FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the seventh volume of the Anti-Corruption Newsletter, which highlights some of the major anti-corruption activities carried out by UNDP during the first half of 2012.

Notable progress has been made in the area of anti-corruption over the years. Many countries have come up with new legislation, established new anti-corruption agencies or reorganized them, and have ratified the UNCAC. On the other hand, the protests on the streets of cities around the world from Europe and the United States to the Arab States region and elsewhere suggest that more needs to be done in order to sustain the momentum in the fight against corruption.

Among the recent trends in anti-corruption is the resurgence of corruption prevention in the global policy discourse. By supporting efforts to enhance transparency and increase citizen participation in local service delivery, UNDP helps countries make corruption more difficult and therefore less likely. This was the result of Peru’s initiative, for example, to engage associations of water users in the operation and maintenance of large-scale irrigation systems. With users engaged, less bribery was reported and services were improved.

The work on corruption prevention is shifting towards a multi-disciplinary but more integrated approach to specific sectors. For example, UNDP, building on its longstanding experience in development and working together with other specialized UN agencies, has begun integrating anti-corruption into environment and climate change, education, health and water sectors. Although interest towards a sectoral approach to anti-corruption is rising, ensuring coordination and collaboration in inter-ministerial mechanisms is easier said than done. This requires effective coordination mechanisms as well as strong commitment from both anti-corruption and sector-specific practitioners to prevent corruption. Moreover, specific attention should also be paid to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment as part of the larger strategy to tackle corruption in public service delivery and accelerate achievement of MDGs.

Social accountability is another area of focus that is growing in prominence. The involvement of citizen groups in government transparency or anti-corruption is not new and has long been supported by UNDP. Currently, there is a strong movement to engage citizens in data-driven and evidence-based monitoring of service delivery. This approach is not only increasing the involvement of non-state actors in monitoring service delivery, but also encouraging government institutions to embrace and promote transparency and accountability.

UNDP continues to embrace cross-disciplinary engagement modalities in planning and programming for anti-corruption. Consequently, we are likely to find reporting on anti-corruption results not as a stand-alone but more integrated into other sectors and practices. This will lend itself to focusing and capturing country-level interventions and impact. I hope that this newsletter serves as a useful communication tool both for UNDP colleagues and other practitioners to enhance partnership and dialogue.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Director, Democratic Governance Group (DGG), Bureau for Development Policy (BDP)
IN FOCUS:

UNDP Launches a Sectoral Approach to Anti-corruption

This edition of the AC newsletter reflects a shift in approach with a focus on country level action and results (both short- and long-term). This shift is particularly pronounced where anti-corruption programming takes on a sectoral approach. In the absence of methodological clarity and programmatic guide, the three studies [Anti-corruption in Education, Health, and Water] that UNDP produced in January 2012 provided the firm ground for launching such an approach. The release of the studies also enhanced confidence and awareness that wasn’t there before in dealing with corruption in sectors. This is evident from the increased number of proposals (37) received from UNDP country offices from different regions.

Actually PACDE has approved 16 of these proposals for funding and programmatic support. The seed money aims to support piloting the methodology and to be used as a catalyst to attract additional resources for ensuring sustainability of the initiative. It is expected that these 16 pilots will demonstrate tangible results for improved public service delivery and decreased corruption risks in the sectors concerned.

To build UNDP’s internal capacity to implement projects in sectors, PACDE organized an Inception Meeting in Bratislava on May 17-18. This meeting brought all participating Country Offices together, provided guidance on the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation phases...
as well as showcased what other partners (e.g., WHO, UNESCO, etc.) are doing in the mentioned sectors.

The deliberation in Bratislava has also helped to clarify that UNDP’s move to a sectoral approach to anti-corruption is not an attempt to shy away from the political corruption rather it’s a strategic move to a more interdisciplinary approach. Early lessons from UNDP’s work in REDD+ have revealed the value addition of a cross-sectoral approach to fighting corruption. Similarly, the sectoral approach also strengthen anti-corruption agencies’ role to promote sectoral and institutional integrity.

UNESCO, WHO, UNDP Water Governance Facility participated in the meeting and have expressed their interest to support this initiative further in terms of technical assistance and expertise. UNDP will also establish an Advisory Committee including partner organizations to provide guidance to these pilots. The Country Offices already started implementation of projects and the pilot phase will continue until the end of May 2013.

IN FOCUS

Integrating Anti-corruption in REDD+: from global advocacy to country actions

UNDP has been deepening its governance work in the UN REDD programme through ensuring the Transparent, Equitable and Accountable Management of REDD+ Funds. Part of this work involves assisting countries identify and mitigate potential corruption risks in the design, implementation and benefit-distribution processes of REDD+. PACDE and UN REDD Programme’s investment in global advocacy, awareness raising and capacity development is already translating into country level actions.

Late in 2011 and early in 2012, PACDE in partnership with the UN-REDD Programme and the regional centers organized three workshops targeting REDD+ experts, Anti-corruption practitioners and civil society partners in Asia-Pacific (Katmandu and Bangkok, Oct 2011) and Africa (Lusaka, April 2012) regions.

1 is a collaborative programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) to assist these countries build capacity to reduce emissions and participate in a future REDD+ mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
Following these events, in 2012 more than seven country level action plans were initiated and funding from the UN REDD secretariat has already been secured for the action plans from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and the Philippines. The plans range from carrying out corruption risk assessments (in Bhutan and Bangladesh) to capacity development support to CSOs and ACAs (in Nepal and the Philippines). Similarly, three proposals from Kenya, DRC and Nigeria are also being finalized. PACDE is providing advisory and targeted support in operationalizing these proposals. In the second half of 2012, a similar regional awareness raising and training event is planned for the Latin America and the Caribbean region in Peru.

**Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) for REDD+**

which aims to provide a framework for a participatory process at the country level, is being piloted in Indonesia, Vietnam, Ecuador and Nigeria. Inception workshop and national consultation have been done in the first two countries. Anti-corruption was one of the focus areas of the assessment process and the data from which is expected to inform the design of anti-corruption programming in REDD+.

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**GLOBAL UPDATES:**

**Deepening the integration of gender equality and anti-corruption**

In the end of 2011, PACDE signed a Grant Agreement with the Huiarou Commission to implement a project on gender and corruption. Within the frames of this partnership, a Lessons Learnt Study was commissioned to explore the impact of corruption on women.

During the 56th session of Commission on the Status of Women (February 2012), PACDE and Huiarou Commission organized a side event where initial findings of the study were presented to 150 participants. The Lessons Learnt Study is currently being finalized and the final outcomes will be presented during the upcoming 15th IACC to be held in November 2012 in Brasil. Expressions of interest have been received from grassroots women groups in 8 countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Brazil, Nicaragua, Bangladesh, and India).
Rio+20: Governance Matters for Sustainable Development

An estimated fifty thousands representatives of government delegations, international development partners and non-state actors gathered in Rio in June 2012. UNDP provided substantive and technical support in the lead up to, during and after the Rio summit. This ranged from shaping the agenda through knowledge products, key messages, national consolations and facilitating virtual dialogue.

The democratic governance group, represented by PACDE, made a strong case through a UNDP’s issue brief arguing democratic governance remains the glue that holds together the three strands of social, economic, and environmental development. Besides removing governance related bottlenecks such as corruption, the quest for sustainability solution need to address such issues as a) enforcing local communities’ right to natural capital, b) ensuring the capacity to design and implement integrated development programmes, and c) establishing frameworks for social inclusion and protection.

PACDE also sponsored two side events together with Transparency International and International Poverty Center in Rio on safeguards required for ensuring climate finance contribute to sustainable development and the later on the role of civil society partners Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD).

THE FUTURE WE WANT

The Outcome Document contains a paragraph devoted on anti-corruption:

“We stress that fighting corruption and illicit financial flows at both the national and international levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger and sustainable development. We are determined to take urgent and decisive steps to continue to combat corruption in all of its manifestations, which requires strong institutions at all levels, and urge all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and begin its implementation.” (para 266, p 50)
The Fourth Board Meeting of UNDP Global Thematic Programme on Anti-Corruption (PACDE)

On 7 February 2012, the fourth Board meeting composed of various stakeholders including donors and senior UNDP staff from UNDP regional bureaux and centres was held in New York. Having reviewed the progresses and challenges of PACDE in 2010-11, the board approved the proposed PACDE work plan for 2012 with an annual budget of USD 3.5 million and urged PACDE (and the Democratic Governance Group) to make efforts to mobilize additional resources. The Board has also made the following additional observations:

- the need to look at ‘big’ corruption issues that affect growth and development – such as illicit financial flows, practices of multi-nationals and extractive industries;
- to broaden the sectoral approach to anti-corruption to better reflect the realities at the local level and into emerging areas such as financial and natural resources/land sectors; and
- Further strengthen coordination, partnership, impact of the interventions and result-oriented reporting.

REGional UPdates:

Africa

Capacity Building on Financial Forensic Investigation for anti-corruption practitioners in Southern Africa

UNDP Johannesburg Regional Centre with technical support from PACDE and partnership with Southern African Forum against Corruption (SAFAC) - a network of anti-corruption authorities in 14 member states in Southern African Development (SADC) region, organized a five-day training event on Financial Forensic Investigation from 04 to 08 June 2012 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The training brought together investigators and prosecutors from anti-corruption authorities of 11 countries from SADC region and equipped participants with skills to investigate financial crimes including money laundering, racketeering and corruption.

The training, which a South Africa-based training provider ‘Nexus Forensic Services’ conducted, covered a range of topics such as bank statement analysis and understanding the flow of funds, applying various investigative tools including lifestyle audits vis-à-vis respecting the rights to information, techniques for recovering losses from fraud and corruption, investigation report writing, presenting cases and testifying in courts, looking at the issues of conflict of interest, etc. As a follow up, UNDP is planning to standardize the training manual on forensic financial
investigations, organize a training of trainers based on the manual, and upscale this training in other regions.

**Mauritania’s high level meeting on the fight against corruption**

On 10 to 11 April 2012, the Government of Mauritania and UNDP in partnership with UNODC organized a high level meeting in Nouakchott. Several national actors and African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Morocco, and Rwanda) deliberated on the international and regional instruments to fight against corruption, reviewed the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) including coordination of anti-corruption efforts at the national level, and fostered a high level political dialogue between governmental, civil society organizations and private sector operators. The gathering also offered an opportunity to strengthen capacity of national experts on anti-corruption instruments, tools and methodologies.

**WACA WACA: West And Central Africa Weekly Anti-Corruption Announcements**

A weekly news update, WCACA, launched by the anti-corruption team in Dakar RSC to provide summaries of key information and updates on corruption and anti-corruption in Central and West Africa Sub-region. The focus is on: news from CO UNDP and other partners regarding progress in anti-corruption programming; update on implementation of UNCAC; recent publications and press releases on anti-corruption; and finally opportunities training, employment. The initiative to launch Waca Waca came from a recommendation of Waca Community of Practice (CoP) held in Cotonou, Benin in 2011. At the end of March Waca Waca contribute to increase the number of CoP members from 40 to 100. It’s been appreciated by practitioners in the region for timely information and helpful insights from the anti-corruption world.

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**Arab States**

**Capacity Building for Civil Society Concerning the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

UNODC in collaboration with the Egyptian government’s Information and Decision Support Centre (IDSC), Egypt’s Social Contract Centre and Transparency International organized a workshop on “Capacity Building for Civil Society Concerning the UNCAC”, including regional and international speakers from Austria, Portugal and Tunisia. The workshop featured sessions on the governing principles of UNCAC, methods of monitoring, review and reporting mechanism, the importance of civil society engagement in the review and reporting mechanism and possible approaches for NGOs to participate in the review process, in addition to discussions on country experiences. Moreover, the workshop included a capacity building component to enhance the participants’ skills in terms of preparing self-assessment reports.

**Anti-corruption to promote transparent Economy in Egypt**

The Egyptian Corporate Responsibility Center Project organized a workshop entitled "Towards a Transparent Economy in Egypt" in partnership with Cairo University, the MENA-OECD Investment Programme and Siemens Egypt. The workshop focused on the fight against corruption and the promotion of transparency in Egypt, in addition to the intersecting roles of the private sector, society, academia and the public sector in promoting social entrepreneurship. The workshop featured discussions on international and regional experiences, the role of health and education in fighting corruption, in addition to the link between corruption and economic growth, transparency and financial reform.
Asia and the Pacific

Regional Workshop on Judicial Integrity in Southeast Asia
On 26-27 January 2012, more than 200 delegates from 16 countries, including chief justices, justices, academics and legal practitioners, gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia, for a regional workshop on Judicial Integrity in Southeast Asia. The Supreme Court and the Judicial Commission of Indonesia, UNODC, UNDP PACDE, and BMZ co-organized this event to share experiences on integrity-based judicial reforms in Southeast Asia. Hon. Michael Kirby, Justice at the High Court of Australia and Rapporteur of the Judicial Integrity Group unpacked the concept of judicial integrity using six interrelated issues, i.e., independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety, respect, and competence.

Hon. Chief Justice Dr. Harifin A. Tumpa, Supreme Court of Republic of Indonesia, stressed the need for judiciary reform in light of the on-going political and economic transition in Southeast Asia, and increased expectation of people towards governing institutions to live up to higher standards. The participants reviewed national experiences from Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand, among others, and discussed how different countries apply in practice the ‘Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct’. The Chief Justices from Afghanistan and Bangladesh and the President of the Court of Appeal from Timor-Leste attended the event with support from UNDP PACDE. All attendants adopted a final communiqué with practical conclusions and recommendations.

Members of Parliament against corruption in Timor-Leste
The Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption and UNDP Timor-Leste, with support from APRC’s anti-corruption specialist and BDP/DGG’s global parliamentary advisor organized a pilot testing of the Anti-Corruption Assessment Tool for Parliamentarians developed by the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre. A dozen parliamentarians self-assessed their performance in the fight against corruption. Government officials and civil society actors discussed and made specific recommendations including enhancing parliaments’ role in implementing the UN Convention against Corruption, adopting legislation on asset declaration for all public officials, establish a sub-committee in parliament on oil revenues, and passing access to information legislation.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) Launches Excellence in Anti-Corruption Reporting Media Award
Responding to the increase in the rate of corruption as revealed by recent international and local reports and surveys, PNG kick-started an award system to recognize and encourage greater role from the media in the fight against corruption. Notably, the inaugural awards launched in 2011 were initiated as a result of PACDE’s support through the International Anti-corruption Day Campaign, which the UNDP Country Office in collaboration with local partners later decided to make the award an annual event.

Notable Progress in Guaranteeing Access to Information in the Pacific
UNDP, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Pacific Governance Facility, has been supporting the development of Freedom of Information (FOI) related legislations and policies in Tonga and Vanuatu. While preparing to launch its FOI policy next month, the government of Tonga designated scores of government officials as “information Officers” with the responsibility to assist the implementation of the Policy. In Vanuatu, UNDP is supporting the adoption of FOI legislation.
including a series of local consultations. Similarly, UNDP’s Pacific Center has provided direct technical advice on the draft Communications and Access to Information Strategy being developed by the Kiribati Government. The support ranges from technical assistance in the drafting of the strategy to implementation support through training for officials, as well as public outreach.

**Eastern Europe and the CIS**

**Social Media, a new addition to the ammunition against corruption in Kosovo**

In April 2012, UNDP Kosovo launched an online platform that empowers citizens to engage in the fight against corruption. The website, Kallxo, allows users to report corruption cases, voice their concerns and use social media to proactively combat corruption in their country. As an example the Website has recorded several corruption allegations during the Mayoral election in the city of Ferizaj/Urosevac on the 29 of April.

Through PACDE, UNDP Kosovo’s next project will use the existing web platform, along with other social media outlets such as twitter and facebook, to engage students and teachers in the fight against corruption and raise awareness about corruption in the education sector (learn more).

**Promoting Transparency and Open Government**

UNDP supports national institutions and civil society in developing and implementing the Open Government Partnership (OGP) related initiatives in ECIS region. Work in this area has been initiated in Montenegro where the Chief of Staff of the Montenegrin Prime Minister, Rajko Kovačević and the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative to Montenegro, Rastislav Vrbensky signed the cost-sharing agreement for the implementation of the “Citizens’ Voice – E-Petition” project. The project seeks to introduce a website that will harness the powers of digital technologies to facilitate and simplify citizens’ participation in policy making.

In Ukraine, the UNDP has facilitated the process for participatory development of the OGP action plan. The process culminated in a round table at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine that convened Government representatives and nearly 150 representatives of CSOs to discuss the National Action Plan for implementing the OGP initiative on March 30. The action plan outlines concrete steps towards reforms in the area of good governance, access to information, anti-corruption and e-governance (Learn More).
Supporting Supreme Audit Institutions in the Western Balkans

UNDP is currently supporting Supreme Audit Institutions in the Western Balkans, the support focuses mostly on enhancing the capacities of the SAIs to address corruption in Political Parties financing and to provide transparent information to the citizens on state budgets and spending. With the help of PACDE, UNDP Montenegro facilitated a peer-to-peer exchange in April 11-12 between the Montenegrin and Croatian State Audit Institutions (SAI) in the area of political parties and election campaign finance auditing. This collaboration has set the base for the launching of the 2nd Regional Conference of State Audit Institutions to be held in June 18-19 in Montenegro. The conference will be hosted by Montenegro’s SAI and supported by UNDP and will include participants from SAIs and UNDP country offices in Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia and Bosnia.

Implementing the United Nation Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in FYR of Macedonia and Romania

UNDP in FYR of Macedonia and in Romania have initiated the process for conduction of the UNCAC self-assessment in line with the UNDP Guidance Note Going Beyond the Minimum. The Methodology provides indications for the conduction of the assessment in a participatory manner, utilizing the process for awareness raising and communication purpose. In FYR Macedonia the Ministry of Justice and the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption with technical support from UNDP conducted a stakeholders’ workshop clarify the goals and scope of the Self-Assessment process, present the “Going beyond the Minimum” methodology, discuss responsibilities and leadership, and agree on the modalities for cooperation between all concerned parties (Learn More).

Latin America and the Caribbean

Anticorruption International Cooperation: Prevention, Transparency and Accountability in Brazil

On January 26, 2012, the workshop “Anticorruption International Cooperation: Prevention, Transparency and Accountability” was held in São Paulo, Brazil. The event was sponsored by the Office of the São Paulo State Comptroller General, the Special Office of International Affairs of the State Government of São Paulo, and UNDP-Brazil. Nearly 80 government employees from the areas of internal and external control of the State participated. The workshop aimed to provide a global, national and regional perspective on transparency, accountability and anti-corruption. It also provided an opportunity to dialogue about mainstreaming anti-corruption in development sectors, and about the United Nations Conventions against Corruption. The joint work between UNDP’s Regional Center and UNDP Brazil proved to be very successful, and will certainly help to build new partnerships with the State Government of São Paulo and the Federal Government of Brazil.

Transparency, Anticorruption and Integrity in Water Sector in Central America: Why it Matters?

On February 2012, taking advantage of a visit by Senior representatives from the Water Integrity Network (WIN) to Panama (and Costa Rica and Nicaragua), UNDP’s Regional Service Centre (RSC) for LAC organized a one-day dialogue with WIN, UNDP, and UN agency colleagues. The idea was to generate a space to share and exchange experiences about UNDP’s work on
transparency and accountability in the LAC region, especially in Central America, understand sectoral issues such as water from the lens of transparency and accountability, and to explore possible short and medium-term collaboration opportunities between UNDP RSC, other UN Agencies and WIN. Some of the key conclusions of the dialogue were: map actions and actors in the water integrity sector; promote an integral political and policy approach on transparency and accountability in the water sector and UNDP's role to promote national, regional and global policy dialogue; and support the empowerment of the civil society in the topic of transparency and accountability in the water sector.

**Third International Seminar on the Impact of the Right to Access to Information and Citizen Participation**

In April, the UNDP RSC DG Policy Adviser participated as a panelist in the Third International Seminar on the Impact of the Right to Access to Information and Citizen Participation. For the same event, the TRAALOG funded the participation of the Secretariat of Transparency of the State of Puebla-Mexico, considered a best practice in terms of promoting transparency in the municipal government. The seminar provided an opportunity to share and showcase UNDP's experience in promoting transparency and citizen participation at the sub-national level, as well as disseminate knowledge products. Mainstreaming access to information issues into new sectors, such as education and politics, are topics that are expanding the horizon, and could provide an opportunity for UNDP to position itself strategically in these new potential issues. There is an opportunity to explore synergies with the Latin America Network of Specialized Government entities for Access to Information (RTA), including sharing information with COs in LAC for promoting new membership.

**UPCOMING EVENT**

The 15th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) is going to take place in Brasília, Brazil on Nov 7-10, 2012. The main theme for this year is ‘Mobilising People: Connecting Agents of Change’ as a powerful ways of fighting corruption and impunity. Every two years, the IACC serves as the world premier forum that brings together heads of state, civil society, the private sector and more to tackle the increasingly sophisticated challenges posed by corruption. The IACC takes place in a different region of the world, and attracts up to 1500 participants from over 135 countries.

UNDP has been partnering with Transparency International (TI) in contributing to the debate and knowledge exchanges as well as supporting the participation of national anti-corruption practitioners. This year, UNDP is planning to organize a number of side events and workshops during the conference on a range of topics consistent with the overall theme.