Third Meeting of the

Anti-Corruption Community of Practice (COP) in Latin America and the Caribbean
"Mainstreaming Transparency and Accountability to Strengthen Democratic
Governance and Reduce Inequality"

San Jose, Costa Rica

5-6 September 2011

Introduction

Despite the impressive human and economic development trends and the array of anti-corruption actors, tools and legal frameworks, equality and transparency indicators remain relatively low in Latin America and the Caribbean. Two recent UNDP regional reports, the *Second Report on Democracy* and the *First Regional Human Development Report* provide ample evidence that shows how economic inequality and centralized decision-making can provide a fertile breeding ground for corrupt practices, and even help to justify corrupt behavior, which, in turn, leads to further inequalities.

In as much as it is difficult to ascertain, with current data and instruments, whether corruption has declined or increased in Latin America and the Caribbean region, progress has been documented on a number of fronts. For example, countries in the region today have greater access to a wide variety of technological, legal, institutional and administrative tools to combat corruption; awareness about the problem of corruption and its consequences has significantly increased; the analytical tools to understand and measure corruption have substantially improved and become more sophisticated; new actors have emerged on the anti-corruption front; as a result of an increased understanding of the nature, causes, and effects of corruption, multilateral organizations and international financial and development agencies have refined their anti-corruption strategies; today anti-corruption assistance covers a much wider range of program approaches than a decade ago; new Legal instruments and conventions (Inter-American Convention against Corruption-IACAC and the United Nations Convention against Corruption-UNCAC); and political corruption is beginning to be addressed more systematically.

Current Trends and Challenges in the Region

In spite of these important achievements, the problems persist. Like most governance reforms, anti-corruption efforts are long-term projects and that results are not always evident in the short run. While corrupt practices and transparency and accountability challenges manifest divergently throughout the region, it is still broadly recognized as a critical democratic governance and human development problem. As such, most international donors are still financing a wide variety of programs to reduce corruption in the region. They have also sponsored an array of studies that have yielded vital data and information, which has greatly enhanced the understanding of the nature, causes and consequences of corruption and the formulation of anti-corruption strategies.

In most countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, development efforts over the past three decades have been accompanied by efforts to modernize public institutions and improve democratic governance. Strengthening governments and making them more transparent and accountable is an integral part of the process of making public institutions more efficient, responsive and accountable to citizens. Nonetheless, it is also generally agree that political will is required to implement and sustain anti-corruption reform efforts. Even though most candidates seeking office today promise to combat corruption and include anti-corruption promises in their campaigns, once in office few have been able to follow-up on their campaign promises. Maintaining political will has proven difficult for many leaders for among other reasons: 1) opposition from those with vested interests in the status quo; 2) raising expectations too high on reducing corruption; 3) no practical or immediate consequence for not keeping with electoral promises; and 4) inability of leaders to work with the opposition, build consensus and mobilize support for anti-corruption actions.

A key challenge to build political will among policy makers and promote action involves encouraging and supporting policy dialogue across sectors that positively impact the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), democratic governance and economic opportunities. Knowledge and capacity building become necessary elements to engage policy makers in policy dialogue, and to strengthen the capacity of UNDP Country Offices to discuss, convene, and increase the level of public discourse on the challenges brought by lack of transparency and accountability. Patterns of corruption can change across countries and across sectors. Each sector (health, environment, and economic development), must develop explicit approaches to address the unique challenges of corruption. This goes beyond attempts to ensure that resources and programs are protected from corruption; it also implies a proactive programmatic commitment to finding ways to reduce the impact of corruption throughout the sector. Another challenge is to encourage cross-sectoral collaboration that supports the establishment of efforts country office-wide or across several practice areas to promote transparency and accountability in a more holistic fashion.

Emerging Issues and Opportunities

As was highlighted in the Fourth UNDP Global Anti-Corruption Community of Practice (CoP) Meeting held in Bangkok Thailand in November of 2010, new opportunities are emerging for UNDP to continue to promote and support transparency and accountability activities. The discourse of anti-corruption in UNDP has not been static, but rather can be described as having an evolving nature. For instance, in the early 1990s, UNDP was one of first multilateral organizations that integrated the fight against corruption into its development programs. This meant a shift from focusing solely on public administration reform, to a broader focus on policy issues, including politically sensitive. For example, more recently an evolving mandate emanated from the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and its review mechanism. The UNCAC provides an opportunity to develop a global anti-corruption language and a coherent implementation strategy. It gives an opportunity to establish an effective set of benchmarks for anti-corruption strategies, and to collaborate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as the Secretariat to the Conference of State Parties for the UNCAC. UNDP country presence in 24 countries in the LAC Region, can play a key coordinating role among UN agencies and serve as a bridge between the government and civil society, and thus is well positioned to further promote UNCAC implementation.

There are a number of other emerging issues, such as anti-corruption and MDGs (with emphasis on sectoral approach such as health, education and water). Lack of transparency and accountability hinders efforts to achieve the MDGs by reducing access to services and diverting resources away from investments in infrastructure, institutions and social services. Success in meeting the MDGs largely depend on the "quality" of democratic governance at all levels. Also, UNDP's work in mainstreaming anti-corruption into climate change programming, including mapping and assessing emerging trends and future scenarios based on the linkages between corruption and climate change. Sharing knowledge and experience of integrating anti-corruption work into climate change initiatives is an important emerging issue. Last but not least, social accountability and ethics training are also two key emerging issues.

Objective of the 3rd Community of Practice (COP)

This Third Meeting is part of an effort to articulate transparency and accountability issues in Latin America and the Caribbean that began in 2008, when the 1st Latin American and Caribbean Community of Practice on Anti-Corruption was held in Lima, Peru. In June 2009, the 2nd UNDP Latin American and Caribbean Community of Practice on Anti-Corruption was held in Bogota-Colombia, and provided a number of inputs about the needs in Country Offices and other regional initiatives.

Against this background (context, trends and challenges), the 3rd UNDP Latin American and Caribbean Community of Practice on Anti-Corruption will take place, focusing on sharing the accumulated experiences and practices, as well as exploring how to continue

mainstreaming transparency and accountability across sectors. The COP will also provide an opportunity discuss the relevance for UNDP to pursue initiatives dealing with transparency and anti-corruption areas and to explore best ways and entry points to mainstream these topics into current and future programs and initiatives. The COP will provide not only the opportunity to analyze possibilities of promoting and supporting transparency activities, but also about the challenges and possible methodologies and strategies to be pursued. It will also constitute a forum to listen and learn about good practices and lessons from across the region and to explore possible synergies not only with current strategic initiatives, but also with regional and global initiatives. The COP will be a key forum for pursuing cutting-edge cross practice initiatives within UNDP.

The main key objectives of the COP are:

- Exchange ideas on how to mainstream transparency and anti-corruption thinking and actions across current and future programming in the Region;
- Strengthen the stock of knowledge, both qualitative and quantitative at the UNDP country offices, about mainstreaming anti-corruption programming;
- Share and exchange practices, tools and experiences;
- Increase capacity to plan and implement cross-sectoral transparency programming;
- Explore possibilities for south-to-south cooperation with other regions; and
- Develop and discuss and agenda for follow up of regional and country level initiatives on anti-corruption.

AGENDA

Monday September 5, 2011	
08:00 – 09:00	**Registration**
09:00 – 10:00	**Opening Session**
	• **Welcome** to the Third Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Community of Practice (COP) in Latin America and the Caribbean Mr. Alvaro Pinto, Democratic Governance Cluster Coordinator UNDP/RBLAC • **Opening Statement** Ms. Luiza Carvalho, UNDP Resident Representative, Costa Rica • **Statement of Host Government** Rocio Aguilar Montoya, General Comptroller, Costa Rica
10:00-10:15	**Introduction of Participants**
	• Introduction of participants and presentation of the agenda and objectives of the Meeting
10:15 – 10:30	**Coffee Break**
10:30-11:30	**First Session: Progress of Anti-Corruption Efforts in the World and in Latin America and the Caribbean**
	Moderator: Gerardo Berthin, Governance and Decentralization Policy Advisor, UNDP Regional Service Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean • Brief presentation on current global trends on anti-corruption and emerging issues. • Brief presentation on current anti-corruption trends in Latin America. • Presentation on UNDP's A/C work in the region. (Miguel Peñailillo, UNDP Associate Expert) • Looking to the future perspectives and challenges. (Gerardo Berthin Plenary discussion and Q&A
11:30-12:30	**Second Session: Mainstreaming Anti-Corruption Thinking into and across Key Development Sectors I**
	Moderator: Diana Torres, Senior Researcher, UNDP Virtual School for Latin America and the Caribbean • Vulnerabilities to Corruption in the Health Sector: Perspectives from Latin American Sub-systems for the Poor (Karen Hussmann, Associate Expert UNDP) • Accountability in the Water Sector: The Cases of Colombia and México (Jose Ricardo Puyana/UNDP-Colombia y Paola Gomez/UNDP-México) Plenary discussion and Q&A
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch & Group Photo**

14:00- 15:00	**Third Session: Mainstreaming Anti-Corruption Thinking into and across Key Development Sectors II**
	Moderator: Estelle Fach, Programme Analyst, Knowledge Management & Governance (REDD/UNDP, Nueva York) • Local Governance, Anti-corruption and REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean: Exploring Synergies to Strengthen Transparency and Accountability, Beatriz Garcia, UNDP Consultant • The Experience of the Environmental Court of Costa Rica, Adriana Bejarano Lawyer Environmental Court Plenary discussion and Q&A
15:00 – 16:00	**Fourth Session: Support for Macro and Micro Preventive Anti-Corruption Measures: Key Lessons I**
	Moderator: Rocio Galiano, UNDP-Paraguay • *El Cercado Te Ve, Dominican Republic* (Anyarlene Berges, UNDP/Dominican Republic) • Transparency in Regions and the Role of the Ombudsman Office (Mario Solari, PNUD/Peru) Plenary discussion and Q&A
16:00-16:15	**Coffee Break**
16:15-17:15	**Fifth Session: Support for Macro and Micro Preventive Anti-Corruption Measures: Key Lessons II**
	Moderator: Lara Blanco: UNDP-Costa Rica • Promoting Ethics, Transparency and Accountability in Local Governments in Colombia (Marco Stella, UNDP-Colombia) • Building Civil Society Capacity to support good Governance by Local Authorities in Jamaica (Sonia Gill, UNDP-Jamaica) Plenary discussion and Q&A
17:15-17:30	**Close of Business and Announcements**
19:30 --	**Social Event (Dinner together)**
	Tuesday September 6, 2011
08:30 – 9:30	**Sixth Session: Access to Public Information**
	Moderator: Gilda Pacheco, UNDP-Costa Rica • Access to Public Information in Central America and Mexico: Assessment and Some Recommendations (Alejandra Rios, CIDE México, Maria Adilia Serrano and Rafael Reyes UNDP Associate Experts • The Experience of the Transparency and Ethic Council in Access to Public Information in Uruguay (Paula Veronelli, PNUD/Uruguay) Plenary discussion and Q&A

9:30-10:30	**Seventh Session: The Role of Civil Society and the Private Sector**
	Moderator: Jose Ricardo Puyana (UNDP-Colombia) • Multi Stakeholder and Participatory Self-assessment of the Implementation of UNCAC in Chile (Marcela Rios, PNUD/Chile) • The Experience of the Global Compact and the Private Sector (Rocio Galiano, UNDP-Paraguay) Plenary discussion and Q&A
10:30 – 10:45	**Coffee Break**
10:45 – 11:45	**Eight Session: Regional Approaches to Promote Anti-Corruption**
	Moderator: Gerardo Berthin, UNDP Regional Service Center for Latin America and the Caribbean • SIGOB (Alejandro Genovesi) • Virtual School (Diana Torres) • Capacity Development (Ines Brill) • TRAALOG (Maria Angelica Vasquez) Plenary discussion and Q&A
11:45 – 13:00	**Ninth Session: Anti-Corruption Conventions (the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption)**
	Moderator: Marcela Rios, UNDP-Chile • The Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the MESICIC (Gilberth Calderón Alvarado/ Attorney General/Director Public Ethics Department, Attorney General´s Office of the Republic • The Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Walter Hoflich, United Nations Office against Drug and Crime, UNODC-Peru)
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00-15:45	**Programming on Anti-Corruption in the Region**
	Facilitated Working Group discussions. Proposals and Analysis to be shared in Plenary according to these cross-cutting themes: 1. Decentralization and local governance 2. UNCAC and future activities 3. Anti-corruption, Human Development and MDGs 4. Anti-Corruption and UNREDD 5. Opening new areas for Anti-Corruption
15:45-16:00	**Coffee Break**

16:00-17:00	**Agenda for Follow Up of Regional and Country Level Initiatives on Anti-Corruption**
	• Discussion in plenary of the Programming on Anti-Corruption in the Region. • Needs, "who does what how" and actions to enhance AC initiatives in the region. • Technical assistance windows (DGTTF, PACDE, TRAALOG and others) • Final Reflections
17:00 – 17:30	**Closing Session**
19:00	**Farewell Dinner & Welcoming Participants of the Social Audit Workshop**