

PROGRAMME NOTES

Background Information

1. In the light of extensive on-going international efforts to combat corruption, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and Transparency International (TI) have organised this Development Partnership Forum. The purpose of the Forum is to improve donor effectiveness in combating corruption. This theme will be addressed by focusing on three inter-related objectives of the Forum:

- to improve donor action in supporting anti-corruption programmes in partner countries;
- to assess donor practices and aid modalities in a corruption perspective;
- to take concerted action.

2. The Forum is organised around these three themes, with plenary sessions and parallel breakout groups. The breakout groups will draw on the ongoing work of Transparency International and the broad range of work across the different directorates of the OECD. The Forum will bring together political leaders and senior officials from governments, civil society and the private sector in OECD countries and non-OECD countries in different regions, bilateral donors, multilateral organisations, international NGOs, and national anti-corruption organisations. About 150 people will attend the Forum.

3. The host of the Forum is the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry, which has provided the excellent facilities of the *Centre de Conférences Pierre Mendès France* (Bercy, Paris) for the Forum. Minister Xavier Darcos will deliver a welcome address to Forum participants at an evening reception.

Session 1: Anti-corruption programmes in partner countries

4. The purpose of the opening session of the Forum is to set out an understanding of anti-corruption programmes in partner countries, involving a range of actors. Combating corruption is an ongoing responsibility for government, non-state actors, civil society, and the private sector. This is the case in both OECD countries and partner countries, whether developing countries or emerging economies.

5. The theme of the first plenary is “**Building public confidence in development effectiveness through anti-corruption programmes.**” The goal of this plenary is to consider the links among development effectiveness, anti-corruption activities and regaining public confidence. Until recently, there had been a decline in aid, associated with reduced public confidence that official development assistance had an impact on development. The reduction in public confidence was the result of several factors, but prominent among these factors was the perceived impact of corruption in partner countries.

6. Keynote speakers in the first plenary include Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, (Minister of Finance, Nigeria); Kamal Hossain (Chairman of the Transparency International Advisory Council), and Alexandre Randrianasolo (Director General, Public Expenditure, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Budget, Madagascar).

7. As 9 December is the UN Anti-Corruption Day, the Development Partnership Forum will mark the first year of the UN Anti-Corruption Convention and there will be two guest speakers, Eduardo Vetere from UNODC, Vienna and Bruce Jenks from UNDP, New York.

Session 2: Combating corruption in partner countries

8. This session aims to understand better the way in which partner countries are trying to combat corruption. There will be particular focus on assessment of corruption in a development context and on the efforts of civil society and non-state actors to support the implementation of the UN Convention against

Corruption (UNCAC) and the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. How might the international community support these efforts? The session is composed of four parallel breakout groups.

Group 1: Better understanding the political economy of aid and corruption. The group will consider the efficacy of different assessment techniques and indicators to study and measure corruption being developed by various organisations, including TI and the OECD Public Governance and Territorial Department (GOV). This will range from global to national assessments and will include specific research studies and country case studies, such as work on the political economy of Indonesia. What are the implications of these research results and assessment methods for different aid modalities and conditionality?

Group 2: Enhancing the role of civil society in anti-corruption work. The goal of this group is to understand the role that civil society can play in raising awareness of corruption and increasing pressure on government and the private sector. The group will consider the range of civil society actors, the interaction with governments and multilateral organisations, and the legitimacy of civil society organisations' role in fighting corruption. The group will also discuss advocacy and ways that civil society can monitor corruption.

Group 3: Supporting legislation on money laundering and recovery of stolen assets. This group will raise awareness of ongoing initiatives in this area and explore the links with the UNCAC. Attention might also be given to the recovery of corruptly acquired assets. In particular, the group will consider the opportunities and constraints in formulating a "model outline of legislation" in these fields, which could be helpful in overcoming capacity limitations in partner countries.

Group 4: Building capacity to follow international conventions. One challenge for capacity building is the multiplicity of Conventions. The group will consider the following aspects of capacity building: ratification, implementation and monitoring. The group will review existing international and regional conventions and the challenges currently faced by governments and civil society to ratify and implement the UNCAC and several regional Conventions. It will then look at the important role of monitoring processes and the need to build and maintain the capacity of (1) monitoring bodies; (2) governments being reviewed; and (3) NGOs and other entities monitoring outside review processes.

Session 3: Assessing donor practices and aid modalities in a corruption perspective

9. Issues relating to donor procurement and corruption preoccupy both donors and recipients. Furthermore, some critics of aid allege that some donor practices have an impact on increasing corruption in partner countries. While some critics use the stories of corruption to question the whole development enterprise, others are more concerned with the lessons to be learned to improve development effectiveness. Donor agencies may have made efforts to protect their aid grants and loans from corruption but, to be credible with the critics of aid practices, donors must do better by considering the impact of their practices on development prospects in partner countries.

10. This session takes up these issues in the form of a discussion of the question: "**Does the way donors deliver their aid and assistance promote rather than prevent corruption?**" On the one hand, Brian Cooksey (TI-Tanzania) will put the case that donor activities, especially certain policies and aid modalities, can promote corruption. Abdoulaye Bio Tchané [Director, Africa Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF)] will argue that the international regulatory framework acts to limit opportunities for corruption. Other speakers with experience of donor practices and corruption are Jean-Michel Severino, (Director-General of the French Development Agency), Philippe Montigny (Consultant and Chair of the Working Party on Preventing Corruption, French Council of Investors in Africa (CIAN) and Luc Damiba (activist in the Burkina Faso National Network Against Corruption [RENLAC]).

11. The format of the discussion will allow opposing points of view and contentious facts to be presented. It will also provide the basis for the next session that looks at how the international community can improve its performance.

Session 4: Taking concerted action

12. This session aims to reach conclusions about actions that can be taken by the international community to support partner countries' efforts in combating corruption. There will be particular focus on the ways that donors can improve development effectiveness by taking account of the risks of corruption in their aid programmes. The session is composed of three parallel breakout groups followed by the final plenary.

13. The parallel breakout groups will discuss “**Emerging lessons and principles for government donors.**” These groups will share the lessons learned by OECD member countries, the multilateral agencies and NGOs in their anti-corruption efforts. The discussions will also consider the concerns about the possible links between aid and corruption that were raised during the debate in session three. Each of the group discussions will aim to suggest ways to move forward for further discussion in the final plenary.

Group 5: Promoting access to information. The goal of this group is to understand the role of access to information in the fight against corruption both in OECD countries and partner countries, and to review some current best practice. The group will highlight recent work undertaken by TI and will present the experience of the Media Council in Papua New Guinea in promoting access to information.

Group 6: Supporting anti-corruption programmes. The goal of this group is to review good practice in donor support to partner countries' anti-corruption activities. The group will consider the lessons that have emerged from medium term experience with anti-corruption programmes supported by multilateral and bilateral donors (specifically the World Bank, the Utstein Group, and USAID). The group will also review work by the OECD DAC Network on Governance (GOVNET) in developing principles for donor action in anti-corruption.

Group 7: Improving procurement and public contracting. The goal of this group is to explore the impact of corruption in public contracting on development programmes in partner countries. In particular, the group will consider the special risks to, and from, aid funds. The group will review emerging principles in procurement and public contracting arising from a roundtable in South Africa and a global forum in Paris (OECD) and the ongoing work on public contracting by TI.

14. Plenary discussion. **Moving ahead.** The purpose of the Forum is to improve donor effectiveness in combating corruption. This theme was addressed in earlier sessions by focusing on improved donor action in supporting anti-corruption programmes in partner countries and assessing donor practices and aid modalities in a corruption perspective. Following on from the lessons that emerged in the plenary sessions and breakout groups, the Forum will consider the ways in which the international community can move ahead in the fight against corruption. The discussion will be framed by Peter Eigen (Chairman of the Board, TI), Mark Pieth (Chair, OECD Anti-Bribery Working Group), and Surya Nath Upadhyay (Chief Commissioner of the Commission Investigating Abuse of Authority, Nepal). Each of these speakers represents different parts of the international community engaged in the fight against corruption, and will provide their reflections on the lessons learned in the Forum and propose next steps that have emerged from the discussion in the Forum. Finally, following a discussion of all Forum participants, Richard Manning (Chair, OECD DAC) will sum up the Forum conclusions, the implications for the work of the Development Assistance Committee, and how co-ordination of the work of different constituencies might be maintained by the OECD.

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