

Chair:

Daniel Kaufmann, Senior Manager, World Bank Institute, The World Bank

Panellists:

Luis Moreno Ocampo, President, Transparency International-Latin America and Caribbean, Argentina
Galo Jose Pazmino, Gerente, Marbisa S.A, Ecuador
Joaquin Zeballos, Presidente, Camara de Industrias de Guayaquil, Ecuador
Alfredo Corral, Contralor General, Contraloria General de la Republica, Ecuador
Jorge Barros, Sub-Secretario General, Administracion Publica - Presidencia, Ecuador
Mauricio Diaz, INTERFOROS/CNA, Honduras
Juan Ferrara, Director, Fondo Nacional de Convergencia, Honduras
German Espinal, Director Ejecutivo, Comision Nacional Anti-Corrupcion, Honduras
Selma Estrada, Directora, Probidad Administrativa, Honduras
Jorge Zepeda Patterson, Periodista, Diario El Universo, Mexico
Jorge Fernandez Melendez, Periodista, MVS Comunicaciones, Mexico
Francisco Barrio, Secretario de Estado, Secretaria de Contraloria y Desarrollo Administrativo, Mexico
Aliza Chelminsky, Asesora, Secretaria de Contraloria y Desarrollo Administrativo, Mexico
Maria de la C. Patino, Administradora General, Evaluacion dle Servicio de Adm. Tributaria, Mexico
Stella Rufinelli, Gerencia Periodista, Canal 9, Paraguay
Pedro Parra, Responsable de Relaciones, Central Nacional de Trabajadores, Paraguay
Rafael Filizolla, Diputado de la Nacion, Poder Legislativo, Paraguay
Mario Estigarribia, Sub-Contralor, Contraloria General de la Republica, Paraguay
Agustin Gonzalez, Ministro de la Presidencia, Coordinador Ejecutivo Plan Anti-Corrupcion, Paraguay
Graciela Sanchez, Unidad Tecnica, Plan Anti-Corrupcion, Paraguay

The Case of Ecuador**Corruption is the consequence of a lack of organization, rather than dishonesty**

Panellists **Alfredo Corral**, State General Inspector, and **Ramiro Larrea** from the Civil Control Commission, explained the following:

There exists a *Civil Anti-corruption Control Commission*. This independent council is composed of representatives of the civic society, who are authorized to receive and investigate reports of corruption cases, which are transmitted thereafter to the judicial power.

Its plan proposes three global activities that involve the entire operation of that Council:

- a. an integrated plan for combatting corruption;
- b. legal reforms and juridical action;
- c. electronic government.

In terms of the integrated anti-corruption plan, it is hoped that the general inspection office will take integrated action together with the relevant bodies. The most important reforms seek to ensure a law that will put an end to the control over goods, which would allow for the recuperation of goods and compensate the State for its losses, and that will, in addition, ensure an adequate protection of informants. Underlined was the elimination of home arrest enjoyed formerly by the presidents, as they are all equal before the law.

An important proposal was the request that anti-corruption laws in Latin America be unified in order to avoid the aggravating extradition processes; it was particularly demanded that the American Convention be applied.

As far as the electronic government is concerned, the idea is to place the advancements of information technology at the service of the dissemination of new values, also as a way to improve denouncements.

The Case of Honduras**A National Anti-corruption Strategy - A Participatory Process**

The panellists Jorge Illescas and Mauricio Diaz informed the participants in the workshop that in Honduras a National Anti-corruption Council exists, comprising 24 members, twelve of whom are

representatives of the civic society and the other twelve of the State. The council has been in operation since February 10, 2001. Its principal objective is to elaborate a national strategy that would help apply the anti-corruption plan, as corruption constitutes a scourge that has been on the rise in Honduras especially from the times of military governments to the present.

The plan draws from a collection of data from a public opinion poll for the constitution of effective diagnostics among other tools described in the document. This plan's fundamental aim is to ensure that the population will continue perceiving corruption as one of the principal factors of the country's backwardness and poverty.

The principal proposals are concerned with the reform of the legal system and the institutional system of control entities. Also of major importance is the citizens' access to public information, the civic society's participation in the struggle against corruption, and the formation of values. The panellists insisted that civic society should participate in such matters as the formulation of the country's general budget, including the discussion of letters of intent with multinational bodies.

During the period of posing questions the participants in the workshop concentrated above all on two topics:

1. Firstly, that this *much representativeness places the members of anti-corruption councils in reference to others who are elected by popular vote*, such as the representatives of political parties, and also as compared to such bodies as the magistrates' courts and the public prosecutor's office.
2. To this question the panellists answered that their intention cannot be to represent the entire population, but rather the sectors mandated by it. They also observed that political parties were indispensable for the development of democracy, but that public opinion was no one's patrimony. In this connection, they claimed the right of the organized civic society, as well as of the anti-corruption councils to their free opinion and to acts of denunciation. On this last-mentioned subject, the representative of Ecuador's civic society explained that they were participating in the filing of denouncements and that they could even officially make them, but that they directed them to the public prosecutor's office and that their work concentrated on the training, social control and diffusion of values.
3. The second subject concerned the participation of society in information and its access to it. It was pointed out that even economic factors, such as privatizations recommended by the World Bank, have been sources of corruption, and that only with difficulty could the population access this sphere and the budgets.

The Case of Paraguay

Mario Estigarribia, General Vice-Inspector, and Stella Rufinelli, journalist: Two Years of Work, Lectures, Losses... Actions

The Council for the Promotion of the Paraguay's National Anti-Corruption Plan has been in operation for two years already. This is a mixed council, composed of representatives of the civic society (nine), the public sector (nine), political parties (three), and one presidential representative.

The plan was launched in December 2000, and experience has shown that advances have been made despite difficulties in coordination, integration and political will. Two workshops have been held, disseminating the results reached so far. The initial evaluation suggests that technically the plan is well formulated, especially as far as state reform is concerned.

The council is confronting the challenge of putting the plan into operation, without raising exaggerated hopes on the part of the population which, on the other hand, is somewhat incredulous of the fact that the proposal should reach the government. It is an important outcome that the promotion group has maintained its determination to continue.

As may be seen, in Paraguay the difficulties entailed in making the plan work have much to do with the broadly known political contingencies of the recent years. The operational programme for the year 2001 consists, collaterally, in acquainting, sensitizing and training the public sector, civic society and private sector on the subject. The document also comprises monitoring activities.

Inasmuch as the plan may not function in its entirety, the operational programme intends to intervene in specific areas, such as customs, state purchases and justice (in this last-mentioned case, the programme includes 52 priority measures).

The Case of Bolivia

Institutionality and the Struggle against Corruption

This country was represented by Walter Guevara, a governmental representative, supervisor of the government civil service.

Mr. Guevara stressed that the country was passing through a transitory period. The presidency, which has changed recently and which considers the first magistrates' court the principal instigator of the anti-corruption struggle, must yet overcome the earlier stage during which the plan had little support, owing to the question of its credibility and scarce participation on the part of the civic society. The speaker explained the institutional framework of the plan and its success in terms of the reform of the judicial power, as well as the modernization of the State and the anti-corruption struggle. He also described the great difficulties deriving from the pressures exerted by power-related sectors that do not wish to lose their privileges.

In conclusion, the panellist observed that a new political framework exists that includes work aimed at achieving consensus with all political forces on such questions as appointments of functionaries, anti-corruption laws, acquisitions, and financial administration. The anticipated results include the completion of the reform plan and the execution of the political agreements.

Society should play its role independently and demand that accounts be provided, with a press that orients, but also investigates.

During the **discussion** with the participants in the workshop, two important subjects were raised:

1. *What are the most suitable measures and strategies for achieving the political will of the government sectors toward the development of the plan in both the panellists' countries?*

The Bolivian representative answered that in his country examples existed demonstrating that with political competence and a will for consensus this could be achieved, as was done by President Quiroga who, being a minority in his own political party not only lent them his support, but did the same with the country's other political organizations.

The Paraguayan speakers, for their part, stated that in their country a propitious framework had to be created that would help raise the conscience of both the population and the political figures.

1. *The attendants of the workshop raised concerned the dilemma that could be felt by the people in encountering too many controls and little efficacy.*

The answer given to this question was that this was a false dichotomy: one had to be honorable as well as effective in executing one's public mission in order that the population would not adhere to corruption or consider it something natural for the more rapid advancement of its proceedings. The conclusion of this subject was that an anti-corruption campaign based on controls produced more corruption and that the most important thing was to study the people's minds.