

11th International Anti-Corruption Conference: Workshop 3.1

Presentation Abstract

1. Panelist Name: Gavin Woods, MP	2. Workshop Title: Making Oversight Effective
3. Title of case-study or paper: Oversight by Legislatures: A Situational Study	

The adaptation and introduction of private sector management and governance practices by the public sectors in an increasing number of countries has been a remarkable development over the past decade.

These practices have been arranged to produce an overall system which serves management with information through which to achieve its objectives, while at the same time serving legislatures with information necessary for their oversight responsibilities. As such, the opportunity now exists for legislatures to graduate from an isolated and ad hoc oversight approach, to being extensively influential over the use and success of a coherent arrangement that provides the full means for achievement of high government performance.

To explain the new and comprehensive oversight opportunities which the reforms offer the legislature, the presentation proposes to proceed as follows:

- To explain the overall management model and its more essential features (including its performance dimension). Reference will be made to less sophisticated versions of the model for use in countries with capacity and expertise constraints.
- To explain the enhanced governance arrangements which reformist countries are now employing and how these interface with the management model to allow for more comprehensive oversight by legislatures.
- To explain the information (produced by the above) which provides the legislature with the means through which to scrutinize the actions and performance of each government operation against predetermined and agreed to objectives/outputs. How the legislature should use this to influence corrections and improvements.
- To explain at a more specific level how the system involves a fuller range of the legislature's committees in oversight activity – and does so in a more purposeful way. How this can help significantly in the reduction of corruption and waste.

To reduce the chances of failure of the intended practices, mention will be made of:

- The legislatures' role in overseeing governments' full implementation of the systems (which ideally should be written into law).
- The level of expertise required within the legislature to properly utilize the system
- The resolve required by the legislature to resist any executive intervention intended to discourage it from reacting to embarrassing reports produced through the system.