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# EFFORTS FOR REFORM IN THE DEFENCE SECTOR IN COLOMBIA THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

7.2 Defence Procurement Reform  
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# Acknowledgments

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# Main Efforts to control corruption

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- ✓ Constitutional reform (1991) introduced civilian as Minister of Defence.
- ✓ Budget planning for defence included in the same procedures as the rest of the sectors.
- ✓ Measures to improve transparency in defence procurement
- ✓ Internal control office in the Minister, run by civilians
- ✓ General Comptroller's Office – D&S division

# Transparency in procurement

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- ✓ Centralization of procurement in the Ministry: unified procedures, standardization of equipment, more value for money
- ✓ Public bidding – (attention to technical constraints)
- ✓ External monitoring – IP in warfare aircrafts acquisition)
- ✓ Centralization on institutional Funds management

# Persisting institutional limitations

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- ◇ A more active and specialized role of Congress is required in the monitoring of the performance of the sector vis-à-vis assigned budget
- ◇ Need for better control of procurement at decentralized level (batallions & brigades)
- ◇ Better training of personnel of General Comptroller's Office required
- ◇ Insufficient commitment from the armed forces

# Defence corruption & illegal actors

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- Corruption has not been an issue considered within peace negotiations with guerrillas or paramilitaries, despite serious problems of state capture at territorial level
- Relationship between drug trafficking money & defence corruption has changed
- A special strategy is needed to confront state capture & corruption at the local level

# Suggested Measures for Defence Reform

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1. Strengthen Institutions (consider complexity of criminal business)
2. Guarantee civilians with responsibilities in D&S management
3. High levels of publicity on how money is spent, competitive bidding with no technical constraints
4. Checks & Balances (military-govnmnt-watchdog agencies-civil society)
5. Get Congress to monitor performance

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