

The World Bank Group's



**International Corruption
Hunters Alliance**

“Collective Action in an Era of Crises”

REPORT OF THE ICHA 2023 FORUM

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

June 14–16, 2023



WORLD BANK GROUP



RÉPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Union - Discipline - Travail

“Collective Action in an Era of Crises”

REPORT OF THE ICHA 2023 FORUM

The fifth meeting of the World Bank Group’s International
Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA) was co-hosted by:



RÉPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Union - Discipline - Travail

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Foreword

The World Bank’s International Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA) Forum is a platform for frontline practitioners committed to fighting corruption—including public prosecutors, investigators, and law enforcement officials—as well as policy makers and representatives from the private sector and civil society, to come together to share knowledge, experience, and insights not only into the challenges but also the solutions for confronting today’s corruption risks. To be effective, these solutions need to build on the know-how of seasoned practitioners but also, as a critical success factor, on strong political will from committed decision-makers and broad partnerships across all stakeholder groups to create the dialogue that drives our collective effort to beat corruption.

First organized by the World Bank’s Integrity Vice Presidency (INT) in 2010, the ICHA Forum is a global gathering of frontline anti-corruption actors for technical discussions, policy dialogue, skills building, and networking. Participants are from all regions of the world and represent national government agencies, anti-corruption authorities, investigatory and prosecutorial agencies, regional and international organizations, as well as civil society organizations (CSOs) and academia. The fifth edition of the ICHA Forum convened more than 350 participants from over 80 countries on June 14–16, 2023, in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, for direct exchanges between practitioners to learn from one another and build stronger links to support collective anti-corruption efforts. For the first time since the ICHA Forum’s inception in 2010, the World Bank hosted the gathering in an African country. This reflects the reality that the negative impacts of corruption can be more devastating for developing countries, who face unique challenges and have fewer resources to overcome them. Yet, it also acknowledges that there is a wealth of anti-corruption strengths, skills, and expertise from these countries that we must draw upon. Through the ICHA Forum, we strived to amplify their views among an audience of global stakeholders.

For the ICHA 2023 Forum, INT partnered with the World Bank’s Western and Central Africa Region and the Government of Côte d’Ivoire to prepare a meaningful and memorable program. Under the theme of “Collective Action in an Era of Crises,” the agenda underscored the continuing urgency of coordinated international action to curb corruption, particularly in the context of enduring global crises—from conflict and fragility to pandemics and climate change. Over the course of three days, the sessions’ discussions emphasized strengthening the capacity of oversight institutions, through sharing of experiential lessons from countries that have progressed on tackling corruption and cross-cutting integrity solutions and trends affecting the management of public resources and development aid.

The Forum also cemented collaboration across the World Bank for the design and implementation of the event. The ICHA 2023 Forum truly benefitted



from the insights of many offices and individuals. In particular, the Steering Committee was composed of representatives from the World Bank's Global Governance Practice, Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA), Legal Vice Presidency, Office of Suspension and Debarment, Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, and the International Finance Corporation's Office of the Chief Compliance Officer. We would like to also recognize the ICHA 2023 Forum's supporting partners: Transparency International, Accountability Lab, and UNODC's¹ Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network).

It is our firm belief that we must increasingly take concerted action at all levels if we are to continue to make progress against corruption. Doing so requires cultivating a strong network of partners who are ready, willing, and able to engage with common purpose. Through ICHA, the World Bank continues to bring together global, regional, and country-level expertise and affirm that through our collective action we can advance the fight against corruption, even in an era of crises.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed time and expertise to make this event possible.

Mouhamadou Diagne

World Bank Vice President of Integrity

1 UNODC = United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.



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2023

 **INTERNATIONAL
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Keynote Speeches





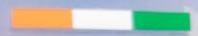
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MR. Zoro Ephiaphane Ballo

Minister for the Promotion of Good Governance and the Fight Against Corruption,
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

** Translated from the original French, as prepared for delivery*

Welcome Remarks during the ICHA 2023 Opening Ceremony

Excellencies, Honorable Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both an honor and a privilege for Côte d'Ivoire to host the fifth edition of the World Bank Group's International Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA) Forum on the theme "Collective Action in an Era of Crisis."

So, before the authorized voices of the highest Ivorian authorities take the floor before this august assembly, allow me to wish a warm Akwaba, that is, the traditional welcome to one and all, in this hospitable land of Côte d'Ivoire.

The organization of this forum here is of capital importance in more ways than one:

- First, because ICHA 2023 is an opportunity to reiterate our commitment and solidarity in the collective fight against corruption and its consequences, which are holding back the momentum of political, economic, and social development in our societies.
- Second, this day marks a new stage in the life of our alliance, which has been launched in Africa for the first time, in Côte d'Ivoire, after delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2023 edition continues the effort to bring together anti-corruption professionals and decision-makers for technical discussions and workshops, as a framework for strategic dialogue, skills building, and networking.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this point, I would like to pay a warm tribute to His Excellency, Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, who has kindly agreed to be our guest of honor, represented at the highest level by His Excellency Tiémoko Meyliet Koné, Vice President of the Republic.

Your Excellency, thank you for your distinguished presence at the opening of this forum, which has made our country the hub of the fight against corruption over the past three days.

Prime Minister Patrick Achi, Head of Government, your presence testifies to the great interest the Ivorian government attaches to the issue of corruption and marks your commitment to translating the noble ambition of the Head of State to make Côte d'Ivoire a reference for good governance.

I cannot refrain from noting the effective presence of the highest figures in the anti-corruption ecosystem, and your exemplary mobilization at this forum, Ladies and Gentlemen, eloquently reveal a renewed interest in acting together. This is a clear sign that the ICHA is an essential tool for containing corruption and guaranteeing people services and products in accordance with their integral well-being.



Special thanks to Mr. Shaolin Yang, Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer of the World Bank Group.

We are committed to strengthening our collaboration with the global anti-corruption community to bridge the gap between dialogue and action.

With sincere thanks to the Organizing Committee and participants, ICHA 2023 promises to be a great success. With the Abidjan Declaration summarizing our joint recommendations and commitments, ICHA 2023 will remain a real turning point for joint analysis of national and global developments, and for the exchange of information essential to the success of the fight against corruption.

Thank you for your kind attention.



MR. Shaolin Yang

Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer,
World Bank

** As prepared for
delivery*

Welcome Remarks during the ICHA 2023 Opening Ceremony

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning. It is a pleasure to be in Abidjan to welcome everyone here—as well as those who are joining us online—to the World Bank Group’s International Corruption Hunters Alliance Forum or, as we call it, ICHA.

It is my honor to speak alongside our distinguished guests, including Vice President Koné, Deputy Prime Minister Correia, and Minister Ballo.

On behalf of the World Bank Group and our offices that co-organized this event, our Integrity Vice Presidency (INT) and our Western and Central Africa Regional Vice Presidency, let me thank the Government of Côte d’Ivoire—in particular its Ministry for the Promotion of Good Governance, Capacity Building, and the Fight against Corruption—who have been enthusiastic hosts and partners in bringing this event together. We are also grateful to the government and people of Côte d’Ivoire for their warm hospitality.

Let me also thank our supporting partners in this event, the UNODC’s Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, as well as Transparency International, and the global youth group Accountability Lab.

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The World Bank Group organized the first ICHA conference in 2010 to highlight the importance of anti-corruption as an imperative for development, and to strengthen the global network of partners engaged in the fight against corruption.

Since that inaugural event, the ICHA Forum has been held in Washington, DC, Paris, and Copenhagen. And we are pleased to be bringing this important gathering to Africa for the first time, to continue the dialogue among the global collection of anti-corruption actors assembled here today.

Let us be frank—corruption is a cancer that is present in all countries. It manifests itself in many ways and, with advances in technology, has increasingly become a transnational challenge without respect for borders.

Thus, platforms like ICHA, which bring together not only frontline anti-corruption professionals like investigators, auditors, and prosecutors but also policy makers who can shape the legal frameworks for dealing with corruption, as well as representatives from academia and civil society—often the eyes, ears, and voices on the ground who can call out corruption—are of critical importance.

We all have a collective role to play, and I hope over the next three days, we can engage and learn from one another’s experiences about how we can leverage our collective action to fight corruption, particularly in the context of the serious challenges our world is facing today—including pandemics, conflict, or climate change.

“Action Collective en temps de crises”



Just as a popular proverb says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

For the World Bank Group, fighting corruption in development has been a commitment in our operational work for nearly three decades, and it remains a top priority for our institution.

Corruption poses a threat to the success of our collective development goals. It harms the poor the most, increasing costs and reducing access to basic services, such as health, education, justice, and electricity. It exacerbates inequality.

Over time, corruption can undermine the trust and confidence that citizens have for their leaders and institutions, creating social friction and in some contexts increasing the risk of fragility, conflict, and violence.

If unaddressed, corruption can also undermine a country’s response to emergencies, blunting the impact of the response to a crisis for those most in need, leading to unnecessary suffering and, at worst, death.

These are significant concerns that require determined and deliberate action.

We emphasize transparency and accountability in the work with our clients and are committed to strong fiduciary standards for our operations, including emergency operations.

For example, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the World Bank Group was committing historic levels of financial support to countries facing the crisis, we did not dilute our fiduciary standards for operations responding to the pandemic.

Indeed, our institution’s Anti-corruption Guidelines remained in effect and applied to borrowers as well as anyone working for them under a project-funded contract.

Our teams drew on years of our institution’s investigations into fraud and corruption to account for integrity risks upstream, during a project’s design, and to monitor them throughout implementation.

The World Bank’s commitment to fighting corruption is also reflected in robust mechanisms across the institution that enhance the integrity of our operations.

Our Integrity Vice Presidency is an independent office that works to detect, deter, and prevent fraud and corruption in the projects we finance, as well as investigates allegations involving World Bank Group staff or corporate vendors.

INT investigates the facts of the allegations and, if they are substantiated, pursues sanctions against the companies and people involved.

However, any sanctions imposed are ultimately determined through our two-tiered sanctions system, which includes the Office of Suspension and Debarment and the Sanctions Board.

At the first tier, the World Bank's Chief Suspension and Debarment Officer determines if INT's allegations are supported by sufficient evidence and, if so, recommends a sanction, which usually involves a period of debarment.

We afford the entities at the center of the allegations the opportunity to provide credible explanations to account for the allegations, including an opportunity to appeal the recommendation to the system's second tier, the World Bank Group Sanctions Board, which is composed of a panel of external experts. The Sanctions Board will conduct a fresh review of the accusation and the recommended sanction and a full hearing, if requested by the parties or called by the Sanctions Board Chair.

In this way, we protect the World Bank's funds and, at the same time, ensure that our sanctions processes are fair and transparent for all involved.

Moreover, our institution's approach to accountability does not end with sanctions. Through our Integrity Compliance Office, we engage with many sanctioned entities and work with them to improve their business practices as a condition for release from our sanctions.

Through these efforts, the World Bank also helps to support a cleaner private sector with higher business standards in the places where we operate.

Thus, both in our operations around the world as well as our internal processes, the World Bank Group remains vigilant against corruption.

I am pleased to see the World Bank's International Corruption Hunters Alliance renew itself as an event and inaugurate a new phase to bring the global expertise of the ICHA network closer to the regions where our institution operates.

One of the reasons the World Bank chose Côte d'Ivoire as the host country for this event is to acknowledge the efforts of the government toward fighting against corruption and the significant progress that has been made so far.

For the entire international community, fighting corruption is both our moral duty and one of the best possible strategies for economic development. All of us here today will need to do more to stop corruption. Indeed, we will only eradicate this global epidemic through true global partnership.

The entire World Bank Group is ready to work with all of you to make the vision of a corruption-free world a reality.

Thank you for this opportunity. I wish you all the best for a successful ICHA 2023 Forum.



MS. Ghada Waly

Executive Director

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

*Transcript of video
address*

Welcome Remarks by during the ICHA 2023 Opening Ceremony

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address the opening of the fifth meeting of the International Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA), held for the first time in Africa. With our world facing multiple crises, many of which are directly exacerbated by corruption, the theme of this week's gathering—"Collective Action in an Era of Crises"—is more important than ever.

To strengthen multilateral cooperation and ultimately enhance integrity in times of crisis response and recovery, UNODC is actively working with countries across the world. Efforts are currently under way to support the development of nonbinding guidelines that states can apply in the fight against corruption, as called for by the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the UN Convention against Corruption. Meanwhile, a series of expert meetings were held in Cairo and Vienna, in partnership with the World Bank, to explore best practices, challenges, and lessons learned on addressing corruption during emergencies and crises.

UNODC is pleased to support this week's ICHA meeting through the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network). Offering an agile and efficient tool for combating cross-border corruption offences, the objectives of the GlobE Network are very much aligned with those of the ICHA. So, I invite all law enforcement anti-corruption authorities that are not members of GlobE to join this fast-growing initiative at this important juncture.

2023 is a key year for anti-corruption, as we mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the UNCAC² by the UN General Assembly, and the tenth session of the CoSP. These occasions are an opportunity to reflect on the great strides which have been made in countering corruption, as well as take stock of what remains to be done to truly maximize the potential of the convention.

Only by being united against corruption can we find practical solutions to address today's most pressing challenges. By gathering in Abidjan this week, you are reaffirming your commitment to bolstering anti-corruption efforts, and I warmly invite you to join forces with UNODC for us to achieve this together.

Thank you.



2 UNCAC = United Nations Convention against Corruption.

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. Olavo Correia

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Business Development
Cabo Verde

*Translated from the
original French, as
prepared for delivery*

Welcome Remarks by during the ICHA 2023 Opening Ceremony

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,

On behalf of the Government of Cabo Verde, I would like to salute His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for the warm and fraternal welcome reserved for this brotherly country and for the excellent conditions created for the holding of the World Bank Group's International Corruption Hunters Alliance Forum in this beautiful and welcoming city of Abidjan.

On behalf of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, whom I have the honor to represent, I would like to convey his fraternal greetings and congratulate the World Bank for organizing this international forum, thank you for inviting us.

I can assure you that, given the importance of the subject to be discussed, he is following us, despite the activities linked to his high office, which prevented him from being in Abidjan.

On behalf of the Government, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate and discuss the fight against corruption.

Corruption is a form of dishonesty or criminality committed by a person or organization in a position of authority to obtain illicit advantages or to abuse power for personal gain.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Participants,

Corruption exists in both rich and poor countries alike, but corruption perception indices are higher in low-income countries.

However, according to specialists, it is not possible to empirically prove the existence of causal links between poverty and corruption, that is, it cannot be said that one causes the other.

But it does have the same roots, namely the quality of economic and political institutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The high levels of corruption reflect the incapacity of the country, that is, the weakness of institutions, including economic and political institutions, but also of civil society and media.

High levels of corruption imply the failure of systems and institutions to safeguard public interest and promote development.

Some authors argue that:

When the legal system is inconsistent and deeply marked by individual interests, the incentive structure becomes dysfunctional, generating uncertainty and privilege, and countries become easy prey to the growth trap and high corruption.

ROOTS - CORRUPTION AND POVERTY

CORRUPTION, SYSTEMS, AND INSTITUTIONS



CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The quality of economic and political institutions largely determines corruption and poverty, that is, the ability to generate wealth and increase inequalities (in other words, most of the wealth generated is monopolized by a few), or to promote shared prosperity.

Greater attention is paid to corruption in the public sphere, since it involves the appropriation of public money, the result of taxes paid by the entire population, namely the abuse of public power for private purposes.

Corruption in the public sector transfers taxpayers' money to interest groups that take over the country, at all levels, to serve their own interests.

It enriches some, perpetuates others in power, degrades the objectives of public policies and their executors, and distorts investment decisions, reducing the quality of public services offered to the population and thus imposing a loss of efficiency on the economy.

It reduces the country's capacity for economic growth, wealth redistribution, and the generation of well-being of the population.

Economic and, above all, political institutions must not be under the influence of individual interests, the legislative process, and political decisions in general, and public policies, must respond to the priorities of the community.

Corruption in the private sector only led to a temporary transfer of income between private sector agents. Corruption in the public sector, on the other hand, transfers taxpayers' money to interest groups that take over the state, at all levels, to serve their own interests.

Good corporate governance boosts investor and market confidence, attracts more investment and stimulates economic activity. In an environment of good governance, more sustainable businesses emerge, in turn contributing to sustainable economic growth and, in short, to job creation and people's happiness.

CORRUPTION AND CONFLICT

In 2022, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) highlights how corruption and armed conflict feed each other and threaten peace, emphasizing on how corruption diminishes the state's ability to protect its citizens while conflict creates a breeding ground for corruption (<https://transparenciainternacional.org.br/ipc/>).

According to Transparency International, countries with low CPIs tend to suffer more from threats of violence and do not know how to deal with them or guarantee the security of their populations.

On the other hand, countries with higher CPIs are more resilient to threats posed by organized crime groups.

Combating corruption, promoting transparency, and strengthening institutions are essential measures to prevent new conflicts and preserve peace.

Evidence:

Research carried out by leading academic institutions highlights the importance of fighting corruption as it compromises sustainable development in diverting public resources away from essential services, increasing inequality, hampering economic progress and distorting markets for goods and services.

According to research by leading scientists, corruption

- Reduces the effectiveness of the public and private sectors by allowing individuals to hold positions of power out of patronage rather than competence;
- Distorts the economic and financial environment, introducing instability and anarchy into the political process;
- Is responsible for wasting resources that could be used productively and generates transaction costs high enough to significantly limit investments;
- Creates an economic equilibrium in excessively bureaucratic countries by excluding the weaker companies from the labor market and replacing the economic decision-making centers of the private sector with state-run (public sector) centers; and
- Has a negative impact on production growth, distorts resource allocation, and discourages investment and the creation of new businesses.

Corruption affects investment by instilling uncertainty about the return on this type of activity, thereby reducing the incentive for individuals to invest, which has a negative impact on growth.

Corruption can encourage an increasingly inefficient allocation of state resources, as officials seek to maximize their personal well-being.

Corruption can undermine healthy competition, internal and foreign trade, and limit economic growth.

Corruption challenges the popular legitimacy of political institutions and, to this extent, can fuel political instability, violence, and instability of governance, which seriously harms development.

Corruption undermines and even compromises investment in human capital development and, consequently, economic growth.

The fight against corruption improves economic efficiency; economic efficiency also reduces corruption.

CORRUPTION, ECONOMY, AND DEVELOPMENT

CORRUPTION AND INEFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF STATE RESOURCES





CONSEQUENCES FOR STABILITY

Corruption deteriorates the economic and financial environment, introducing instability and anarchy into the political process.

Corruption challenges the popular legitimacy of political institutions and, to this extent, can fuel political instability, violence, and unstable governance, which seriously harms development.

CORRUPTION AFFECTS INVESTMENT

Corruption affects investment by instilling uncertainty as the return on this type of activity, thereby reducing the incentive for individuals to invest, which has a negative impact on growth.

AFRICA AND CORRUPTION

The Fight Against Corruption Concerns Everyone, But We Africans, First and Foremost

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On 11 July 2003, at the second ordinary session of the African Union Conference held in Maputo, Mozambique, the African Union adopted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

The continent's additional financing needs for 2020–22 is estimated at US\$432 billion.

Yet, it is estimated that Africa loses US\$88 billion a year in illicit financial flows that could be spent on the continent's development.

The money that Africa loses in three years in illicit financial flows is equivalent to about 61 percent of the financing needs mentioned above.

Africa does not meet the expectations of many young Africans. Every day, hundreds, if not thousands, of Africans, and especially young people, try to reach Europe on adventurous journeys that often result in shipwrecks and loss of life.

Africa must accelerate its development, fight poverty, and meet the expectations of young people.

The fight against corruption concerns everyone, but primarily, we Africans, because we need to accelerate change to meet the legitimate expectations of young people.

Africa should give priority to fighting corruption and investing in youth employment.

Africa has approximately

- 518 million people in the labor force, or 14.6 percent of the global workforce;
- 35 million people unemployed, an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent;
- 12.4 million young people unemployed, corresponding to a youth unemployment rate of 10.6 percent;
- 53.5 million young people are not in employment, education, and training (NEET);
- 483 million people are employed, of whom 86 percent are in informal jobs, and 121 million are underemployed; and
- About half of the labor force works in agriculture, 36.4 percent in services, and the remainder in industry.

POPULATION GROWTH WILL INCREASE PRESSURE ON RESOURCES, BUT WE ARE ON TIME FOR A JUST TRANSITION

In Africa, informal employment and underemployment prevail, and decent employment is rare.

The biggest challenge we face is decent work and economic opportunities for young people.

In Africa, increasing attention is needed to improve the living conditions of the poor.

- As many as 600 million Africans do not have access to electricity. We must provide access to clean, reliable, and efficient energy that also reduces carbon emissions and pollution.
- Africa has about 490 million people living in extreme poverty, or 36 percent of its population.
- Poverty is concentrated mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, with 478 million poor people, or 67.2 percent of the world's poor.
- Africa is the second most populous continent in the world, with some 1.3 billion inhabitants, or 17.3 percent of the world's population.
- Africa has an average annual population growth rate of 3.17 percent, the highest in the world, and has the youngest population in the world, with a median age of 18.8 years, that is, 50 percent of the population is 18 or younger and the other half older (the world average being 30.1 years).

Africa must prioritize fighting corruption and investing in youth employment.

Fighting corruption is essential to preventing and addressing the root causes of conflict and violent extremism, building peace, and protecting human rights.

Fighting corruption is essential to combating organized crime, including human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, as well as illicit drugs, arms, and natural resources.

This was the understanding of the international community in October 2003, when the United Nations General Assembly approved the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Fighting corruption means promoting a culture of legality, contributing to the establishment of accountable and transparent institutions, and enabling all citizens to access opportunities and lead healthy, productive lives.

This is how the international community understood it when it integrated the fight against corruption into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 16) or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, committing everyone to reducing corruption and commissions; strengthening the recovery and restitution of stolen assets; and building effective, inclusive, and transparent institutions.

It is essential to invest in education; in the qualification of the workforce; in digitization; in the creation of innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems; in reforms that improve economic efficiency, promote sustainable growth, and create opportunities for young people.

Public governance must prioritize accountability, control, effective communication, integrity, responsiveness, and reliability.

THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION. A CAUSE OF NATIONS





CABO VERDE AND CORRUPTION

With a score of 35, my country, Cabo Verde and Botswana are the African countries with the lowest Corruption Perception Index, and we are in the same ranking as Spain. In the group of 100 countries with the lowest score, that is, the lowest perception of integrity, 42 are African.

The Government of Cabo Verde is aware that corruption

- Is a social, political, and economic phenomenon that compromises the development and happiness of the population, and that the fight against corruption is a fight for social justice, prosperity, and peace;
- Is a threat to the stability and security of societies in that it weakens institutions and the values of democracy, ethics, and justice, can compromise a significant part of the state's resources, and threaten its political stability and sustainable development;
- Establishes the prevalence of privilege, inequality, partiality, and fraud over the values of law, equality, transparency, and rigor in public action;
- Enables practices that increase social tensions, reduces the supply of services, facilitates the activities of organized crime and, in general, undermines development and the democratic rule of law;
- Reduces the efficiency of the public and private sectors by allowing people to occupy positions of power through favoritism rather than competence; and
- Distorts the economic and financial environment, introducing instability and anarchy into the political process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Cabo Verde defends transparency and the fight against corruption by promoting and regulating open administration and governance, promoting a state that respects contracts and commitments, and increasing efficiency and transparency.

We advocate the creation of internal control, prevention, and repression mechanisms in line with international best practice, and fight corruption both preventively and repressively.

The electronic public procurement platform called E-compras to guarantee time optimization, transparency, and security in the state's purchasing processes:

- The new State Budget Fundamental Law and regulatory decrees reinforce transparency, simplifying program methodology
- The new law on the *Cour des Comptes*
- The new law on public debt management and the issuance of state guarantees and endorsements
- Integration of all institutions covered by the State Budget into a single system (*Système Intégré de Gestion Budgétaire et Financier*, SIGOF)
- The Ministry of Finance portal (<https://www.mf.gov.cv/>)
- Reinforcement of the State Budget preparation process and decentralization of SIGOF

WE HAVE A POSITIVE TRACK RECORD WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSPARENCY

**WE HAVE
CREATED NEW
ENTITIES TO
REINFORCE
TRANSPARENCY**

- The *Cour des Comptes*, which has access to the *SIGOF* system, can monitor budget execution in real time.

All budget alterations are published monthly on the Ministry of Finance portal, in addition to those sent periodically to the National Assembly, in accordance with the law.

The Competition Authority - The Council for the Prevention of Corruption

The Council for the Prevention of Corruption is an independent administrative authority working alongside the *Cour des Comptes*, with the exclusive mission of detecting and preventing the risks of corruption, collecting and processing information to identify the entities and processes most vulnerable to the penetration of the phenomenon, and monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of existing legal instruments, as well as the administrative measures adopted by the public administration and the corporate public sector in the fight against corruption.

The President of the *Cour des Comptes* chairs it, with the Director General of the *Cour des Comptes* as Secretary General. Other members include the Inspector General of Finance, the Inspector General of Construction and Real Estate, the Director of the Municipal Inspection Unit, the Chairman of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, a public prosecutor appointed by the Attorney General of the Republic, a lawyer appointed by the Cabo Verde Bar Association, and a person of merit appointed by the National Assembly. The last three are appointed for a renewable four-year term.

The Public Finances Council (Conseil des Finances Publiques)

We have created the Public Finances Council, whose mission is to provide an independent assessment of the consistency, conformity, and sustainability of budgetary policy, and to work toward transparency, in order to contribute to the quality of democracy, economic policy decisions, and reinforce the financial credibility of the state.

This independent advisory body is responsible for assessing the macroeconomic scenarios adopted by the government and the consistency of budget projections with these scenarios, evaluating compliance with established budgetary rules, analyzing the dynamics of public debt and trends in its sustainability, assessing the financial situation of local authorities and evaluating the economic and financial situation of public sector entities and their potential impact on the consolidated situation of public accounts and their sustainability, analyzing tax expenditure, and monitoring budget execution.

In this way, we are aligning ourselves with the most advanced transparency standards in the world and inviting everyone to make the best use of the information available.

The Cabo Verdean authorities believe that fighting corruption requires the promotion of a model of public governance based on the obligation of accountability, that is, 'Accountability', the assumption of reliable commitments, the ability to respond, integrity, legitimacy, by public utility, relevance, and reliability.



**DIGITAL
ECONOMY,
INNOVATION,
AND THE
FIGHT AGAINST
CORRUPTION**

We consider it essential to put the digital economy at the service of the modernization of the state and public administration, including fiscal competitiveness, rational and transparent management of public resources, and reform of the public enterprise sector. The digital transformation accelerates transparency and social control, thereby reducing the risk of corruption in both the public and private spheres.

On behalf of the Government of Cabo Verde, we once again congratulate the World Bank Group for organizing this forum and for its invitation.

Our sincere thanks to His Excellency, the President of the Republic, and to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for their warm and fraternal welcome.



MR. Ousmane Diagana

Regional Vice President for Western and Central Africa,
World Bank

*Translated from the
original French, as
prepared for delivery*

Opening Remarks for the session “Corruption, Fragility, and Governance Challenges in an Era of Crisis”

Distinguished Ministers, Dear Development Partners, Representatives of civil society, Distinguished Guests, in your respective ranks and titles,

It is an honor to be with you today to discuss the ongoing efforts of governments and partners to fight corruption through this forum, which we are pleased to co-organize and which is being held for the first time in Africa. Organizing this event in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire is particularly timely, as the country has recently strengthened its commitments in the fight against corruption—commitments which are gradually bearing fruit. It is also an opportunity for the ICHA Forum to help build momentum in the region—and across the continent—to combat the many challenges that cross it.

In my remarks, I would like to address two points: (1) the link between corruption and the social contract (particularly in a context of fragility and crisis) and (2) some lessons and experiences from our work in West and Central Africa on fighting corruption in the region.

Corruption remains one of the most pressing challenges hampering development efforts. It is present in all countries and manifests itself in many different ways: from petty bribery to major misappropriation of public resources and money. In an increasingly globalized world, it transcends borders. Unfortunately, Africa is not spared.

Indeed, according to Afrobarometer survey data for 2021, almost 6 out of 10 Africans believe that corruption has increased in their country, and almost two-thirds declare that their government is doing a “fairly poor” or “very poor” job of controlling it. Perception or reality? The situation is serious.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests:

Clearly, corruption hurts the poor and vulnerable first and foremost, dramatically increasing costs and reducing access to basic services. **It exacerbates inequalities and reduces investment levels,** to the detriment of savings and employment opportunities. **It can also create emergency situations.** For example, the collapse of a substandard bridge or building can have disastrous consequences, leading to loss of life and other disasters.

What’s more, when corruption infiltrates a society, it undermines the state’s ability to fulfill its obligations and uphold the social contract. Corrupt practices divert public resources intended for the common good into the pockets of a minority, undermining the quality and availability of public services for the greatest number. What is more, when citizens are confronted with corruption in their day-to-day interaction with state representatives—be it a police officer, a school principal, or a tax collector—their trust in the state and its institutions is eroded.

CORRUPTION, FRAGILITY, AND THE SOCIAL CONTRACT



The perception of widespread corruption thus fosters a sense of injustice, impunity, and inequality, with citizens feeling marginalized and excluded from the benefits of their own society. Such situations can lead to social unrest, political instability and, in some contexts, violent conflict. While there was a time when fighting corruption was not considered a major priority in situations of fragility, experience teaches us that corruption creates conditions conducive to the genesis of conflict. This is particularly dangerous when high levels of corruption; ethnic, religious, or identity-based disparities; and political exclusion co-exist.

Finally, recent data confirms that our continent has one of the lowest tax collection rates in the world, averaging 14.4 percent of GDP³ in 2020 (while other regions were above 16 percent, and over 22 percent for the Europe-Central Asia region). With corruption, taxpayers are much less inclined to comply with tax codes and resist formalization when they are convinced that their taxes are not being used to fund the public services they are owed. Yet another reason why the social contract is breaking down.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

An important pillar of the World Bank's strategy for West and Central Africa is the strengthening of the social contract between citizens and states, through the fight against corruption and the promotion of transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. Without reducing or even eradicating corruption, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to strengthen citizens' trust in institutions, meet the challenge for governments to collect and redistribute revenues fairly, and protect citizens against threats such as organized crime and terrorism.

It is therefore urgent that together we discuss, share our experiences, and collectively seek effective solutions to combat this scourge. At the World Bank, we can learn from our experiences in the many interventions we support. In this respect, allow me to share three experiences:

First, it's important to make the fight against corruption as concrete as possible, and to focus on well-targeted sectors and institutions. By way of example,

Public financial management reforms applied to the payment of civil servants in social sectors can help rationalize resources and improve service delivery. In several countries, the World Bank is supporting governments to set up a payroll audit to ensure the accuracy of records for all employees (as in Guinea Bissau or soon in Togo).

Support for institutions such as *Auditeurs Généraux*, *Cours des Comptes*, or *Inspections Générales des Finances*, is also essential to foster greater government accountability. In several countries—including Benin, for example—the support we provide to these institutions in terms of risk-based auditing, control of asset declarations, and investigative techniques has helped to improve the quality of audits and thus reduce corruption.

Secondly, I would like to stress that the fight against corruption is everyone's business. Civil society and the media have an essential role to play in strengthening controls to deter fraud. In a number of countries in the region (such as Niger and Burkina Faso), parent-teacher associations and local NGOs⁴

3 GDP = Gross domestic product.

4 NGO = Nongovernmental organization.



are supported in projects financed by the World Bank to monitor school budgets. In Benin, a “contract” mechanism is being developed at school level between local authorities, teachers, and parents, to prevent misappropriation of funds. In several countries, civil society representatives have mobilized to verify and monitor the construction of physical infrastructure and are committed to reporting on progress.

Finally, technology and the collection of reliable data can support our collective efforts. Indeed, innovation and digitization have the potential to take the fight against corruption to the next level and thus contribute to the empowerment and well-being of citizens. The support of the World Bank’s e-procurement project is a good example of the impact that technology can have in making transactions and processes more transparent. In Ghana, for example, the World Bank is supporting the government in implementing such a system to promote transparency, ensure uniform procedures, and apply consistent international standards for the procurement of goods and services.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The International Corruption Hunters Alliance 2023 Forum, which brings us together today, offers us the opportunity to share our experiences and collectively seek solutions to fight with all our might against this “cancer” that is corruption, as the late James D. Wolfensohn described it.

Thank you for your kind attention.



MR. Mouhamadou Diagne

Vice President for Integrity,
World Bank

As prepared for delivery

Opening Remarks for the session “Adapting Anti-Corruption Efforts to the Climate Crisis: A Multi-Stakeholder Approach”

Climate change is one of the defining crises of our time: over US\$250 billion of economic losses from natural disasters in 2021, an estimated 26 million people pushed in extreme poverty by natural disasters annually, around 7 million excess deaths attributable to pollution each year, and rapid spread of zoonotic diseases and pandemics that scientific evidence increasingly links to deforestation and destruction of wildlife habitat. Rising temperatures are fueling natural disasters, extreme weather, food and water insecurity, economic disruption, migration, and conflicts.

You may ask: *what does any of this have to do with corruption anyway?* The answer is: everything! While certainly we are not attributing climate change to corruption, there are nevertheless strong linkages between the two. Corruption may also be one of the most significant threats to the effectiveness of the world’s response to this looming existential crisis.

Corruption plays a major role in enabling the misuse of key natural resources. In sectors such as water, hydrocarbons, mining, land, or forestry, bribery and illicit payments have often enabled bad actors to obtain illicit permits and licenses to exploit natural resources that would otherwise be restricted by much needed environmental protection measures. This results in excessive exploitation and misuse, thus undermining the sustainable management of these resources.

Beyond petty corruption to bend the rules, a more pervasive type of corruption in the form of wholesale state capture can enable powerful interest groups to exert undue influence on environmental policy decisions and lead to weak or in-existent regulation, or—even when sound regulations exist—it can significantly weaken their implementation.

Lastly, the veil of corruption often reduces transparency and accountability in decision-making processes, increasing the likelihood of suboptimal choices that may serve the short-term private gains of a limited few but undermine the long-term sustainability of crucial public goods for all.

In addition to the potential diversion of resources allocated to climate initiatives, corruption also undermines the ability to mobilize those resources in the first place. By now, we all know the impact of corruption, illicit financial flows, and tax evasions on public finances and how such practices shrink the fiscal space and severely hamper the mobilization of much needed capital to fund public goods, such as climate.

Aside from its impact on public finances, another potential threat that corruption poses to the success of the world’s climate response is through its perverse impact on private capital mobilization. Recent estimates by the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance find that

development compatible with climate commitments will require close to US\$3 trillion by 2030, for emerging markets and developing countries other than China. It is clear from these estimates that public funds and foreign assistance alone will never close the funding gap. Significant inflows of both capital and innovation from the private sector will be needed, hence the need for a clean and enabling environment that is attractive to sustainable private sector investments. Yet, we know that corruption deters foreign capital and investments in environments where the private sector is faced with artificially higher business costs and risk premia due to excess costs, when significant bribe payments are part of the cost of doing business.

For all these reasons, and many more, addressing corruption is essential to creating a more sustainable and equitable future for all. The world is aiming to mobilize unprecedented amounts of funding for climate-related interventions. The World Bank Group is currently the largest multilateral provider of climate finance and has recently increased its financing to record levels, reaching over US\$90 billion just over the past three years. Even with that significant level of commitment, decisive climate action will require further scaling up. To successfully achieve climate and development objectives, the world must mobilize trillions of dollars in the coming decades. A percentage as low as even just 1 percent lost to corruption amounts to hundreds of billions potentially siphoned away from vulnerable communities in need of urgent assistance. Let's not kid ourselves: this massive influx of funding will create a large appetite and tremendous opportunities for corruption and will heighten





integrity risks, particularly in environments with poor governance, weak regulatory frameworks, or limited accountability and oversight. This risk may be compounded by the imperative of accelerated spending due to the urgency of the climate challenge.

This will undoubtedly heighten integrity risks that we must anticipate, mitigate proactively before they materialize, and be prepared to respond decisively if and when they do materialize. Thus, the anti-corruption community has indeed a significant role to play in the context of climate change interventions.

For the Integrity Vice Presidency of the World Bank Group, whilst our core work continues to focus on investigations and sanctions, we are also developing additional focus on areas such as prevention, knowledge management, leveraging technology, and strengthening partnerships. Each of these strategic priorities of ours has particular relevance in the context of successfully adapting our integrity efforts to respond to the risks I just outlined.

INT is investing in its knowledge management, using the vast body of information it has accumulated over the years from a wide range of investigative activities and outcomes. This information is a significant source for the World Bank Group's integrity risk management process, including in climate projects. Among others, based on past cases, we are developing profiles for integrity risks and mitigation strategies in different sectors. These sector-specific risk profiles will be applied in the projects we finance in key sectors such as energy and extractives; agriculture, food, water, and land; cities; transport; and manufacturing. These sectors produce the vast majority of global greenhouse gas emissions and therefore are at the heart of climate change initiatives.

Advances in technology and analysis of big data will also open promising avenues for strengthening integrity in climate investments through, for example, use of satellite imaging for real-time monitoring or verifications in otherwise hard-to-access areas, for identification of critical red flags, or simply to drive greater transparency and accountability. The Integrity Vice Presidency is increasingly applying technology and data analytics to optimize our anti-corruption efforts. INT is working to understand and employ technology solutions, including machine learning and artificial intelligence, in priority areas that will enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of our work. As we expand and mature our tools, we will increasingly be applying them across different sectors of the World Bank's portfolio, including our climate investments.

Lastly, in this area as in other areas, the effectiveness of international anti-corruption efforts is contingent on collaboration and improving intelligence sharing between anti-corruption actors. A key enabler of our strategic success in delivering an effective response is the quality of our partnerships with multiple stakeholders, which include many of you present here today.

INT has built strong engagement and collaboration platforms with peer functions in other multilateral development banks, particularly those that participate in the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions (commonly referred to as the cross-debarment agreement, which involves several major regional development banks). INT is constantly exploring further

areas of harmonization in sanctions-related practices, following the successful experiences and lessons learned from the cross-debarment platform.

With national law enforcement, INT is keen on broadening and strengthening our relationships with law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities across all countries where World Bank Group-financed operations are implemented. We are expanding our collaboration with these authorities, establishing informal communication channels and engagement mechanisms beyond the investigations area, including training, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.

With development partners, such as United Nations agencies, INT is supporting efforts to establish or enhance effective protocols for reporting irregularities in projects. This is an increasingly important need as the World Bank Group relies on such agencies for operating in challenging environments such as in fragile, conflict-affected, or violent settings (FCVs).⁵

With Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), at the global, regional, and country levels, INT will continue engaging with civil society, to increase awareness of INT's work and to enhance the vital role of CSOs and project beneficiaries in reporting integrity issues in World Bank Group projects.

Additionally, INT is also actively engaging with the private sector to promote integrity compliance standards around the world.

The voices of all these stakeholders are represented in this plenary and in the audience today. Conversations like the one we are having here now are an important lever for more innovative problem-solving, stronger collaboration, and collective actions that can truly make a difference in ensuring that resources actually meet the needs of the world's most vulnerable people.

As the United Nations Secretary General recently pointed out, "*The climate emergency is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win.*" The global anti-corruption community can and must play a key role in supporting the world in winning this race. If the world is to fulfill the climate commitments laid out in a variety of international agreements and national strategies, it is crucial that corruption challenges are addressed adequately and forcefully.

There is now a window of opportunity—and a development imperative—to learn, adapt, and advance our work to meet the new challenges we face. As the context in which we operate continues to evolve, this plenary discussion is a call to strengthen our capacities and develop new tools to keep ahead of corrupt actors in order to give the global climate agenda an opportunity to succeed. We hope that many of you will join the conversation going forward.

Thank you.

5 The World Bank Group definition of fragile - countries with deep governance issues and state institutional weakness, conflict - countries in active conflict, violence-countries with high levels of interpersonal and gang violence. *World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence 2020–2025 (English)*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.



ICHA
2023

 **INTERNATIONAL
CORRUPTION
HUNTERS ALLIANCE**



ICHA's Take Aways





The World Bank Group's fifth edition of the International Corruption Hunters Alliance convened more than 350 participants from over 80 countries, on June 14–16, 2023, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, that involved direct exchanges between practitioners to learn from one another and build stronger links in support of collective anti-corruption efforts, particularly with and among West and Central African countries.

The forum emphasized the need to intensify individual and joint action, including financial transparency and integrity, action by and with the private sector, protection of civic space, and enhancing international cooperation. A key theme of discussion across the ICHA 2023 Forum was the critical importance of collective action in the fight against corruption and ways to revamp existing coalitions at international, regional, and local levels. Participants recognized that corruption manifests in many ways throughout society in all countries, and with advances in technology, these challenges have increasingly become transnational without respect for borders. It is imperative for all countries, then, to work together with a common purpose on the solutions that help make an impact against corruption. Transparency and information sharing among countries, institutions, CSOs, and all other stakeholders in the fight against corruption are vital.

Participants also called for a more focused consideration of women and youth as essential to anti-corruption efforts. They noted the growing recognition of gender as an important factor in both corruption's impact and potentially in measures to address corruption. They also highlighted the important role of the private sector—from serving as a source of advocacy and collective action to promote reform, to adopting compliance programs and sectoral codes of conduct, to business contributions to capacity building. Integrity compliance frameworks are key to economic development and measures that promote business and development. The role of prevention was also emphasized, with a country perspective example of integrating tax systems so the nontax compliant can be flagged. The profile of recent advances in beneficial ownership also came to the fore of the discussions, with many across the forum advocating its importance as a matter of public governance policy.

Global and Regional Thematic Highlights

CORRUPTION, FRAGILITY, AND GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES IN AN ERA OF CRISIS

Due to various adverse conditions such as natural disasters, violence, conflict, and corruption faced by the African continent, it is expected, according to the *World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) 2020–2025*,⁶ by 2030 to have up to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor living in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Unfortunately, in FCV areas, there is always a heightened risk of corruption due to instability, insecurity, and a lack of rule of law. Corruption causes inequality, breaks down institutions, hampers growth, and hinders good governance. According to the International Monetary Fund's latest *Fragile and Conflict-Affected States Strategy*,⁷ the link between growth and governance is especially strong on this resource-rich continent, where people stand to gain more economically from reducing corruption than anywhere else in the world. Absence of good governance leads to broken institutions, an increase in corruption, and a decrease in the trust of the people in the government.

In the Africa West and Central region, poverty and fragility compound the impact of corruption. The Africa West and Central region hosts about one-quarter of the world's extreme poor, and more than 70 percent of the region's population live in FCV countries. These challenges are universal, and no continent, or individual country, is immune to the issue of corruption. Yet, the impact can be far more devastating in lower-income countries or environments affected by FCV, with their proportionately larger share of the poor and vulnerable.

Anti-corruption measures are key to the success of post-COVID-19 recovery and resilience. As with other regions, the World Bank has mobilized a significant level of resources to help Africa West and Central countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis and mitigate its devastating impacts. Beyond the immediate crisis response, attention is gradually turning to the longer-term recovery, which will also require large-scale investments to help restore many aspects of the social and economic infrastructure that have been deeply affected. The region's needs are great, and the countries' ability to both respond to the pandemic and to recover from it in the long run will involve significant commitments of resources. Yet, in both cases, the outcome and the impact of the response will largely be determined not only by the scale of investments but also—to a large degree—by the quality of their deployment. This requires that every dollar invested and every asset available be efficiently and effectively used for the intended purposes. This brings an added urgency to the need for a strong governance and anti-corruption component to the countries' crisis response and post-crisis recovery efforts and programs, in terms of political will, governance tone, institutional capability, anti-corruption oversight, and accountability mechanisms.

6. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/publication/world-bank-group-strategy-for-fragility-conflict-and-violence-2020-2025>.

7. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2022/03/14/The-IMF-Strategy-for-Fragile-and-Conflict-Affected-States-515129>.

The ICHA opening session set the stage for the forum by emphasizing the importance of making meaningful progress in reducing corruption to promote resilience to crisis, especially in fragile settings. The high-level session was anchored around the nexus of corruption, fragility, and resilience of countries to both management of ongoing crises and recovery.

The panel emphasized the importance of strengthening accountability institutions, promoting transparency, and ensuring participation and collaboration with civil society as prerequisites to addressing corruption. It drew on the experience of the various key actors represented at global, regional, and country levels and recommendations to build more resilient states, including the following:

- **Country Examples of Côte d'Ivoire and Ukraine.**
 - » **Côte d'Ivoire.** Côte d'Ivoire is a country that stepped up its legal and policy commitments to tackling corruption. Recent country reform actions included the strengthening of the framework for reporting, investigating, monitoring allegations of corruption, prosecuting, and sanctions through a dedicated digital platform (SPACIA), coupled with capacity building in good governance investigations for journalists and the media, and scaled-up outreach.
 - » **Ukraine.** Another experience presented was that of Ukraine where the invasion and the subsequent crisis mode increased solidarity and enhanced the ability and the will to detect and



combat corruption and emphasized the role of CSOs. One example presented is that of the World Bank's three-year grant to an anti-corruption CSO and a network of investigative journalists to monitor the performance of anti-corruption institutions, identify procurement violations, and follow up with Ukrainian institutions.⁸

- **Political will is essential.** The sustained reduction of systemic corruption requires committed leadership and support from citizens and civil society. External actors like the World Bank can help, but aid conditionality cannot be a substitute if political will is missing. The session also noted the risks and challenges inherent in civil society action on corruption and called upon all stakeholders to support civil society, stand with it, and promote the range of conditions that permit civil society actors to harness a bottom-up approach toward fighting corruption.
- Sustaining and, where possible, increasing investment in **development cooperation and capacity building** has an important impact, particularly through accountability institutions to enhance support to countries to strengthen capacity and independence of supreme audit institutions, anti-corruption agencies, financial intelligence units, access to information authorities, law enforcement authorities, and enforcement agencies.

LINKING CORRUPTION AND TAX EVASION TO ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS (IFFS)

Preventing, detecting, and recovering the IFFs derived from tax evasion, corruption, and money laundering are a global development priority. The evident interconnections between these crimes suggest that enhancing interagency cooperation can assist to more effectively combat IFFs. **This session discussed the importance of sustaining and building international cooperation, given the increasingly transnational nature of corruption and illicit finance. The session covered best practices, challenges, and innovative approaches to combating illicit financial flows, as well as lessons learned across Africa, including the tools more recently developed by the World Bank on this topic, particularly the StAR Initiative's *Taxing Crime: a Whole of Government Approach to Fighting Corruption, Money Laundering, and Tax Crimes*,⁹ which compiles best practices and recommendations in this area.**

There was a general consensus in this session around the importance of transparency, information sharing, and data collection. There was also a call for an enhanced coordinated and integrated approach to combine enforcement against corruption, tax evasion, and money laundering. Interagency cooperation should involve the following agencies: tax authorities, customs administration, financial regulators and supervisors, authorities enforcing the fight against money laundering, financial intelligence units, police, and anti-corruption agencies and authorities. The panel also called for the need for information sharing, notably a legal framework that mandates or encourages the sharing of information from tax authorities—the most significant registry of information in a country—to law enforcement and vice versa. Sharing information from tax authorities is, generally, a starter for corruption and money laundering cases. Speakers also called for the creation of public beneficial

8. The Global Partnership for Social Accountability. [Ukraine - Empowering Civil Society and Journalists in Oversight and Promotion of Effective Anti-corruption Environment Project](https://thegpsa.org/projects/empowering-civil-society-and-journalists-in-oversight-and-promotion-of-effective-anti-corruption-environment-project/). <https://thegpsa.org/projects/empowering-civil-society-and-journalists-in-oversight-and-promotion-of-effective-anti-corruption-environment-project/>.

9. [Taxing Crime: A Whole-of-Government Approach to Fighting Corruption, Money Laundering, and Tax Crimes | StAR Initiative](https://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/abs/10.1596/978-1-4648-1873-8). <https://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/abs/10.1596/978-1-4648-1873-8>.



ownership registries which can help journalists, CSOs, and governments to fight corruption and promote transparency. There was also a call for African governments to create a continent-wide database of existing cases that provide detailed description of the amount, methods, and predicate crimes involved that represent the existence and mechanics of the market for corruption. Policy and law makers could use this database as a first step toward understanding whether the African markets can incorporate more opportunistic modes of converting the illicit proceeds into forms that cannot be traced.

The lack of beneficial ownership transparency of companies is at the core of the discussion about illicit financial flows, as anonymous company ownership or control enables corruption, organized crimes, financial crimes, money laundering, and tax evasion. **A subsequent technical session focused on this topic, from the Africa West and Central regional context, and discussed the lack of transparency of beneficial ownership, as well as the connection between anti-money laundering and tax, and presented updates to the international standards on this topic.** The technical session recommended that beneficial ownership registers should be contextual to specific jurisdictions, covering policy, public engagement, preexisting systems, and lessons learned within these contexts, and should be advocated as a matter of public governance policies. Efforts should be made to increase synergies among various agencies with competing, diverging, and overlapping mandates within jurisdictions.

While the international anti-money laundering standard setter, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), has recently updated its standard on transparency of beneficial ownership of legal persons and legal arrangements,¹⁰ their application in the regional Africa West and Central context is at the inception stages. Lifting the veil of secrecy that shrouds the owners of companies, partnerships, trusts, and foundations should be a central tool for African governments to tackle illicit financial flows.¹¹ Illicit corporate networks commonly split company formation, asset ownership, bank account, and professional intermediaries across different countries to exploit loopholes in national regulation—making it difficult for anyone in any single country to see the full picture. In addition, countries in West Africa and beyond face more foundational challenges to building digital platforms that are effectively policed by authorities, starting from digitizing records to difficulties in verification of foreign owners.

With the 2011 publication of *The Puppet Masters*,¹² the StAR Initiative has placed the topic of transparency of beneficial ownership at the center stage of the fight against corruption. The data leaks from law firms and company service providers of recent years have revealed not only the magnitude of the problem of anonymous companies in financial crime but also the connection to

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10. In March 2022, the FATF agreed on tougher global beneficial ownership standards in its Recommendation 24 by requiring countries to ensure that competent authorities have access to adequate, accurate, and up-to-date information on the true owners of companies. GUIDANCE ON TRANSPARENCY AND BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/guidance/Guidance-transparency-beneficial-ownership.pdf.coredownload.pdf>.
 11. Beneficial Ownership Transparency in Africa in 2022 Report. March 2023. *The State of Play of Beneficial Ownership Registration in Africa*. <https://taxjusticeafrica.net/sites/default/files/publications/The State of Play of Beneficial Ownership Registration in Africa.pdf>.
 12. Van der Does de Willebois, Emile, Emily M. Halter, Robert A. Harrison, Ji Won Park, and J. C. Sharman. 2011. *The Puppet Masters: How the Corrupt Use Legal Structures to Hide Stolen Assets and What to Do About It*. © World Bank. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/2363>.

tax evasion. Ensuring the availability of beneficial ownership information is at the forefront of the international agenda on tax transparency and is a vital part of the international standards of transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes (both automatic and on request).

Speakers emphasized that factors to be considered in strengthening beneficial ownership registers should cover the legal, policy, public engagement, preexisting systems as well as lessons already learned from other countries. Also, advocating for the beneficial registration to be made as a matter of public governance administrative policy must be strongly considered, bearing in mind the operational contexts of different countries. The speakers highlighted recommendations such as public access and availability of information. Information must be made available to journalists (the media) and made readily available for the public to serve as an accountability tool and strengthen the use of beneficial ownership registers as an effective anti-corruption mechanism. Future efforts in deepening the quality of information contained in beneficial registers as well as strengthening its use as a deterrent tool for fighting corruption must be taken with a strong emphasis on building coalitions of anti-corruption actors in the region.

The panel also put forward recommendations that countries' beneficial ownership frameworks should meet, including access to information: legal and beneficial ownership data should be available to the public for free and ownership registries should be available online in open data format.



ENHANCING GOVERNMENTS' EFFORTS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA

This session shared experiences and positive examples of how governments are progressing in their fight against corruption, especially in the context of emergencies and crisis response and recovery. It is important for the African governments to join forces in their fight against corruption, to strengthen their institutions through training, reviewing their legal frameworks, and establishing electronic payment systems. They should also continue to enhance technical knowledge exchange across governments and wider stakeholder engagement to tackle corruption. The session also emphasized the centrality of strengthening the capacity of the national anti-corruption bodies to do research on the prevalent national forms of corruption, including in collaboration with international organizations, with the strategic aim of improving the effectiveness of capacity building and technical assistance toward investigating the diverse forms of corruption.

One major recurring theme throughout this session was the need for a paradigm shift, a mindset shift of the people in the fight against corruption. When there is consciousness about the ills of corruption in society through education, it becomes morally frowned upon by the populace and understood as a criminal offence and could go a long way to affect how people engage in it. There is also the need to enhance the use of technology as a means of fighting corruption. Speakers also raised the need for a better exchange of experiences and information between countries. There should be steps to strengthen the coalitions against corruption—use technology to bring about behavioral change.

The discussion noted that countries should review their anti-corruption measures to, specifically, respond to the different categories of corruption and patterns of corruption as each of these will require different strategic and

programmatic approaches. Most of the national anti-corruption measures do not outline different strategic and programmatic approaches to respond to the different types of corruption.¹³

At the African regional level, regional coordination should continue to support shared understanding of the nature, drivers, and challenges of tackling corruption domestic, regional, and offshore corruption schemes that flow through and into African countries; influence policy and technical knowledge exchange with host governments and wider stakeholders to tackle corruption; and build an effective multi-stakeholder African network to tackle corruption affecting poverty in African countries by harmonizing at the regional-level policy and legal approaches to combating corruption.

BOX 1.

Cabo Verde's Fight against the Perils of Corruption

Cabo Verde ranks 35 out of 180 countries, according to the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International, scoring high among African nations and trailing Botswana and Seychelles. To combat corruption effectively, the Cabo Verdean Government established the High Authority against Corruption. Other institutions active in combating corruption include the Judicial Police, the Prosecuting Counsel, and the courts. The country has taken numerous steps to improve transparency, including by publishing more information about state operations and finances online and generally adhering to legal guarantees of public access to information.

Source: [Transparency International](https://www.transparency.org).

13. United Nations, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. 2022. "Intensifying the Fight against Corruption and Money Laundering in Africa." https://www.un.org/osaa/sites/www.un.org.osaa/files/intensifying_the_fight_against_corruption_and_money_laundering_0.pdf.



The session also discussed the World Bank’s strategy for Africa West and Central and its emphasis on strengthening the social contract between citizens and states, through the fight against corruption and the promotion of transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. As part of its strategic goal to rebuild trust between citizens and the state to create a new social contract, the strategic framework of the World Bank’s Africa West and Central region, **Supporting a Resilient Recovery: The World Bank’s Western & Central Africa Region Priorities 2021–2025**,¹⁴ has placed a noticeable emphasis on issues of good governance, accountability, and transparency and CSO engagement. The World Bank has also tailored its approaches to draw and apply lessons learned based on previous interventions in the region.

Across Africa, the World Bank support is helping countries face these challenges. In Burkina Faso, for example, a World Bank-funded project helped the national government [improve citizen engagement and public sector accountability](#)¹⁵ through the development of a digital tool to monitor the performance of municipal service delivery. Recent investments in the [Republic of Congo](#)¹⁶ also support institutional governance reforms to improve service delivery. Also, the post-pandemic support to Kenya focuses on fiscal management reforms for [greater transparency in public procurement](#).¹⁷ In this respect, three World Bank experiences were further highlighted:

a. Targeted Sectoral and Institutional Approach

- » **Public financial management reforms applied to the payment of civil servants in social sectors can help rationalize resources and improve service delivery.** In several countries, the World Bank is supporting governments to set up a payroll audit to ensure the accuracy of records for all employees and enhance the skills of public sector officials in selected related government functions so they can better facilitate the implementation of public policies and service delivery (as in [Guinea Bissau](#)¹⁸).
- » **Support for institutions such as *Auditeurs Généraux*, *Cours des Comptes*, or *Inspections Générales des Finances* is also essential to foster greater government accountability.** In several countries—including [Benin](#),¹⁹ for example—the support to these institutions in terms of risk-based auditing, control of asset declarations, and investigative techniques has helped improve the quality of audits and thus reduce corruption.

14. <https://documentsinternal.worldbank.org/search/33107623>.

15. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/15/afw-supporting-local-governments-and-building-resilience-in-burkina-faso>.

16. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/03/31/the-republic-of-congo-accelerates-institutional-governance-reforms-for-sustainable-services>.

17. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/03/16/kenya-receives-a-750-million-boost-to-support-economic-transformation-post-pandemic>.

18. <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P176383>.

19. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/662951513869335106/pdf/Disclosable-Version-of-the-ISR-Public-Investment-Management-and-Governance-Support-Project-P147014-Sequence-No-03.pdf>.



- b. Multi-stakeholder engagement in the fight against corruption.** Civil society and the media have an essential role to play in strengthening controls to deter fraud. In a number of countries in the region (such as [Niger](#)²⁰), parent-teacher associations and local NGOs are supported in projects financed by the World Bank to monitor school budgets. In Benin, a “contract” mechanism is being developed at the school level between local authorities, teachers, and parents to prevent misappropriation of funds. In several countries, civil society representatives have mobilized to verify and monitor the construction of physical infrastructure and are committed to reporting on progress.
- c. Primacy of technology and the collection of reliable data in support of anti-corruption collective efforts.** Innovation and digitization have the potential to take the fight against corruption to the next level and thus contribute to the empowerment and well-being of citizens. In [Ghana](#),²¹ for example, the World Bank is supporting the government in implementing such a system to promote transparency, ensure uniform procedures, and apply consistent international standards for the procurement of goods and services.

Another deep dive on country experiences across the African continent continued in a technical session centered around country examples on **Strengthening Anti-corruption Agencies and Accountability Institutions in the FCV context**. This session discussed country experiences in strengthening the capabilities of accountability institutions in an effort to energize support to justice and the rule of law.

Overall, there was a general consensus that anti-corruption measures do not distinguish between FCV countries and others. Generally, the same or very comparable measures apply to FCV and non-FCV settings. However, the specificity of the FCV context raised is for anti-corruption efforts to be seen within the context of a broader set of public sector capacity building and governance reforms, namely through building core state institutions, supporting justice and security as basic building blocks for transition out of fragility, strengthening public sector capacity (revenue collection, expenditures management, and public procurement), building capacity of anti-corruption agencies, and conducting external audits through supporting the role of supreme audit institutions in the fight against corruption. Another highlight of the session was on the need to strengthen institutions as a first step toward reducing the internal fragmentation that afflicts FCV countries. That is, institutional stabilization and resilience are core to the transition out of fragility, in which anti-corruption is key, as it touches upon the legitimacy and effectiveness of the state and its agents. Building institutional resilience within the local context can tap into and engage with the networks and contextual factors of FCVs and aims at building institutions within those local contexts that are fit for function, which was the overall thrust of the World Development Report 2011.²²

20. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/413641586484065876/pdf/Niger-Learning-Improvement-for-Results-in-Education-Project.pdf>.

21. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/06/10/afw-world-bank-supports-ghana-to-improve-primary-health-care-resource-mobilization>.

22. World Bank. 2011. *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development*. © World Bank.

The session also stressed the need for public awareness and changing culture as important to anti-corruption efforts. It remains important to engage CSOs in an active dialogue with anti-corruption agencies and for institutional mechanisms for collaboration with other government functions to include risk mapping, codes of conduct, and whistleblower protections. For FCV states, speakers called for strong, transparent, and accessible institutions. They called for reforms to the judicial system, strengthening inspector general functions, and creating an anti-corruption agency where it is absent. The World Bank stressed that it remains engaged to strengthen accountability institutions that will provide service to the public which then builds trust between the people and the government.





CORRUPTION AND MIGRATION NEXUS AND THE NEED FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION: FCV FOCUS

This session was based on the [World Development Report 2023](#)'s²³ focus on the drivers of migration and the role of development. Migration is a development challenge. About 184 million people—2.3 percent of the world's population—live outside of their country of nationality.²⁴ Almost half of them are in low- and middle-income countries. As the world struggles to cope with global economic imbalances, diverging demographic trends, and climate change, migration becomes a necessity in the decades to come for countries at all levels of income. Since corruption shapes migration in a number of direct and indirect ways, and vice versa, discussions of migration that do not incorporate corruption miss out on an important piece of the puzzle.

The migration-corruption nexus has important implications for migrants, policy makers, practitioners, and communities, at large, affected by it. Corruption as a push factor for migration and driver for forced displacement only recently came to the forefront of the policy debate.²⁵ The concept of a nexus implies that there are many connections and that the effects go in both directions. Migration and corruption affect one another.²⁶ Migration can reduce corruption through some mechanisms and sustain it through others. In the other direction, corruption may fuel migration desires, directly or indirectly, and increase an individual's ability to migrate despite restrictive policies. The two-way relationship between migration and corruption adds another layer to the already complex migration-development nexus.

Overall, speakers stressed that the issue of corruption needs to be included into discussions regarding the migration-development nexus. Corrupt practices, especially the embezzlement of aid resources, may impede the success of development initiatives which are aimed at addressing migration pressures, whereas better international and cross-border cooperation, strengthened enforcement, and an increased focus on combating corruption, among each group of stakeholders—including migrants' origin and destination countries, the international community, development actors, and civil society—can deliver a system of “better mobility” in a transforming world. The session also emphasized how migration and corruption links are case specific and require a deep understanding of the roots and types of corruption prominent within the country. The need for coalition building is key, as shown by the examples provided in the session such as Côte d'Ivoire's cross-border legal cooperation through United Nations protocols on human trafficking and other national measures to fight human trafficking such as creating a national committee, working on the intersectionality of prevention and protection and collaboration with law enforcement authorities.

23. World Bank. 2023. *World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies*. © World Bank.

24. *Id.*

25. Merkle, O., J. Reinold, and M. Siegel. 2017. “A Study on the Link between Corruption and the Causes of Migration and Forced Displacement.” *GIZ Anti-Corruption and Integrity Programme. Merkle O. Reinold J. Siegel M.*

26. Helms, B., and D. Leblang. 2019. “Global Migration: Causes and Consequences.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.

Coalitions against Corruption in Action

COALITIONS AGAINST CORRUPTION: THE VALUE OF ANTI-CORRUPTION NETWORKS IN PROMOTING INTEGRITY IN AN ERA OF CRISIS

The forum focused on the importance of coalition building with the participation of global coalitions, such as the **GlobeE network**, **Transparency International**,²⁷ and **Accountability Lab**.²⁸ On the topic of gender equality in the context of the fight against corruption, the forum recognized the need for a multi-sectoral approach that acknowledges law as a catalyst for change but equally important is the adequate representation of women in the profession for an equitable administration of justice, as a building block for any rule of law system. Discrimination against women lawyers limits gender equity more broadly, and investing in women lawyers and legal professionals, generally, is a key step in countering this reality and pushing gender equality forward. This is why the women at the forum explored the idea of an **Africa Women Integrity Network** to sustain and deepen the momentum that they have created, explore ways to exchange on mentorship and training to bolster the next generation of women lawyers across Africa, and remain connected with peers from across the globe to continue highlighting good practices and successful women in this field as role models.

This session discussed how we can foster the effective implementation of commitments made through global and regional anti-corruption platforms, to bridge the gap between dialogue and action and further strengthen collective efforts against corruption.

The panel emphasized that international coalitions have an ambitious goal of shifting to action, but here, sustainability entails resourcing the hosting organizations and respective secretariats. Networks should identify and support champions. Going forward, there is a need to create knowledge products and guides that will be useful, use data to support networks, and popularize the term ‘integrity dividend’ as money that can be raised and repurposed toward development goals. Also, there is a need to provide support at the regional level—filtering down to the country and local levels while ensuring that these networks are connected and rooted with all actors at the front lines. The approaches presented in this session built on common key principles used in fighting corruption: transparency, accountability, and participation.

Common objectives of networks. Some recurring themes among the activities discussed during the session were to

- Focus on concrete tools and measures to help networks mobilize stakeholders support and resources to sustain their activities and reduce the risk of corruption,

27. https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022?gclid=Cj0KCQjwldKmBhCCARIsAP-OrfwUG86246kLoV0RFdM9TQsaJBOxwVLVpGd5JsyrK2QDE78eAJaN8acaAIQzEALw_wcB.

28. https://accountabilitylab.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwldKmBhCCARIsAP-Orfxdo3J5EwrfH9DBlu_-QLXV-PVzs4P4gBPp5lrknV6_Jwb_UN-YUm48aAtENEALw_wcB.

- Change the culture of impunity through creating partnerships through a cascading effect—from the local level to national—locally led does not mean locally isolated, and
- Monitor results.

BOX 2.

Global Network in Focus - The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities

The *GlobE Network** offers a platform for information exchange between frontline anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners in all countries across the globe. This one-stop virtual hub provides the knowledge, resources, and tools needed to track, investigate, and prosecute cases of cross-border corruption, including a decision tree and secure communications channels.

The network was conceived as the Riyadh Initiative at the G20 Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Anti-corruption in October 2020. It is designed to ensure that all countries and their independent anti-corruption authorities have the contacts and tools they need to quickly and effectively track, investigate, and prosecute transnational corruption across borders, including in the origin, transit, and destination countries.

Source: *GlobE Network*. <https://globenetwork.unodc.org>

**BUILDING
MULTI-
STAKEHOLDER
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR CHANGE:
FIGHTING
CORRUPTION
ON THE
GROUND**

This session amplified the role of nongovernment actors in the fight against corruption and the measures to protect whistleblowers and promote reporting. The discussion emphasized the value of partnerships to strengthen oversight and good governance and how to advance transparency, citizen engagement, and social accountability. The session emphasized the significant cost savings for institutions to invest in or via communities. The private sector needs accountability, and engaging citizens can derisk private sector investments. Activists should build relationships within governments; informal relationships can be useful as opposed to an adversarial relationship style.

There is also a need for African governments' leadership to further involve the youth on anti-corruption and coalitions. Young people have a fundamental role to play in bringing a new culture of integrity to all levels of society, but they are also vulnerable. It is therefore important to devise appropriate empowerment strategies to raise their awareness and understanding about corruption and to build their capacity to stand up against it, ensuring their proper inclusion as stakeholders in any policy development and implementation of anti-corruption strategies. Many youth have the desire and capacity to transform the world and have the potential to positively affect future anti-corruption efforts. As the new generation of politicians, entrepreneurs, and civil society actors, they have an important role to play in bringing a new culture of integrity to all levels of society. They should therefore be taught how to effectively prevent, detect, and fight corruption. Youth are more likely to be creative in their approach to problem-solving. Anti-corruption efforts may be more innovative and forward-thinking and make better use of modern technologies and citizen social

accountability tools. For instance, a number of web-based applications have been developed to report instances of corruption in real time, providing an opportunity for cheap, affordable solutions to citizens and quick responses/actions by anti-corruption agencies and integrity institutions. Youth, however, do not function as a homogeneous group; they have different perspectives, motivations, and ways of thinking. Projects and support provided should be tailored to this diversity.

ADAPTING ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS: A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH

This session highlighted the crucial role of the anti-corruption community in addressing the climate crisis and called for more tailored, collaborative, and urgent anti-corruption actions to support the achievement of the global climate agenda. Representatives from the Government of Seychelles, the Parliament of Ghana, the private sector, the Green Climate Fund, Transparency International, and the World Bank highlighted the many ways corruption thwarts effective climate action, particularly by enabling the misuse of key natural resources and diverting funds dedicated to climate initiatives. In particular, the speakers observed that the massive influx of funding tied to climate action—amounting to trillions of US dollars in the coming decades—coupled with accelerated spending due to the urgency of the crisis will undoubtedly heighten integrity risks that we must anticipate and mitigate. As the largest multilateral provider of climate finance, the World Bank is committed to learn, adapt, and advance its own anti-corruption work and to support the global anti-corruption community to meet the new challenges we will face.

DIVERSIFYING COLLABORATION: WOMEN, YOUTH, PRIVATE SECTOR

This panel emphasized the **need to expand the profiles of partners included**—women and youth and from across civil society—as key stakeholders in the discussions on anti-corruption development efforts. This inclusivity helped convey that transparency and information sharing among countries, institutions, CSOs, and all other stakeholders in the fight against corruption is vital.

For instance, sessions were organized specifically on the **role of women in integrity**, recognizing trailblazing professionals who have not only expanded the opportunities for women within the anti-corruption community but also made significant impact in the fight against corruption in their careers.

Similarly, this year's ICHA **engaged, for the first time, youth and young professionals**, partnering with the CSO Accountability Lab to host a delegation of 19 young professionals from 14 African countries. The Youth Delegation not only attended the ICHA Forum's sessions but also participated in parallel programming during the event, engaging with each other on their views and experience about young people confronting corruption in their communities. This program culminated in the presentation of their ideas to the entire forum on the final day, with an opportunity for direct feedback and further discussion with the experienced audience. To this end, youth recommendations called on the following:

- Governments collaborate with young people on anti-corruption efforts by involving young people in key committees set up for varied purposes to drive anti-corruption practices. Where young persons are engaged in meaningful decision-making functions, the youth populace will feel represented and will be inclined/motivated to support the government





by contributing their perspectives, proposing reforms, and monitoring anti-corruption efforts. The youth bracket is better skilled in the use of technology and data-gathering tools which are essential to decision-making and detecting corrupt practices like illicit financial flows. To this end, direct involvement of the youth in decision-making committees will be beneficial and provide an avenue for the governments to take advantage of these special skills that the youth possess.

- In collective action public-private coalitions in the fight against corruption, governments can collaborate with young people by recognizing the youth as key stakeholders (in multi-stakeholder meetings in anti-corruption efforts) and providing **safe spaces** to enable the youth to effectively provide their inputs for use in decision-making on anti-corruption efforts. Recognizing the youth as key stakeholders will inspire them and build their interest in providing valuable input in collaborating with governments to build transparent and accountable institutions through anti-corruption efforts. Governments can also help in efforts aimed at educating the youth on the perils and the detrimental effects of corruption on sustainable economic and social development to empower the youth to effect change regarding corruption. Governments can achieve this objective by providing safe spaces and an enabling environment for CSOs to educate the youth to manage corruption risks and reduce misconduct while adhering to local and international anti-corruption standards. These safe spaces may be described as platforms and mechanisms that make CSOs and the youth feel secure and promote confidentiality and privacy in CSO anti-corruption educational dialogues with the youth. Effective safe spaces should make room for diversity, gender inclusion, and the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities. Governments should also tailor safe spaces for such anti-corruption educational dialogues in the following ways. For instance, bearing in mind that the youth are the primary citizens and architects of the current digital age, governments may provide digital safe spaces for anti-corruption dialogue, such as government-backed secure hot lines/helplines to enable CSOs and nonprofits effectively dialogue with the youth in a manner which will allow the youth to ask questions and seek guidance and support (anonymously if needed) on corruption-related issues.
- Governments could involve relevant youth organizations in framing and implementing anti-corruption policies pertaining to the field where youth are active, in particular public policy and development tracks like education, sports, and media.
 - » Support youth organizations' initiatives and actions in the fight against corruption, in particular through targeted support for selected youth projects.
 - » Set up national networks where young people can share their experiences and knowledge about corruption, disseminate good practices, and devise proposals for future action.



- » Introduce integrity studies, from the earliest age, in the national school and university curricula, including both aspects of personal values and ethical behavior and a human rights-based approach.
- » Foster the approach that quality education will only be achieved, and corruption effectively addressed, if all relevant sectors of society commit fully to fundamental positive ethical principles for public and professional life, rather than relying only on top-down mechanistic regulatory measures.
- » Involve young anti-corruption activists in developing strategies against corruption and unethical behavior within education systems through participation in the drafting of ethical charts and codes of conduct for school and university staff and students and/or in the design of integrity or transparency indexes encouraging educational institutions to be more transparent with regard to their budget and internal procedures such as staff promotions and exams.

WOMEN IN INTEGRITY PROFESSIONS: DRIVING PROGRESS TOWARDS GENDER INCLUSION

This first-of-its-kind gender-focused stream at the ICHA Forum highlighted the benefits of gender diversity in the integrity field, raised awareness about the challenges faced by women in the integrity profession across countries, and identified actions to drive women's inclusion in integrity professions. In the fight against corruption, everybody has a role to play; yet, gender gaps persist in key integrity-related professions, at the expense of more effective anti-corruption efforts at the national, regional, and global levels.

The forum sessions on this topic brought to the fore common biases and patterns of interaction that put women at disadvantage and identifying ways to counter them; creating effective national, regional, and global networks for women to share resources, contacts, and knowledge; and developing allyship across genders in the workplace for better outcomes. The discussants highlighted the importance of self-awareness, acting with agency and authenticity, and building effective connections to drive progress toward gender inclusion and equity.

The first session—*Trailblazing Women in Integrity*—showcased the trailblazing careers of four remarkable women in anti-corruption: Veronica Dragalin, Chief Anti-Corruption Prosecutor in Moldova; Martha Chizuma, Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau in Malawi; Yvonne Farrugia, European Prosecutor at the European Public Prosecutor's Office; and Ly Sangare, State Judge in Côte d'Ivoire. The conversation, moderated by Anke D'Angelo, World Bank Vice President and Auditor General, discussed how to succeed in a field where women continue to be underrepresented in most countries and shared key actions to create a culture that fully leverages the benefits of diversity in which women, and all employees, feel empowered to bring their ideas, perspectives, and experiences for better work outcomes. The discussants emphasized the role of capitalizing on gender-specific assets, networking, and optimizing relationships in support of women empowerment in the workplace.

The second session—*Women in Integrity: Driving Progress Toward Gender Inclusion*—dived deeper into the topic and engaged over 75 participants in group discussions with the goal of identifying good practices for advancing



women's inclusion in the integrity field at organizational and national levels. The discussions unpacked the experiences of many participants—women and men—with facing stereotypes and biases that create a disadvantage for women in the integrity field. With support from facilitators from the World Bank's Office of Suspension and Debarment (OSD), the Sanctions Board Secretariat, and INT, the participants shared their ideas and experiences on

- Raising awareness of common biases that put women at a disadvantage (for example, lack of role models for women, gendered career paths and gendered work, women's reduced access to networks and sponsors, and cultural constraints) and identifying ways to counter such barriers;
- Creating effective regional and global networks for women to share resources, contacts, and knowledge in support of women's empowerment and more effective work; and
- Developing camaraderie across genders in the workplace and building a coalition of women and men to advance women's inclusion in the integrity profession and public life.

There was also a general consensus on the benefits of gender diversity in the fight against corruption. Everybody has a role to play, and a more inclusive and level playing field is essential to ensure that women feel empowered to bring their ideas, perspectives, and experiences to the table, especially given the intersecting challenges they face in addition to being a woman—such as race, ethnicity, and age.

Through the forum, the participants increased their awareness of common gender biases that put women at a disadvantage across countries and how to counter them, through the power of networking and national, regional, and global networks in support of women's empowerment, with an emphasis on the younger generation of women in the profession.

THE WORLD BANK-AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK INTEGRITY COMPLIANCE IN ACTION

The role of **private sector** actors was also given prominence at this year's ICHA. For instance, as part of the World Bank's presence and efforts in Abidjan for the ICHA Forum, **the World Bank's Integrity Compliance Office** co-organized a day-long workshop with the African Development Bank (AfDB), focused on discussing lessons learned around integrity compliance programs. More than 50 private sector representatives joined the workshop to share insights about how companies can join the fight against corruption, detect and mitigate their risks, and attract investments.

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are mandated to promote sustainable economic development and social progress in their regional member countries. MDBs carry out this mandate by mobilizing and allocating resources for investment in projects and programs in regional member countries, as well as providing policy advice and technical assistance to support development efforts. Flowing from this, MDBs have a fiduciary and legal duty to ensure that funds are used for the purposes for which they were intended and not diverted to other uses through fraud, corruption, and other illicit practices.

The private sector plays a vital role in the growth of any economy and in the fight against corruption. Where private companies operate ethically and in compliance with the law, it boosts investor confidence and economic growth.

BOX 3.

ICHA - A Global Platform for Cooperation

During the fifth meeting of the Alliance, the World Bank's Integrity Vice Presidency concluded bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for greater collaboration and information sharing between INT and the countersigning entities, including signing the MoU with France's *L'Agence Française Anticorruption* (AFA), and with the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Sierra Leone. By formalizing protocols for information sharing and the undertaking of joint activities, these MoUs galvanize action at both the multilateral and national levels. In addition, they help anti-corruption authorities make the most of scarce resources while signaling the fight against corruption is indeed a global effort. For the World Bank, such bilateral MoUs are crucial to enhancing traction on the referrals of investigative findings it routinely makes to national authorities. INT also held a series of meetings with national anti-corruption agencies and law enforcement authorities within the framework of existing MoUs, including with the Eastern Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Associations.

MDBs promote business integrity by requiring companies and individuals under MDB sanction to adopt strong internal processes and controls, as well as adequate governance structures and systems, through the implementation of integrity compliance programs (ICPs). Where effectively implemented, ICPs ensure that companies carry out their business dealings ethically and in compliance with the prevailing laws, as well as to be able to identify and detect risks and mitigate them appropriately.

This joint World Bank Group workshop with the AfDB provided participants with valuable insights into the experience of and lessons learned by companies, of various sizes and across industries, that have developed and implemented ICPs, including companies operating in Africa. The workshop provided an avenue for open dialogue on integrity principles and measures that may be taken toward putting in place an effective ICP consistent with those principles. The World Bank's Integrity Compliance Office shared that its collaboration on such workshops with other MDBs and business associations strengthens the collective action on integrity compliance with the private sector. There are also various examples of collective action shared in the workshop, including the mentorship program with the Integrity Compliance Office, with larger companies that have been released serving as mentors to small and midsize companies;

training modules; knowledge sharing tools, for example, compliance tools assessment; and sharing of resources from other international organizations.





ANNEX 1.

ICHA 2023 Forum Agenda

Wednesday, June 14: Global and Regional Day

9:00–9:55 AM OPENING KEYNOTE REMARKS

- Zoro Epiphane Ballo, *Minister for the Promotion of Good Governance, Capacity Building, and the Fight Against Corruption, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire*
- Shaolin Yang, *Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer, World Bank Group*
- Ghada Waly, *Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*
- H. E. Olavo Correia, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Cabo Verde*
- H. E. Tiémoko Meyliet Koné, *Vice President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire*

9:55–10:00 AM OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE ICHA FORUM

10:15–11:45 AM OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Corruption, Fragility, and Governance Challenges in an Era of Crisis

This first plenary will set the stage for the ICHA Forum by emphasizing the importance of addressing corruption as a development obstacle.

OPENING REMARKS:

Ousmane Diagana, *Vice President, Western and Central Africa, World Bank*

DISCUSSANTS:

- Zoro Epiphane Ballo, *Minister for the Promotion of Good Governance, Capacity Building, and the Fight Against Corruption, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire*
- Rose Mutombo Kiese, *State Minister, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals, Democratic Republic of Congo*
- Arturo Herrera Gutierrez, *Global Director, Governance Global Practice, World Bank*
- Rueben Lifuka, *Vice Chair, Transparency International*
- Serhii Podgorets, *Prosecutor, Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, Ukraine*

MODERATOR:

Mouhamadou Diagne, *Vice President, Integrity, World Bank Group*

Wednesday, June 14: Global and Regional Day *(continued)*

12:00–1:15 PM

PLENARY SESSION I

Enhancing Governments' Efforts to Fight Corruption: Regional Perspectives from Africa

This session will share experiences and positive examples of how governments are progressing in their fight against corruption, especially in the context of emergencies and crisis response and recovery.

Discussants

- H. E. Olavo Correia, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Cabo Verde*
- Moumouni Gindo, *President, Central Office for the Fight Against Illegal Enrichment, Mali*
- Rose Mutombo Kiese, *State Minister, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals, Democratic Republic of Congo*
- Mohamed Bachir Rachdi, *President, National Authority of Probity, Prevention and Fight Against Corruption, Morocco*

MODERATOR:

David Soro, *President, National Governing Council of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire; National Representative, African Peer Review Mechanism of the African Union*

PLENARY SESSION II

Linking Corruption and Tax Evasion to Illicit Financial Flows

This session will discuss the importance of sustaining and building international cooperation, given the increasingly transnational nature of corruption and illicit finance. The session will cover best practices, challenges, and innovative approaches to combating illicit financial flows, as well as lessons learned across Africa, including the tools more recently developed by the World Bank Group on this topic. Technical Lead: StAR Initiative.

DISCUSSANTS

- Jean-Pierre Brun, *Senior Financial Sector Specialist, Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice, World Bank*
- Emile van der Does de Willebois, *Coordinator, The StAR Initiative, World Bank*
- Bolaji Owasanoye, *Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, Nigeria*
- John Githongo, *Chief Executive Officer, Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi*
- Maíra Martini, *Research and Policy Expert - Corrupt Money Flows, Transparency International*

MODERATOR:

Adedoyin Rhodes-Vivour, *Sanctions Board Member, World Bank Group*

Wednesday, June 14: Global and Regional Day *(continued)*

2:30–4:00 PM

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS

These sessions will feature forward-looking discussions on how frontline anti-corruption practitioners in government, investigatory and prosecutorial and preventive agencies, the private sector, civil society, and other diverse partners can collaborate to address the intersectionality of anti-corruption challenges.

Combating Illicit Financial Flows through Tax Measures: Exploring Regulatory and Soft Law Approaches

This session will examine how a combination of tax measures, involving both regulatory and voluntary approaches, can provide a powerful toolkit for governments to tackle illicit financial flows. In particular, the session will examine how the work of global business and civil society collectives is championing responsible tax behaviors and how these are being adopted and implemented by the private sector. Technical lead: International Finance Corporation.

DISCUSSANTS

- **Rusudan Kemularia**, *Head of the Tax Inspectors Without Borders Secretariat, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*
- **Ewan Livingston-Docwra**, *Lead Strategist on Tax and Corporate Reporting, The B Team*
- **Tom Roth**, *Lead Tax Counsel for Asia, International Finance Corporation*
- **Adrian Wardzynski**, *Counsel, International Monetary Fund*

MODERATOR:

Ceri Lawley, *Chief Compliance Officer, International Finance Corporation*

Connecting the Dots: The Path to Corporate Transparency of Beneficial Ownership in (West) Africa

This session will discuss the lack of transparency of beneficial ownership, discuss the connection between anti-money laundering and tax, present updates to the international standards on this topic, and discuss challenges ahead in the (West) African context. The discussion will refer to current country examples of best practices and local stories of corruption investigations that relied on beneficial ownership information and resulted in concrete impact. Technical lead: StAR Initiative.

DISCUSSANTS:

- **Jean-Pierre Brun**, *Senior Financial Sector Specialist, Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice, World Bank Group*
- **Hauwa Abubakar Faruq**, *Head, Country Assessment and Standards, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit*
- **Alexandra Habershon**, *Manager of Prevention, Risk, and Knowledge Management, Integrity Vice Presidency, World Bank Group*
- **Romain Ouattara**, *Director of Legal Affairs of the Agency for the Management and Recovery of Criminal Assets; Expert Assessor of the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), Côte d'Ivoire*
- **Ignace Sossou**, *Investigative Journalist, Cellule Norbert Zongo pour le journalisme d'investigation en Afrique de l'Ouest (CENOZO)*

MODERATOR:

Emile van der Does de Willebois, *Coordinator, The StAR Initiative, World Bank*

Wednesday, June 14: Global and Regional Day *(continued)*

2:30–4:00 PM
(Continued)

The Role of Compliance Programs in Procurement Integrity

Integrity is often viewed as a foundational pillar to any successful procurement system. Adopting an effective compliance program can help contractors, suppliers, and other private entities prevent, detect, and remediate instances of misconduct in their own operations and ensure the project's successful completion. This session will discuss the value of encouraging suppliers and contractors to implement compliance measures and the resulting benefits to the overall procurement process. Technical lead: International Finance Corporation.

DISCUSSANTS:

- Allison Anthony, *Deputy Director, African Procurement Law Unit, Stellenbosch University, South Africa*
- Lisa Miller, *Head, Integrity Compliance Office, World Bank Group*
- Benson Turamy, *Executive Director, Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority, Uganda*

MODERATOR:

Collin Swan, *Integrity Counsel, International Finance Corporation*

4:00–4:30 PM

CLOSING CHAT

DISCUSSANTS

- Yvonne Farrugia, *European Prosecutor, European Public Prosecutor's Office*
- Anne Lugon-Moulin, *Ambassador of Switzerland to Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone*

8:00–9:00 PM

WELCOME DINNER

Hosted by the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

SPEAKER:

H. E. Patrick Achi, *Prime Minister of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire*



Thursday, June 15: Rule of Law and Institutional Accountability in FCV Day

9:00–10:00 AM Special discussion on Côte d'Ivoire anti-corruption experience, hosted by *Ministère de la Promotion de la Bonne Gouvernance et de la Lutte contre la Corruption* of Côte d'Ivoire.

9:00–10:00 AM **COFFEE CHAT: TRAILBLAZING WOMEN IN INTEGRITY**

DISCUSSANTS:

- Martha Chizuma, *Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Malawi*
- Veronica Dragalin, *Chief Prosecutor, Anti-Corruption Prosecution Office, Moldova*
- Yvonne Farrugia, *European Prosecutor, European Public Prosecutor's Office*
- Ly Sangare, *Judicial Agent of the State, Côte d'Ivoire*

MODERATOR:

Anke D'Angelo, *Vice President and Auditor General, World Bank Group*

10:00–11:15 AM **PLENARY SESSION III**

Coalitions Against Corruption: The Value of Anti-Corruption Networks in Promoting Integrity in an Era of Crisis

This session will discuss how we can foster the effective implementation of commitments made through global and regional anti-corruption platforms, to bridge the gap between dialogue and action and further strengthen collective efforts against corruption.

DISCUSSANTS:

- Andrii Kukharuk, *Head of Law Enforcement Projects, Anti-Corruption Division, OECD*
- Shannon Green, *Executive Director, Anti-Corruption Task Force, United States Agency for International Development*
- Thomas Stelzer, *Dean and Executive Secretary, International Anti-Corruption Academy*
- Rositsa Zaharieva, *Coordinator, GlobE Network, UNODC*

MODERATOR:

Samuel Kimeu, *Member, African Union Advisory Board against Corruption*

Thursday, June 15: Rule of Law and Institutional Accountability in FCV Day (continued)

11:30–12:45 PM **PLENARY SESSION IV**

Adapting Anti-Corruption Efforts to the Climate Crisis: A Multi-stakeholder Approach

This session will launch a call for urgent anti-corruption action by the anti-corruption community to tailor its efforts in support of an effective response to the climate emergency. The discussion will review the structure of typical public and private climate finance instruments, the private sector's incentives to address corruption risks, how current anti-corruption mechanisms can be optimized for impact at both the national and international levels, and whether new mechanisms may be devised to safeguard the scarce climate change funding from being lost to corruption. Technical lead: World Bank's OSD.

Opening Remarks: Mouhamadou Diagne, Vice President, Integrity, World Bank Group

DISCUSSANTS:

- **Patricia Appiagyei**, *Member of Parliament; former Deputy Minister for Environment, Ghana*
- **Ayotola Jagun**, *Chief Compliance Officer and Company Secretary, Oando PLC, Nigeria*
- **Ann-Sofie Jespersen**, *Senior Social Development Specialist, The Global Partnership for Social Accountability, World Bank*
- **Albert Lihalakha**, *Head ad interim, Independent Integrity Unit, Green Climate Fund*
- **May De Silva**, *Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles*

MODERATOR:

Brice Böhmer, *Climate and Environment Lead, Transparency International*

Thursday, June 15: Rule of Law and Institutional Accountability in FCV Day (continued)

1:30–3:30 PM

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Corruption and Migration Nexus and the Need for Collective Action: FCV Focus

This session is anchored on the World Development Report 2023's focus on the drivers of migration and the role of development. The session will address, through global, regional, and country prisms, how better cross-border cooperation, strengthened enforcement, and an increased focus on combating corruption, among each group of stakeholders—including, migrants' origin and destination countries, the international community, development actors, and civil society—can deliver a system of “better mobility” in a transforming world.

DISCUSSANTS

- Adou Kobena, *Secretary General, National Committee against Human Trafficking, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire*
- Tiébilé Dramé, *Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime; former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mali*
- Ermal Frasher, *Member, UN Committee on Migrant Workers; Senior Fellow, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University*

MODERATOR:

Xavier Devictor, *Co-Director for the “World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies,” World Bank Group*

Building up the Integrity Infrastructure in FCV Settings: Country Experiences on Strengthening Anti-Corruption Agencies and Accountability Institutions

This session will discuss country experiences in strengthening the capabilities of accountability institutions in an effort to energize support to justice and the rule of law, including in FCV settings, and present challenges, success stories, and recommendations.

DISCUSSANTS:

- Martha Chizuma, *Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Malawi*
- Saidou Diop, *Lead Governance Specialist, World Bank*
- Akiapo Kouadjo, *Director of Investigations, High Authority for Good Governance, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire*
- Gaëlane Pelen, *Head of International Affairs Mission, French Anti-corruption Agency, France*
- Thierry Mbulamoko, *Coordinator, Agency for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption, Democratic Republic of Congo*

MODERATOR:

David Hawkes, *Manager of Investigations, Integrity Vice Presidency, World Bank Group*

Thursday, June 15: Rule of Law and Institutional Accountability in FCV Day (continued)

1:30–3:30 PM

(Continued)

Women in Integrity Professions: Driving Progress Towards Gender Inclusion

This session will discuss measures for enhancing women’s inclusion in the anti-corruption and integrity professions, with the aim of identifying good practices for advancing gender inclusion within organizations, including in FCV settings. Participants will be invited to share their experiences on raising awareness of common biases and patterns of interaction that put women at disadvantage and how to counter them; creating effective national, regional, and global networks in support of women’s empowerment and more effective work; and developing allyship across genders and coalitions in the workplace.

DISCUSSANTS:

- Francine Aka-Anghui, *President, The Association of Women Lawyers of Côte d’Ivoire*
- Munira Ali, *Secretary General, Eastern Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Associations, Uganda*
- Zaina Idhali, *Vice Chair, Parliament, Morocco*
- Esther Mokwenaotsile, *Senior Assistant Director, Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime, Botswana*

MODERATORS:

- Leila Hanafi, *Advisor to the Integrity Vice President, World Bank Group; Chair, The World Bank Group Women for Development Alliance*
- Jodi Glasgow, *Executive Secretary, Sanctions Board Secretariat, World Bank Group*
- Alexandra Manea, *Senior Counsel, Office of Suspension and Debarment, World Bank*

4:00–4:30

CLOSING SESSION

6:00–7:00 PM

FILMS FOR TRANSPARENCY SCREENING



Friday, June 16: Multi-Stakeholder Partnership in Action Day

8:15–9:00 AM Young Professionals Coffee Mixer

A coffee mixer, led by the International Finance Corporation, on the roles and opportunities for young professionals in development finance careers, industry trends, and recommendations on overcoming challenges.

9:00–9:45 AM Youth Coalitions against Corruption: Anti-corruption Activists Bootcamp Presentations

The young professionals delegation of the forum will present and pitch their ideas for anti-corruption solutions aligned with the themes of the forum to a panel of judges and live audience during a Shark Tank-style event. This culminating experience will spotlight youth innovation, expertise, and ideas in the fight against corruption, while also encouraging intergenerational learning, with judges to provide advice and potential connections and an audience to ask questions and vote for their favorite proposal.

10:00–11:15 AM PLENARY SESSION V

Building Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Change: Fighting Corruption on the Ground

This session will amplify the role of nongovernment actors in the fight against corruption and the measures to protect whistleblowers and promote reporting. The discussion will emphasize the value of partnerships to strengthen oversight and good governance and how to advance transparency, citizen engagement, and social accountability.

DISCUSSANTS

- Blair Glencorse, *Executive Director, Accountability Lab*
- Jimmy Kande, *Director, Platform to Protect Whistleblowers in Africa*
- Hasina Kharbhih, *Founder and Chairperson, Impulse NGO Network*
- James Wasserstrom, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), The Integrity Sanctuary*

MODERATOR:

Aly Rahim, *Manager, The Global Partnership for Social Accountability, World Bank*

Friday, June 16: Multi-Stakeholder Partnership in Action Day *(continued)*

10:00–11:15 AM
(Continued)

PLENARY SESSION VI

The Role of Integrity Compliance in Fighting Corruption: Collective Action with the Private Sector

Integrity compliance forms an integral part of national and global standards and practices applicable to the private sector. This session will discuss the importance of collective action with public and private sector partners to support integrity compliance efforts.

DISCUSSANTS:

- Soji Apampa, *Co-Founder and CEO, The Convention on Business Integrity*
- Adriana Dantas, *Chairwoman of the Sanctions Committee, Inter-American Development Bank*
- Vanessa Hans, *Head of Private Sector, Basel Institute on Governance*
- Alice Navarro, *Deputy Director, Agence Française Anticorruption*
- Adama Traore, *Executive Director, Réseau Ivoirien des Jeunes Leaders pour l'Intégrité (RIJLI), Republic of Côte d'Ivoire*

MODERATOR:

Lisa Miller, *Head, Integrity Compliance Office, World Bank Group*

PLENARY SESSION VII

International Cooperation in Transnational Corruption Cases

This session will discuss how to effectively tackle transnational corruption cases through international collaboration between countries and various organizations. It will focus on various means for doing so, such as mutual legal assistance, extradition treaties, joint law enforcement investigations, support from international organizations, and international anti-corruption conventions.

DISCUSSANTS:

- Navin Beekarry, *Director General, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Mauritius*
- Staffan Edlund, *Senior Public Prosecutor, Swedish Prosecution Authority*
- Michael Petkov, *Deputy Head, International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre*
- May De Silva, *Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles*

MODERATOR:

Alan Bacarese, *Director of Investigations, Operations and Strategy, Integrity Vice Presidency, World Bank Group*

11:15–12:00 PM

CLOSING SESSION

SPEAKER:

- Francis Ben Kaifala, *Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission, Sierra Leone*

A discussion on the roles and opportunities for young professionals in anti-corruption. In addition, the winners of the ICHA Youth Blog Contest will be recognized.

12:00–12:15 PM

ICHA FORUM ADJOURNS

ANNEX 2.

Abidjan's Call for Collective Action in an Era of Crises

The World Bank Group wishes to thank His Excellency Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for welcoming us in African hospitality, to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on June 14, 2023, for the fifth edition of the International Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA).

On June 14–16, 2023, responding to the challenges presented by the damages caused by corruption but also the opportunities arising from intensification of global interest in effective measures to address it, and taking advantage of the convening power of ICHA, the fifth meeting provided leaders from national government agencies, anti-corruption authorities, investigatory and prosecutorial agencies, regional and international organizations, the private sector as well as civil society and academia a platform for dialogue on anti-corruption challenges and priorities, in support of advancing the global anti-corruption agenda.

Participants exchanged ideas and expertise to identify shared priorities that all stakeholders can seek to advance—whether through policy, diplomacy, foreign assistance, or other action—following the forum's conclusion. The forum discussions contributed to areas for heightened collaborations, with a focus on implementation and real-world impact.

- **Reaffirm** the important role of ICHA and similar anti-corruption gatherings as global platforms for bridging the gap between dialogue and action; to showcase knowledge from all corners of the world; and to convene important actors to draw attention to best practices, solutions, and forward-looking recommendations in the fight against corruption.
- **Underscore** the importance of addressing corruption as a development problem. Corruption risks can be found across all sectors and in all countries, but they can be particularly devastating for the poorest and most marginalized people in society and have pernicious impacts in the context of fragility and conflict and during the response and recovery efforts for emergencies.
- **Emphasize** that combating corruption is a shared responsibility of both developing and developed countries, and there is a need for both to take action as a matter of urgency.
- **Acknowledge** the growing convergence between the global community's work to advance financial transparency, accountability, and integrity standards, particularly through anti-corruption coalition building.

- **Commend** efforts and acknowledge progress made in the fight against corruption, through effective collaborations and joint engagements of several institutions, such as joint capacity building between the World Bank Group, UNODC, OECD, and civil society organizations, including Transparency International and Accountability Lab.
- **Recall** the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, and in particular SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions; the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 40 recommendations.
- **Recognize** the importance and impact of accountable institutions and the rule of law in addressing corruption. Transparency has value in its own right, but without accountability, it will not be sufficient to control corruption. Justice and the rule of law are the foundations for anti-corruption deterrents, while bringing other benefits in terms of economic and human well-being. Building and sustaining the capacity and independence of institutions, particularly the judiciary and justice system, are also key elements.
- **Acknowledge** the importance and impact of enhancing beneficial ownership transparency help reduce opportunities to conceal the proceeds of corruption, illicit financial flows, and cross-border transfer of corrupt and stolen assets.
- **Recognize** procurement and contract management persist as areas of corruption risk that warrant continued attention, including efforts to make open contracting a global norm.
- **Encourage** social accountability in the fight against corruption through training, whistleblower protection programs, and promoting zero tolerance for corruption at the societal level, with more focused consideration of women and youth as essential to anti-corruption efforts.
- **Emphasize** the important role of the private sector—from serving as a source of advocacy and collective action to promote reform to adopting compliance programs to business contributions to capacity building—and support further engagement between government and business and civil society to those ends.
- **Promote** anti-corruption measures by active involvement and participation of anti-corruption practitioners, national government agencies, anti-corruption authorities, investigatory and prosecutorial agencies, regional and international organizations, private sector as well as civil society and academia, with a focus on FCV countries to build resilient and strong institutions.

JUNE 16, 2023

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

ANNEX 3.

ICHA 2023 Forum's Steering Committee and Supporting Partners

The ICHA 2023 Forum's Steering Committee included representatives from across the World Bank Group who work on issues related to anti-corruption, good governance, asset recovery, the law, and similar technical areas. Their inputs into the agenda helped shape a program that facilitated broad discussions on topics relevant to today's challenges in combating corruption.

The organizers of the conference would like to thank the following offices from across the World Bank Group for their contributions to this year's event:

- The Global Partnership for Social Accountability
- The Governance Global Practice
- The Legal Vice Presidency
- The Offices of the Chief Compliance Officer of the International Finance Corporation
- The Office of Suspension and Debarment
- The StAR Initiative.

The ICHA Forum is the product of a collaborative effort by a core team of staff and consultants in the World Bank's Integrity Vice Presidency (INT). This work was carried out under the direction of Alan Bacarese, INT's Director of Investigations, Strategy and Operations, and leadership of Leila Hanafi, INT Senior Advisor. The core team was comprised of Ed Alvinez, Sylvie Bissaloue, Loubna Ennadir, Vellet Fernandes, David Hawkes, Lorna Jacobson, New Doe Kaledzi, Tanya Loftus, Richelieu Lomax, Pauline Maynard, Lisa Miller, Schola Muriithi, Laura Neuthor, Dan Nikolits, Miguel San Joaquin Polo, Abid Shah, Doreen Thairu, and Liliana Vargas. Further invaluable support was provided by the World Bank's Western and Central Africa Vice Presidency and the of the Bank's Abidjan office, including its Country Director, Coralie Gevers, and staff Kouami Armattoo, Aukey Paule Mavie Assoukpe, Macy Koumba Dominique Camara, Saidou Diop, Amoin Baudouine Kouadio, and Nguessan Enoch Ndri.

The organizers would like to also recognize the event's supporting partners for their partnership and generous support that contributed to the ICHA 2023 Forum's success: Transparency International, Accountability Lab, and UNODC's Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network).





