



THIRD ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL
ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE FOR
G20 GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESS



Third Annual High-Level Anti-Corruption Conference for G20 Governments and Business

*jointly organised by the Russian Presidency in the G20 and the OECD,
and supported by the UNODC*

25-26 April 2013, OECD Conference Centre, Paris

Conference Summary and Conclusions

This Conference, organised jointly by the G20 Russian Presidency and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), brought together more than 300 high-level government and business representatives, as well as civil society, to examine best practices for combating corruption.

Corruption is a threat to markets, public trust, and the rule of law, and requires governments and business to work together. For this reason, both G20 governments and business have committed to joining forces against corruption, as called for by the G20 Leaders in Los Cabos. To this end, the Conference discussed the priorities laid out in the [2013-2014 G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan](#) and [Business 20 \(B20\) Recommendations to Governments](#). It also built on the outcomes of the two previous [High-Level Anti-corruption Conferences in Paris 2011](#) and Puerto Vallarta 2012.

This Conference featured key remarks by OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov, and Russian G20 Sherpa, Chief of the Presidential Experts' Directorate Ksenia Yudaeva.

The Conference started with two roundtables on integrity in the organisation of major events, including sports. Participants underlined the complexity of dealing with corruption risks in such events and identified key areas where action should be taken. Holding a major event is a matter of country prestige and that makes an event awarding process vulnerable to corruption. To tackle this issue the bidding procedures should be improved. Procurement of major infrastructure investments as well as licensing and sponsorship are particularly exposed and international standards on integrity in procurement as well as on public-private partnerships should be carefully implemented. The high price of major events as well as involvement of stakeholders of various nature also heightens the corruption risks which should be addressed through enhanced transparency throughout the whole process.

Discussions showed that many important efforts on combating corruption in sports are already underway, by international organizations, individual countries, such as Brazil, private sector and civil society. In order to ensure the synergy of the interrelated initiatives, the G20 Russian Presidency proposed to set up a Global Alliance for Integrity in Sports. The Global Alliance could become an umbrella platform to discuss existing problems, share ideas, experience and useful policy tools,

launch anti-corruption projects and jointly make strategic decisions. It could join around a Global Pledge providing key high-level principles as a common baseline, which the Members of the Alliance would subscribe to. The idea of the Global Alliance was actively supported by the OECD and UNODC and possible way forward was preliminary discussed.

The Conference panels were built around two major topics: influence of corruption and anti-corruption measures on economic growth and best practices in promoting anti-corruption compliance in the private sector.

Russian Sherpa in G20 Ksenia Yudaeva pointed out that the issue of relation between corruption and economic growth is of the highest importance to G20 as the core objective of the Russian Presidency “to concentrate the efforts of member-countries on boosting sustainable and balanced growth around the world”. The G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2013-2014 states in its first lines that “corruption is a severe impediment to economic growth”. However, a better understanding of how the implementation of effective anti-corruption measures impacts growth, development and international investment, would be helpful to further incentivise governments and business to step up the fight against corruption. Participants discussed the importance of promoting anticorruption measures in the broader context of global efforts to restore confidence and growth.

Participants also dwelled on the difficult issue of the balance between punishments for corrupt behaviour and rewards for clean business practices. The need for stronger enforcement and more comprehensive compliance measures were discussed, as well as the need for a broader change of mentality in the corporate sector, at all levels of the company. Addressing this need should be a priority for companies, and could be done, for instance, through training and education. Countries around the world, such as China and Russia, are making improvements in their institutional frameworks to address the complexities of bribery. But in the end, the key is real, consistent enforcement. To this end, participants voiced their support for the accession to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention by G20 governments that are not yet Party to the Convention.

Participants agreed that the reward for good corporate compliance is not only to avoid prosecution, but also to gain more business. It is especially important for small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—which have their own special set of compliance challenges—to understand the “business case” for combating bribery in business. With a growing number of SMEs entering foreign markets, creating and implementing effective anti-corruption compliance programmes is a necessity. There, capacity-building, training and support from multinational enterprises to companies down their supply chains and collective action were recognized as key to SMEs’ success in addressing corruption.

Companies often face the difficulty of investing in foreign markets in which bribery still seems “just a normal part of business” and where bribe solicitation remains a major challenge. Whether company-led or as part of a multi-stakeholder effort, collective action is seen as one effective way to deal with this challenge. Participants discussed the innovative initiative launched by Colombia, which set up a High-Level Reporting Mechanism whereby companies facing instances of bribe solicitation by government officials may report it to an independent body complementary to the judicial system. Training of private sector employees—including the training of third parties—to identify instances of

solicitation, together with appropriate corporate channels to address the situation collectively, were also considered useful tools for facing this challenge.

Dmitry Feoktistov and Barbara Martin , the co-chairs of the G20 Anticorruption Working Group, as well as Andrei Bougrov, the chair of the B20 Task Force on Improving Transparency and Anti-Corruption agreed that the Conference proved to be a very important brainstorming exercise and that many ideas expressed by speakers and other participants deserved particular attention. They assured that theConference conclusions would further inform the discussions of the G20 and B20.

Conference web page <http://www.oecd.org/daf/anti-bribery/g20-anticorruption-2013.htm>