From words to actions

Lessons learned in the implementation of the “Guatemala Declaration for a Region Free of Corruption”

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1. Follow up efforts

• Convene governments, civil society and donors to:
  – Increase awareness and information
  – Open a space to exchange knowledge and initiatives
  – Coordinate efforts from a regional level

• How to follow up?
  – Innovating and not creating unnecessary burdens
  – Implementing but also ensuring a process

• Follow up meetings:
  – Guatemala and Honduras (soon Dominican Republic)
1. Follow up efforts

- **Common questionnaire** answered by governments and civil society.

- **Articulated** with Inter-American, UNCAC and other regional integration instruments (legal assistance cooperation).

- Commitment of **most of the anti-corruption agencies**: Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama.

- Donors see Declaration as a **common road map** for the region.

- Creation of a **permanent regional forum** to foster common anti-corruption agenda in Central America and Dominican Republic.
2. National and regional progress

- Corruption continues to be a major challenge for the region.
- Common progress as a region is also a pending issue.
- Different trends among countries and uncoordinated answers.

- Improvements in some areas but full compliance is very far:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to information</th>
<th>Political financing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creation of state anti-corruption bodies.</td>
<td>Whistleblowers protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Public contracting</td>
<td>Investigation and sanction bodies.</td>
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</tbody>
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3. Obstacles

A. The process:
   – Low level of awareness about the Declaration in state agencies, civil society and other stakeholders.
   – Lack of involvement from some anti-corruption authorities.
   – Absence of Regional Integration body.

B. The Declaration:
   – No legal sanctions for lack of compliance: create incentives, appeal to social sanction and media exposition.

C. At structural level
   – Weakness of some anti-corruption agencies.
   – Lack of trust of citizens on public institutions.
4. Lessons learned

A. The tool:

- It's **flexible**: space for innovation by using political will.
- Should be develop through a participatory and practical process to increase **ownership**.
- Should be articulated to previous international agreements.
- **Sub-regional nature** allows faster actions and coordination efforts.
- It's a valid and **common road map** with specific mid-term deadlines.
- **Added value** should be clear: regional forum.
4. Lessons learned

B. The process:

- If possible, involve government authorities at different level.
- Articulate follow up efforts to existent anti-corruption efforts.
- Ensure wide dissemination in spite of critics.
- Invite donors – it’s not an expensive tool.

C. At structural level:

- Need to strengthen mechanisms within the regional integration process to ensure implementation of anti-corruption commitments.
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