



**International awards:
recognising excellence
in Collective Action**

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International awards: recognising excellence in Collective Action

The Collective Action Awards were established in 2022 to recognise best practice in the fields of anti-corruption and business integrity. Designed to highlight new and well-established initiatives, these awards serve as a platform to showcase innovation, foster motivation among practitioners and drive the wider adoption of Collective Action as an effective tool for preventing corruption and ensuring fair market conditions and integrity practices.

“In a globalised world the approaches, strategies and tactics brought to bear in the fight against corruption have a host of similarities and overlaps. Honouring Collective Action showcases those who have already stepped into the fray and are engaging, informed by principles of solidarity and lessons that can be shared between individuals and institutions.”

John Githongo, CEO, Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi!

2022 edition: laying the foundation for recognition

Organised as part of the 2022 International Collective Action Conference, the launch of the awards aimed to celebrate initiatives that demonstrated impact, innovation and sustainability in anti-corruption efforts. The response to the first call for nominations was excellent: 37 nominations were received, comprising 26 in the Outstanding Achievement category and 11 in the Inspirational Newcomer category.

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An expert jury carefully reviewed the submissions, selecting three finalists per category. Public engagement was substantial, with 1,265 votes cast during the public voting phase. The winners and other finalists were honoured at the conference, receiving their awards in front of a diverse audience of private sector leaders, government officials and civil society representatives.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network's initiative in Nigeria, in collaboration with the Convention on Business Integrity (CBI), for its pioneering work in protecting seafarers from corrupt demands at Nigerian ports through real-time incident reporting and a dedicated HelpDesk. The award was so well received in Nigeria, that it was presented to the Nigerian Vice-President in recognition of his strategic interventions since 2015, which accelerated the initiative's progress with each case of involvement. The Inspirational Newcomer Award went to the Global Compact Network Ukraine Collective Action Initiative for its efforts to enhance transparency in the Ukrainian business environment through public-private partnerships, tailored business advice and innovative e-learning formats.



Winners of the 2022 Collective Action Awards at the award ceremony in Basel, Switzerland.

2022 Anti-Corruption Collective Action Awards Jury



Gretta Fenner

Managing Director, Basel Institute on Governance



John Githongo

CEO, Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi!



Pascale Dubois

Independent Advisor and Lecturer



Sheila S. Coronel

Director of the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism
and Toni Stabile Professor of Professional Practice

The inaugural awards not only attracted high participation but also reinforced the importance of recognition as a driver for motivation. A post-conference survey revealed that 84% of respondents felt encouraged to submit their own initiatives for the next round of awards. Moreover, the event ceremony itself received near-universal acclaim, with 99% of attendees expressing satisfaction, a reflection of its smooth execution, dynamic peer exchange and networking opportunities. The awards succeeded in positioning Collective Action as a mainstream approach to fighting corruption, facilitating knowledge sharing and fostering momentum for future initiatives.

2023 edition: regional focus

Building on the success of the international awards, two regional awards were introduced in 2023 to coincide with the Southern African Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the Asia-Pacific Forum in Manila, the Philippines. The objective was to broaden the initiative's reach and tailor recognition to regional contexts, reinforcing the role of Collective Action in diverse settings.

The awards generated significant interest, with 21 applications received overall for both awards. Given the smaller scale of the regional

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awards compared to the global edition, 15 applications were deemed admissible, including six from Southern Africa and nine from Asia-Pacific. Regional juries, composed of local experts, were appointed to evaluate the submissions. The enthusiasm of practitioners was evident, as demonstrated by 1,102 public votes cast during the selection process.

The winners of the regional awards were the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative – CoST (Uganda) and the Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (Thai CAC), both recognised for their impactful contributions to anti-corruption efforts. Notably, the average jury score for finalists across both regions was 75.18%, an improvement over the 72.7% recorded in 2022, suggesting an increase in the perceived quality of applications.



Winner of the 2023 Southern Africa Collective Action Award at the award ceremony in Johannesburg, South Africa.

2023 Southern Africa Collective Action Award Jury



Gretta Fenner

Managing Director, Basel Institute on Governance



Soji Apampa

Co-Founder and CEO, Convention on Business Integrity



Prof. Deon Rossouw

CEO, The Ethics Institute

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS: RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

The success of the regional awards reinforced the potential of Collective Action to drive systemic change in local settings. The forums and awards effectively strengthened regional networks by engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including business leaders, policymakers and civil society.



Winners of the 2023 Asia-Pacific Collective Action Award, at the award ceremony in Manila, the Philippines.

2023 Asia-Pacific Collective Action Award Jury



Gretta Fenner

Managing Director, Basel Institute on Governance



Prof. Dynah A. Basuil

Executive Director, Ramon V. Del Rosario Sr. Center on Enterprise for Society, Asian Institute of Management



Graeme Seed

Principal Integrity Specialist, Office of Anti-Corruption and Integrity, Asian Development Bank (ADB)



Urantsetseg Ulziikhuu

Regional Coordinator for Asia, Transparency International

2024 edition: sustaining the momentum and honouring legacy

The 2024 Collective Action Awards marked a special moment in the evolution of this initiative. In memory of Greta Fenner, the Basel Institute's late Managing Director and a champion of anti-corruption Collective Action, the Outstanding Achievement in Collective Action Award was renamed the Greta Fenner Outstanding Achievement in Collective Action Award. It was presented alongside the Inspirational Newcomer Award.



Winners of the 2024 Collective Action Awards, at the award ceremony in Basel, Switzerland.

2024 Anti-Corruption Collective Action Awards Jury



Vanessa Hans

Head of Private Sector, Basel Institute on Governance



Gilbert Sendugwa

Executive Director, Africa Freedom of Information Centre



Cecilia Müller Torbrand

Chief Executive Officer at The Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN)



Phrommet Bencharongkit

Director, Thai Collective Action Against Corruption
(Thai CAC)

The awards drew 23 nominations across multiple countries and sectors, reflecting sustained global interest. Three finalists per category were shortlisted through a rigorous selection process, combining expert jury assessments with public engagement.

The Gretta Fenner Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to the Agribusiness Anti-Corruption Collective Action in Brazil, a ground-breaking initiative aimed at enhancing integrity across Brazil's agribusiness sector and its supply chains. The Inspirational Newcomer Award went to Transparency 100% Movement, which encourages companies to surpass legal compliance and commit to five ambitious transparency goals.

Public participation continued to be robust, with over 1,700 votes received per award. This demonstrates the awards' credibility as a mechanism for engaging a global audience in Collective Action recognition. Survey data also underscored the awards' influence. A post-conference survey found that 70% of respondents were motivated to apply for future editions, an increase from 57.1% in Southern Africa and 66.7% in Asia-Pacific in 2023.

Looking ahead: the 2025 Collective Action awards

Building on the achievements of previous years, the 2025 edition of the Collective Action Awards is set to continue recognising excellence in the field. Unlike past iterations, however, these awards are not organised as part of a conference. The strategic decision to separate the awards from large-scale events reflects a commitment to reinforcing its role as an independent recognition mechanism for innovative anti-corruption and business integrity efforts worldwide.

2025 Anti-Corruption Collective Action Awards Jury



Chantal Castro

Anticorruption Manager, UN Global Compact Network Brazil



Lisa Miller

Head, Integrity Compliance, World Bank Group's Integrity Vice Presidency



Pusetso Morapedi

Africa Coordinator, Integrity Initiatives International



François Valérien

Chair, Transparency International

How do the awards contribute to improving business integrity?

The uptake of the Collective Action Awards highlights how Collective Action is becoming a recognised standard for raising business integrity. By continuing to showcase best practices, celebrate achievements and encourage engagement, the awards play a vital role in sustaining momentum for transparency and integrity in business.

Several key lessons emerged from the awards' development. Recognition is a powerful driver of participation and progress. Celebrating success acknowledges impactful work and inspires others to follow good practices. This is reflected in the consistently high number of applications and the growing interest from participants eager to submit their initiatives for future editions.

The awards create opportunities for knowledge sharing and peer learning. By spotlighting outstanding initiatives, they help broaden their reach, allowing others to learn from successful approaches and adapt them to their own contexts. Sharing best practices in this way encourages the replication of effective strategies for tackling corruption.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS: RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Promoting good practices helps establish new norms. Beyond rewarding individual achievements, the awards contribute to making Collective Action a recognised and standard approach to fighting corruption. 🧩



Bringing impact to life: award-winning stories of Collective Action

Beyond celebrating success, the Collective Action awards serve as a catalyst for change, amplifying the reach and influence of anti-corruption Collective Action initiatives. For the winners, the recognition goes beyond prestige: it strengthens credibility, visibility and motivation, reinforcing their efforts to drive integrity in their industries and regions. The following stories highlight both the transformative power of Collective Action and the ripple effect of these awards. Through real-world examples, we see how collaboration, recognition and perseverance lead to tangible progress in the fight against corruption.

“Fighting corruption is a tough job and it can get lonely at times. Honouring the people and ideas behind Collective Action initiatives is a way to encourage them to continue their outstanding work.”

Pascale Dubois, Independent Advisor and Lecturer, Jury Member 2022

“Corruption is like cancer, it metastasises, attacking the weakest cells. Collective Action is a defense against the metastasis of corruption in a society. Such defense needs to be honoured and recognised.”

Sheila S. Coronel, Director of the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism and Toni Stabile Professor of Professional Practice, Jury Member 2022

“Publicly awarding collective action gives strength and courage to all those who fight corruption. It recognizes the value of integrity in business and allows us to reject malpractice.”

François Valérian, Chair, Transparency International, Jury Member 2025

Protecting seafarers from corruption in Nigeria

In 2022, the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN), in collaboration with the Convention on Business Integrity (CBI), was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Collective Action Award for its groundbreaking work in tackling corruption at Nigerian ports.

Through real-time incident reporting and a dedicated HelpDesk, the initiative has protected seafarers from corrupt demands, transforming the maritime landscape in Nigeria. The impact of this work was so widely recognised that the award



Soji Apampa, CEO, Convention on Business Integrity (CBI) and co-leader of the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network's Collective Action initiative in Nigeria, hands over Basel Institute's Anti-Corruption Collective Action Award to Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President of Nigeria. Photos: CBI, used with permission.

was eventually presented to the Vice President of Nigeria, acknowledging his strategic interventions since 2015 which accelerated progress by ensuring high-level political support for resolving reported cases.

“We believed what was emerging from the Collective Action project in Nigeria was unique, and we wanted to showcase this as much as possible.

MACN and CBI received the award, but we wanted to ensure that the government and stakeholders locally also received well-deserved recognition. We believed it was important to hand the award over to the Nigerian Vice President, whose strategic interventions since 2015 (in response to our requests for intervention) accelerated our progress with each case of involvement.

When we eventually presented the award to the Vice President of Nigeria, the communication of the award trended on social media and was very widely reported in the media. We also used the meeting with the Vice President to provide direct feedback on what he could further do to make the changes sustainable and the project even more impactful.”

Cecilia Müller Torbrand, Maritime Anti-Corruption Network, and
Soji Apampa, Convention on Business Integrity

Fostering a more ethical and transparent business environment in Brazil

The 2024 Collective Action Awards recognised the UN Global Compact Network Brazil for its commitment to integrity and transparency in the private sector. UNGC Brazil facilitated the winning initiatives in both the Outstanding Achievement Award and the Newcomer Award categories: the Agribusiness Anti-Corruption Collective Action and the Transparency 100% Movement.

While these initiatives differ in governance and approach, they share a common mission – to strengthen ethical business practices and corporate accountability. The award not only celebrated their achievements but also amplified their visibility, reinforced stakeholder engagement and underscored their long-term impact.

Stakeholders reflected on the significance of this recognition, describing how it has inspired further action and expanded the reach of their initiatives:

“All impact actions were extremely relevant to highlight the agribusiness sector’s efforts and concerns in the prevention and the fight against corruption, in addition to the Gretta Fenner Outstanding Achievement Award from the Basel Institute on Governance.”

“The most notable result was the public recognition and award at the International Collective Action Conference 2024, confirming the excellence of the deliveries.”

“In my view, the most notable result of the Collective Action was the recognition by the Basel Institute on Governance with the Gretta Fenner Outstanding Achievement Award.”

“This award, granted by one of the most respected international institutions in the anti-corruption field, highlights the excellence in promoting good corporate governance practices.”

“Receiving this award not only validated the impact of the Collective Action initiatives but also strengthened the reputation of the agribusiness sector as an example of ethics, transparency and integrity commitments.”

“This recognition is an important milestone, demonstrating that Collective Action can generate concrete results and serve as a competitive differentiator in the market.”

“Several significant achievements have marked this journey, but the award from the Basel Institute on Governance was truly overwhelming.”