powers, the party system, relations between majorities and minorities, periodic elections, and alternating governments. With great support from ICTs, transparency and integrity will be common practice in public bidding and government procurement systems and the democratic counterweights against potential human rights violations will be more efficient. Today, in the ICTs and in governments, they have been aligning agendas in favor of more transparency and better governance, more access to information and greater democracy in general.

As we well know, we are in an era in which technology is advancing more rapidly than we can grasp. This opens up a mountain of possibilities for making processes such as elections, etc. much more transparent through the use of new technologies like Blockchain. This lends authenticity and validity to information through databases that cannot be altered and also incorporate applications like my society, which are widely accepted by many governments and are currently (according to information that they themselves provide) used by more than 40 countries worldwide. E-democracy is already among us. However, governments should improve it.

SUMMARY PRESENTED BY YOUNG AMERICAS BUSINESS TRUST (YABT)



V YOUNG AMERICAS FORUM

Presented by: Verónica Portugal Chávez. México



1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- The youth considers corruption an anti-value, and transparency is the value that can prevent it. We reject this punishable phenomenon that promotes the abuse of power, threatens human rights and democratic governance in the region. The best individual and collective ways to promote transparency and prevent corruption are citizen audits and oversight, as well as the creation of spaces for participation in public decision-making. We, as young people, commit ourselves to embrace and promote democratic values, best practices and have an active and constant participation in civic life.
- We are also committed to generating multisectoral alliances in the public and private sector in this matter. We demand that governments, private companies and civil society act morally to give continuity to this declaration and thus not only have

a better present, but also plant a sustainable seed in future generations.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Sustainable development aims at a better quality of life, in the present and in the future. In this sense, we must focus our efforts to change from the basic pillars such as human rights and the rights of nature. It is fundamental to recognize ourselves as the mega diverse region that we are. Respecting diversity, without discrimination, requires reclaiming the rights of indigenous peoples as well as taking decisive actions in the mitigations and adaptation to climate change.
- We have the right to peace, as well as to free, accessible and quality education in our daily lives; to equity and global justice. We, as leaders and potential decision-makers, must participate in sustainable development actively, generating a better ecosystem for current and future living beings. One of our goals is to produce changes in our and in future generations by considering ethical values in decision-making through active and inclusive citizen participation mechanisms.
- Young people demand a balance between planning and doing, so we invite our authorities and members of organizations present today to be part of the change in favor of the citizens of the Americas,

having the youth as partners through the implementation of their sustainable ventures, and mobilizing support to have greater technical and financial resources for the adaptability and positive impact of the initiative related to this matter.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Partnerships

- A very important issue is the alliance between different public or private institutions with youth organizations. Therefore, we urge the creation of an inclusive Youth Ministry with decision-making power, which would work transversally with the different institutions of each State, as a channel and platform to centralize the goals and indicators among youth, governments and the private sector, a way to nourish the common objectives of the Hemisphere.
- In the case of those countries that have this institution, the contributions must be aligned and strengthened. This way, we can join efforts with young people and youth support organizations, so they can also contribute to economic development and social innovation projects that have a positive impact on the mandates of the Summit and youth citizen participation.



EIGHTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS TRADE UNION DECLARATION



In the framework of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, the Hemisphere's trade union movement, represented by its organization, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA-CSA), and the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor of the Organization of American States (IACML/OAS), meeting in Lima, Peru, on April 11, 2018, to consider and debate the situation of workers of the Americas, adopt this "Declaration of COSATE – TUCA-CSA before the Eighth Summit of Heads of State of the Americas."

"Democratic Governance against Corruption": the vision of workers of the Americas

Democratic governance from the perspective of workers of the Americas must be based on the idea of consolidating democracy and the real mechanisms for its governance.

This requires the participation of society in decisions as a guarantee for their effective implementation and to protect it from violence, war, militarism, crime, and

other scourges that are at the root of institutionalized corruption.

We stress that democratic governance must provide social justice, promote freedom of association and collective bargaining, ensure equality between genders, and generational and ethnic groups, and lead to overcoming inequalities and asymmetries that affect our region.

The slogan under which this Summit has been convened, **"Democratic Governance against Corruption"**, faces a complex regional scenario, the principal characteristics of which are the radicalization of conservative, anti-democratic agendas, with economic and political programs that hark back to periods we believed the region had already left behind and whose impacts affect most social and working-class sectors, but particularly the most vulnerable: women, youth, ethnic groups, migrants, impoverished sectors, human rights defenders, and other social leaders.

The objectives of the Eighth Summit express a marked contradiction and cynicism as they fly in the face of reality. Indeed, the alleged fight against corruption is used to undermine the foundations of democracy and limit its mechanisms, imposing agendas that are far from the needs of the people.

From the trade union movement, we condemn corruption as a phenomenon that structurally erodes our societies and democratic institutions, enjoys impunity, and misappropriates significant resources that should be used for overcoming serious inequalities and asymmetries that

violate the political, economic, social, and environmental rights of thousands of people from all sectors, particularly the working class.



Corruption is useful for the dominant economic system inasmuch as it allows billions of dollars to be appropriated by a handful of groups of public and private actors and diverted to tax havens, using other unlawful financial instruments, without effective mechanisms to fight and punish this. Furthermore, it imposes rules that support the neoliberal model which is the major beneficiary of the pillaging of national resources and appropriation of millions of peoples' work.

One of the most harmful and widespread corrupt practices is the diversion of resources by large companies and economic groups through tax evasion and avoidance. These practices are not decried by large media outlets, nor are they prosecuted by police or judicial institutions; this demonstrates the fake moralism of those who hold power, flouting their mandate to exercise democratic governance. We, the workers, are pushing for tax justice because we are convinced that appropriate regulation, transparency, and accountability always have an impact on the distribution of wealth so as to attain decent work and reduce poverty and inequality in all its forms.

We, the workers, are fighting against corruption, both of the corrupt as well as

the corrupters, wherever they may be from. We, the workers, are combatting the structural causes of corruption and the legal engineering of the political system that is established to perpetuate corruption as a form of domination and exploitation.

We note, however, that the fight against corruption can be used in a biased and politicized manner, as is occurring in some countries, in order to thwart political rivals, prosecute and criminalize some sectors, and conceal and further corruption committed by others.

We, the workers, do not want the battle cry against corruption to be used to silence or conceal peoples' other fundamental problems.

We reject the manipulative idea that corruption is the region's main problem and we will not lend ourselves to having it used as the "new enemy," as was previously done with communism or drug trafficking.

The most serious case of derailing the "anti-corruption" fight can be seen in Brazil, where former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was imprisoned without any crime having been proved, thus violating legal instruments, the constitution, and his legitimate right to defense, with the clear intention of denying him his political rights and stopping him from participating in the 2018 presidential elections.

Lula's persecution is the most scandalous crime being committed against democracy in the name of the "fight against corruption," together with the parliamentary, judicial, and media coup d'état against President Dilma Rousseff, which has enabled implementation of an anti-working class, anti-national agenda at the service of economic interests.

Lula is innocent and we therefore consider him a political prisoner. In an exercise of solidarity, we call for an international struggle until we obtain his release.

Given the region's current situation, the possibility of equitable globalization with social justice is ever more elusive

Technological changes, transformations in methods of production, and the oversized influence of the financial system with the resulting insistence on structural adjustment policies and labor deregulation has led to stark asymmetries between countries, with competitiveness accomplished solely by diminishing workers' rights.

This financialization of the economy triggers massive loss of employment and precarious working conditions that lead to impoverished workers bereft of rights, for whom work is no longer a guarantee of social integration. We note that public services (education, health, social security, provision of water, etc.) are being weakened to justify their privatization.

The "new" neo-liberal wave in the region is based on the entrenchment of the rationale behind free trade and investment treaties, whose real effects are widely known by the trade union movement. The economic agenda of the right in power is strengthened with increasing trade liberalization, greater guarantees for capital, greater labor flexibilization, and further cuts to social policies.

Large companies, and in particular multinationals, continue to be the greatest beneficiaries of these economic policies. Multinationals are favored by policies to attract foreign direct investment which, without significant costs to themselves, hand over development of natural resources, create limited and unstable jobs, and offer special tax-exempt regimes, allowing them to wield political influence to change social and environmental legislation that is unfavorable to their business dealings. This economic, legal, and legislative influence mechanism that multinationals use is one of the factors contributing to major corruption in our countries, which

destabilizes democracy and undermines the capacity of States to exercise their functions.

In a short period of time Latin America and the Caribbean has gone from being a region that presented itself as an area for regional integration, cooperation among countries, economic complementarity, and solidarity among peoples and nations, to again being an area under the influence of colonial interests and pro-imperialist agendas at the service of transnational capital. The alternative integration initiatives, like the Union of South American Nations (USAN) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), are being blocked because several governments and the interests that support them prefer realignment with the agenda of US interests, instead of promoting initiatives for regional sovereignty that favor development, democratic consolidation, and peace.

We express our concern for the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and condemn the manner in which groups of governments with specific interests run roughshod over international institutional frameworks to further actions to interfere in a sovereign democratic State and create a climate of instability, confrontation, and violence among its people.

We reject the adoption of blockade measures that harm the Venezuelan people—sanctions and other economic, financial, and diplomatic measures—because they violate international law and worsen the deteriorating social, economic, and political situation of the Venezuelan people. We demand respect for the sovereign decisions of its people, by means of the instruments and democratic institutional framework provided for in its national constitution.

We condemn the external interference in this country and demand a responsible commitment on the part of the governments of the region to democracy,

peace, sovereignty without exclusions, thus promoting effective understanding among different political actors and favoring dialogue and negotiation.

Trade unionism in the Americas and its commitment to democracy, justice, and true integration.

The Hemisphere's trade union movement reiterates its position as an active social and political actor of democracy.

We maintain that the exercise of democracy or governance is not possible in a region that continues to be the most unequal in the world despite its wealth and the effort of millions of men and women who work.

We reject economic and political authoritarianism that seeks to impose the minority [will] on the majority as a means to resolve the serious problems of the region. It will not be walls, be they real or virtual, which stop millions of human beings on the Continent from yearning for dignity and justice. We categorically reject the criminalization of migrant workers and decry the militarization of borders.

The free exercise of all democratic freedoms and all economic, political, social, environmental, and cultural rights is vital. In this regard, the States have the responsibility to ensure their effective realization, in an environment of peace, understanding, respect, and inclusion. Every person—women, men, youth, ethnic groups, and other mainstream social groups—must be visible and their voices must be included in all decisions that concern them.

We, the workers, are suffering setbacks in the institutions of law in our region, which affects our peoples and must be reversed in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. We maintain our aspirations regarding transparency in the exercise of politics, freedom of expression, a judiciary that is independent

from political power and the power of large corporations, and a strengthening of freedom of association and social dialogue as the corner stones of democracy.

TUCA-CSA expresses its support for and solidarity with the Peruvian people and trade union movement that have mobilized nationwide to protest against corruption and the pacts of impunity that seek to entrench themselves in institutional frameworks.

We welcome the convening of the Summit of the Peoples as an expression of the sovereign, democratic exercise of legitimate representation of the interests, aspirations, and desires of the diversity that we represent as peoples of the Americas.

Trade Union Technical Advisory Council of the IACML-OAS (COSATE)

Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA-CSA)

PRESENTATIONS BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS DURING THE PLENARY OF THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS



PRESENTATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS - CECILIA RAMÍREZ (CEDEMUNEP)

Good morning. On behalf of civil society, I present the recommendations made by each of the coalitions⁷. We urge States to commit to:

Coalitions 1, 16, and 17:

Recognizing the role of the inter-American human rights system, especially the Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (ESCER) and Freedom of Expression, in combating corruption, and adopting the recommendations contained in Resolution 1.18 (IACHR); recognizing and guaranteeing protection for human rights defenders in the Americas; and supporting transregional mechanisms for combating impunity and corruption. Thirty words per coalition is not participation. Lastly, we hereby transmit a demand by the peoples of the Americas to their corrupt authorities: Stop Robbing!

Coalition 2:

Upholding our constitutional right to be informed; better outcomes of the 2030 agenda; transparency in smart systems for preventing and fighting corruption;

open justice; Blockchain in open government processes.

Coalition 3:

Guaranteeing transparent budgets, with public participation and subject to oversight; making government procurement and political party financing transparent, and respecting the right to access to information, with open data.

Coalition 5:

Acknowledging that the war on drugs is ineffective, impairs governance, and leads to an increase in drug trafficking and democratic instability. We urge putting an end to the punitive approach and replacing it with policies that promote peace and respect for human rights.



Coalition 6:

Working with effective participation by civil society, i.e. those of us who spend 365 days in the year with survivors and their families.

⁷ El documento fue producto de un ejercicio manejado por las coaliciones. Las 28 coaliciones fueron invitadas a presentar su párrafo para efectos de esta presentación y 22 de éstas enviaron sus insumos, los cuales fueron finalizados y acordados el 12 de abril de 2018 entre los coordinadores de las mencionadas 22 coaliciones. Para conocer la lista de las coaliciones oficiales, visite el siguiente enlace: bit.ly/CoalitionsSummitPeru.

Coalitions 7 and 28:

Abiding by their constitutions and the will of their peoples to counter overreach by the Inter-American Commission and Court, which is a threat to the family, marriage, and the unborn child, because it involves imposing abortion and gender ideology in the Americas. Men and women, being both different and complementary to one another, form strong families and prosperous nations.

Coalition 8:

Replacing the term “sustainable development” with “human development.” When the human person is the *raison d’être* and engine of development, society has the indispensable basis for the common good.

Coalition 9:

Encouraging education in values in both public and private teaching programs, to promote judgment and foster conduct based on integrity, social coexistence based on honesty, trust, respect, and the truth.

Coalition 10:

Reflecting in greater depth on the notion of the lay State, from a pluralist religious perspective and opening up opportunities for dialogue with religious sectors linked to public policies on human rights.

Coalitions 11, 12, 19, and 23:

Recognizing that corruption prevents the exercise and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly for persons with disabilities (especially women and girls), LGBTTT and intersex persons, sex workers, persons with HIV, women deprived of liberty, Afrodescendants, the indigenous, girls, adolescent women and young people.

We ask that assurances be provided for the promotion of citizen participation and access to information, that governments recognize the right to universal legal capacity and guarantee the existence of systems, mechanisms, and safeguards to support people’s autonomy.

We need measures to guarantee gender equality and nondiscrimination; sexual and reproductive rights; access to comprehensive sex education and inclusive and culturally sensitive sexual and reproductive health care; the eradication of violence; and access to justice.

Coalition 20:

Recognizing that eliminating structural racism requires establishing administratively and financially autonomous government agencies to develop policies and affirmative action on behalf of Afrodescendent peoples.

Coalition 21:

Recognizing that meeting sustainable development goals entails providing comprehensive care in early childhood and for children, adolescents, and the family; as well as political lobbying, training, protection, and an evaluation of anti-corruption policies and strategies.

Coalition 22:

Alarmed at the harm done by corruption to the rights of women and children, as denounced by the #niunamenos #niunamas #metoo movement, we stress the urgent need for public gender policies throughout the Americas.

Coalition 24:

Acknowledging that we indigenous peoples call upon the OAS to establish an Indigenous Secretariat with a budget of its own, to oppose the criminalization of indigenous peoples for defending our territories and to advance our self-determination.

Coalition 25:

Establishing a system for following up on the Lima Commitment that involves the participation of representatives of civil society organizations, chosen in accordance with parity and respect for intercultural values and diversity.

Coalition 27:

Financial capital is the greatest source of corruption, particularly when it penetrates the upper echelons of political power, whether fraudulently or via elections. The solution is respect for the sovereignty of the people.

PRESENTATION BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Statement by Mrs. Ketty Marcelo

On behalf of the Abya Yala Indigenous peoples, we state as follows:

The activities of the VIII Summit of the Americas opened with the Forum of Indigenous Peoples, who are to be dealt with as people entitled to rights rather than as objects of assistance. Our Hemisphere has the world's greatest cultural diversity, with approximately 826 indigenous peoples who were here before states and have lived in harmony with Mother Earth since the time of our ancestors. Our indigenous women among us play a critical role in protecting and transmitting our cultural identities, ancestral practices and wisdom, biodiversity conservation, territorial defense, and food security.

Democratic governance is impossible without full participation of indigenous peoples. Corruption cannot be defeated without us keeping a watchful eye on the actions of states and businesses.



We therefore propose:

For democratic governance:

- That states should actually fulfill their international obligations concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, including treaties, precautionary measures, judgments, and other international mandates they undertook in exercise of their sovereignty; and repeal domestic rules that are contrary to such obligations
- That states respect and guarantee our right to self-determination, autonomy and self-government, ways of life, development models, livelihood, and “living well.”
- That states recognize the legal personality of indigenous peoples, nations, or nationalities and their own forms of organizing
- That states ensure that indigenous peoples can participate in institutions within the structure of the state, at all levels, and with decision-making authority.

For the sake of government-planned and executed development, they have dispossessed us of our lands and territories. This is not a speech, nor is it a figure of speech but reality. So, from Canada all the way to Tierra del Fuego, our livelihood and our “living well” vision has been affected ever since the European invasion over 500 years ago, with lives and Pacha Mama put at risk. We therefore demand that states ensure our right to own all ancestral lands, including the natural resources we need for survival – such as water, forests, unproductive land, etc. **We demand an end to the plundering of our lands and territories through government and private plans, programs, or projects that threaten the life of Mother Earth.**

We are also demanding that our movements and our local and national leadership not be criminalized or

persecuted for defending our rights and our lands. To enhance peace for all our Abya Yala indigenous peoples, we reject all acts of violence and arbitrary persecution, militarization, and states of emergency to which our peoples in Latin America have been subjected.

In Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, we took an important step for our peoples at the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, when the member states adopted the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. And today, at the VIII Summit of the Americas, in Lima, Peru, we are demanding that the Organization of American States create a Secretariat for Indigenous Peoples, with its own budget. Its initial purpose would be to implement the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We also call upon the governments and heads and heads of state to immediately implement and fulfill the Plan of Action, ensuring that it is provided appropriate budget in each of our countries.

With regard to Corruption:

We, the indigenous peoples, condemn, repudiate, and denounce all acts of corruption by governments at the various levels, insofar as they have violated our rights and have orchestrated the plundering of our lands and territories.

The violation of our rights is evident in the ongoing bids, concessions, and granting of licenses for various megaprojects to be carried out on our lands and in our territories without prior, free, and informed consent in good faith, as required under International Labour Organization Convention 169, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other international instruments signed and ratified by the parties concerned.

We demand that states officially investigate and punish officials and public servants involved in acts of corruption, establishing this crime as not subject to any statute of limitations and for corrupt individuals not to be able to return to serve in public office.

We demand furthermore that, to set an example, states investigate and punish companies -and their owners- that are involved in acts of corruption, revoking ill-gotten contracts, and ensuring that they can never again benefit from public contracts or public funds.



Finally, we wish to remind you that we, the indigenous peoples, will keep a watchful eye on all actions or omissions in the performance of your responsibilities.

Sincerely yours,
Abya Yala Indigenous Peoples

PRESENTATION BY YOUTH

Spokeperson: Rosario del Pilar Díaz GaravitoS.



- Your Excellence, Martin Vizcarra, President of Peru.
- Your Excellence, Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States.
- Distinguished Head of States, Presidents and Prime Ministers.

Good Morning, my name is Rosario del Pilar Díaz Garavito, a young Peruvian, social entrepreneur and founder of The Millennials Movement organization.

Today I have the responsibility and great honor to share with you the recommendations and proposals report developed by the youth, as a result of the V Young Americas Forum, an official youth participation process in its capacity as official social actor in the process of the Summit of the Americas, organized by the Young Americas Business Trust.

The Young Americas Forum welcomed more than five thousand young people from the 35 OAS Member States, representing a diverse array of groups in the region, including young people from rural areas, young indigenous, young Afro-descendants, LGBTQ youth, youth living in humanitarian crisis, young

migrants, young entrepreneurs and social leaders, young members of political parties, students, and many others, who work hard with the support of different actors and with their own resources managed the execution of 110 local, national, regional and hemispheric dialogues, both onsite and virtual, in the frame VIII Summit of the Americas.

Next, I will summarize the results,

1. Democratic Governance and Corruption

- The youth considers corruption an anti-value, and transparency is the value that can prevent it. We reject this punishable phenomenon that promotes the abuse of power, threatens human rights and democratic governance in the region. The best individual and collective ways to promote transparency and prevent corruption are citizen audits and oversight, as well as the creation of spaces for participation in public decision-making. We, as young people, commit ourselves to embrace and promote democratic values, best practices and have an active and constant participation in civic life.
- We are also committed to generating multisectoral alliances in the public and private sector in this matter. We demand that governments, private companies and civil society act morally to give continuity to this declaration and thus not only have a better present, but also plant a sustainable seed in future generations.

2. Corruption and Sustainable Development

- Sustainable development aims at a better quality of life, in the present and in the future. In this sense, we must focus our efforts to change from the basic pillars such as human rights and the rights of nature. It is fundamental to recognize ourselves as the mega diverse region that we are. Respecting diversity, without

discrimination, requires reclaiming the rights of indigenous peoples as well as taking decisive actions in the mitigations and adaptation to climate change.

- We have the right to peace, as well as to free, accessible and quality education in our daily lives; to equity and global justice. We, as leaders and potential decision-makers, must participate in sustainable development actively, generating a better ecosystem for current and future living beings. One of our goals is to produce changes in our and in future generations by considering ethical values in decision-making through active and inclusive citizen participation mechanisms.
- Young people of the Americas demand a balance between planning and doing, so we invite our authorities and members of organizations present today to be part of the change in favor of the citizens of the Americas, having the youth as partners through the implementation of their sustainable ventures, and mobilizing support to have greater technical and financial resources for the adaptability and positive impact of the initiative related to this matter.

3. Aspects of Cooperation, Institutional Frameworks and Public-Private Alliances

- A very important issue is the alliances between different public or private institutions with youth organizations. Therefore, we urge the creation of an inclusive Youth Ministry with decision-making power, which would work transversally with the different institutions of each State, as a channel and platform to centralize the goals and indicators among youth, governments and the

private sector, a way to nourish the common objectives of the Hemisphere.

- In the case of those countries that have this institution, the contributions must be aligned and strengthened. This way, we can join efforts with young people and youth support organizations, so they can also contribute to economic development and social innovation projects that have a positive impact on the mandates of the Summit and youth citizen participation.

Rosario del Pilar Díaz Garavito

Young Americas Forum



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