



13th International
Anti-Corruption Conference
IACC

**Global Transparency:
fighting corruption for a sustainable future.**
Athens, Greece | 30 October - 2 November 2008

WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop

1.1 Global Standards in Political Finance: Transparency and Accountability

Date and time of workshop

October 30, 2008 17.30 – 19.30

Moderator (Name and Institution)

Marcin WALECKI –International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Washington DC

Rapporteur (Name and Institution)

Delia FERREIRA RUBIO – Poder Ciudadano (Argentina)

Panellists (Name, institution, title)

Abdul-Monem Al-Mashat, Dean Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Future University

Varuzhan Hochtanyan, Vice Chair, Transparency International Anti-Corruption Centre Armenia

Bruno Speck, Senior Advisor for Latin America, Transparency International

Main Issues Covered

The standards of acceptability regarding political finance

Disclosure as a key tool for transparency.

Abuse of state resources by the ruling party

The need to create demand for transparency among on the part of citizens

The role of civil society in monitoring political finance



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Main Outcomes

Anti-corruption political finance efforts should emphasize strategies based on broad and timely public disclosure and independent and strong monitoring mechanisms.

Global standards of good practices in political finance shall envisage the difference between what is legal and what is acceptable from the point of view of a fair democratic competition.

Fair and transparent distribution of public funding among all major parties is basic for elections to be truly democratic.

There is a positive global trend (more than 25 countries) where CSOs are involved in campaign finance monitoring, thus enhancing transparency in political finance.

Main Outputs

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

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Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

Political finance-related corruption seems to be the biggest threat to the quality of democracy in XXI Century.

It is necessary to develop a set of global standards regarding political finance.

IFES and TI are already working to promote such set of standards and to collect and analyze best practices.

Such standards shall include:

- 1) separation of public and party resources
- 2) timely access to information
- 3) independent and strong oversight process.

Disclosure of donations and campaign expenditures means that timely access of relevant information should be granted for citizens, media, academics, CSOs and opposition parties.

Although disclosure is a global standard, an exception should be made in those countries where disclosure of information might lead to political harassment.

It is necessary to create a demand on transparency on the party of citizens through education and consensus building around global standards on acceptable political finance practices.

It is important to tackle abuse of state resources by incumbents and ruling parties.

Civil Society has an important role in monitoring and oversight of political finance.

Transparency in political finance will not result exclusively from an adequate legal framework. Rules are important but enforcement is determinant to undermine decades of impunity.

Strong and independent oversight is essential to grant fair and equal electoral competition and political participation

Signed
