

Principles for Donor Action in Anti-Corruption

Principle No. 1

Collectively foster, follow and fit into the local vision

Meeting the MDGs requires, inter alia, the resolve to fight corruption and to meet commitments agreed in relevant international and regional conventions including the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on anti- money laundering. Whenever feasible, these endeavors should be led by the host government.

At the country level, donors should:

Collectively:

- Promote with government the development of a shared government-donor vision/strategy and collaborative mechanism(s) for anti-corruption dialogue and action, ideally based on government commitment to implement the UNCAC (or other relevant instrument).
- Share diagnostics, knowledge and analysis through such mechanism(s), identifying gaps and reviewing progress.
- Engage with other key actors through such mechanism(s) (e.g. civil society, media and the private sector).
- Support and strengthen the capacity of civil society for strengthening the demand for reform, and promoting and monitoring transparency and accountability in the fight against corruption.
- Work, where government commitment is weak, with local and international civil society and private sector actors as the primary alternative, but recognizing that strengthening government commitment is the essential objective in the long term.
- Take time to understand local political, economic, social and historical contexts and challenges, and develop responses that are appropriate to them.
- Favor long-term responses over short-term, reaction-driven inputs, but without losing the capacity for responding quickly to support new initiatives and emerging reformers where these opportunities arise.

As individual donors:

Agree to present our anti-corruption assistance explicitly as being contributions to the shared vision/strategy¹⁸ and the collective donor approach.

Principle No. 2**Acknowledge and respond to the supply side of corruption**

Donors recognise that corruption is a two-way street. Action is needed in donor countries to bear down on corrupt practices by home-based companies doing business internationally. The OECD Convention on Combating Bribery has helped to underline the responsibilities that OECD member countries themselves have on the “supply side” of corruption. Donors need to work more effectively within their own domestic environments, with key relevant departments responsible for trade, export credit, international legal co-operation and diplomatic representation, as well as with the private sector.

Development agencies should:

- Foster stronger action by relevant domestic departments in their own countries against the supply-side of corruption in areas such as bribery by donor country companies, money laundering, repatriation of assets or the ratification and implementation of major international conventions such as the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.
- Inform counterparts in other development agencies of this engagement.
- Engage proactively with the private sector in partner countries.
- Ensure that accountability and transparency measures are included in all areas of donor assistance.
- Contribute to strengthening inter-country co-operation (mutual legal assistance, mechanisms for asset recovery) both by strengthening capacity in developing countries for making requests for international legal co-operation and by collaborating with domestic departments where appropriate.

Principle No. 3**Marshal knowledge and lessons systematically and measure progress**

It is essential to make better use of existing knowledge and lessons learned, supporting governments in making them an integral part of the policy making process. It is also important that clear baselines and targets be set, while progress is systematically assessed against results.

At country level, donors should:

- Collectively foster knowledge gathering to inform policy and operational action, drawing, wherever possible, on local capacity.
- Encourage government to develop systems that better connect evidence with policy development.

- Foster the systemization and publication by government of the measurement and the reporting of progress on anti-corruption efforts.

At the global level, donors should:

- Develop a systematic approach to dividing up efforts for undertaking strategic research/knowledge gathering and synthesis and in sharing results.