



2023 OECD GLOBAL  
**ANTI-CORRUPTION  
& INTEGRITY FORUM**

**ACTION TO IMPACT:**  
Working together to strengthen  
integrity and fight corruption  
24-25 May 2023 - Paris, France

# HIGHLIGHTS



The OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum is the leading annual multi-stakeholder public event on anticorruption worldwide. This international platform uniquely brings together government, business and civil society leaders and experts on equal footing to advance innovative solutions on a range of issues related to integrity and anti-corruption, such as technology, foreign bribery, political integrity, lobbying and influence, development cooperation, infrastructure, tax and more.

## GLOBAL

90 countries  
99 speakers  
Over 900 participants

## MULTIDISCIPLINARY

1/3 government  
1/3 business  
1/3 civil society  
21 cross-cutting sessions

## INNOVATIVE

1720 virtual attendees  
Digital networking  
Connections made across  
the globe

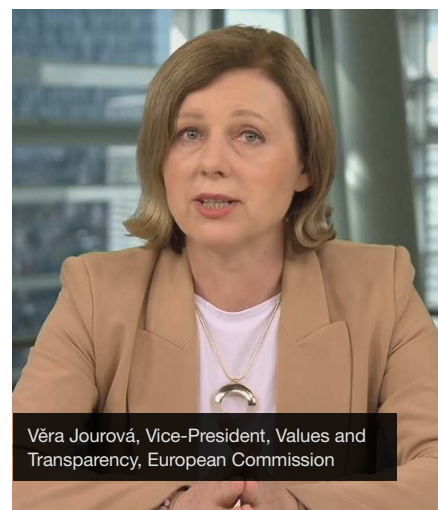
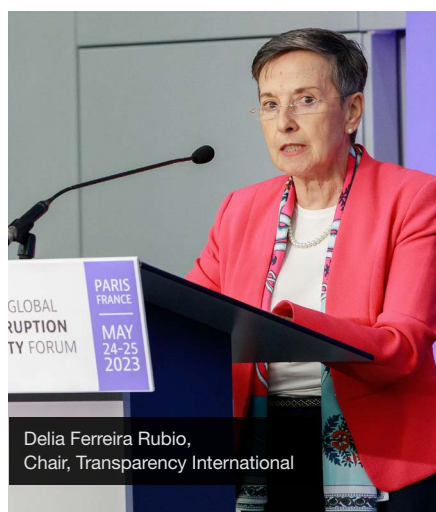


The 2023 OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum met under the theme “**Action to Impact: Working together to strengthen integrity and fight corruption**” and highlighted a renewed commitment to mobilise stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to fight corruption and promote trust and integrity.

Corruption and a lack of integrity can be found at the core of many of today’s multiple crises, and exacerbates their effects on citizens, business, and government. Stronger and coordinated partnerships between like-minded actors is necessary to ensure action translates into impact.

“We need transnational, multistakeholder, evidence-based and context-aware approaches to counter corruption.

Richard Nephew, Coordinator on Global Anti-Corruption, United States



“This Forum will help ensure the OECD’s standards, data and cutting-edge analysis support effective action against corruption and integrity risks.

Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General, OECD

“Corruption is a double detriment to growth and prosperity.

President Rodrigo Chaves, Costa Rica

## Strengthening the partnership between the public and private sector to combat corruption

The opening panel focused on the importance of fostering trust and openness between the private and public sector to co-design effective solutions against corruption and to turn action into impact. Panellists highlighted the progress made, including through the [Global Initiative to Galvanize the Private Sector as Partners to Combat Corruption](#), developed with the support of the United States. The discussion notably touched upon the importance of going beyond compliance, starting with a genuine commitment from the top to establish a culture of integrity which is reflected in the company's strategy, hierarchy and resources allocation. The speakers also emphasized the importance of understanding both the opportunities and the potential risks associated with technology in the fight against corruption, specifically the importance of promoting digital literacy across sectors. Finally, panellists highlighted the need to address new forms of corruption, such as strategic or geopolitical corruption, where corruption is used as a political tool to exert pressure on governments or to carry out capture policies.

“ We need to stop being the audience and [be] the protagonists.

Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair, Transparency International



From left to right: Rebecca Ruiz, International Investigative Reporter, New York Times; Klaus Moosmayer, Chief Ethics, Risk & Compliance Officer, Novartis; Daniëlle Goudriaan, Chair, OECD Working Group on Bribery; Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair, Transparency International; Richard Nephew, Coordinator on Global Anti-Corruption, U.S. Department of State



## Reinforcing democracy: Integrity amongst elected and appointed officials

“ Transparency is fantastic, but alone it won't work.

Nancy Bélanger, Commissioner, Lobbying Canada

Healthy democracies are founded on robust institutions. These must be upheld with leaders that act with integrity to ensure that constituencies' interests are fairly represented and that government action is aligned with the public interest. Panellists agreed that transparency should be the default position in public governance, and the need for integrity not only within but also between institutions for effective and holistic policy making. Minister Lamola highlighted how the South African State Capture Commission has looked at fraud and corruption at the highest political levels, and Commissioner Bélanger underscored Canada's Lobbying Act to empower citizens to learn about actors legitimately influencing policy. Comprehensive anti-corruption and integrity strategies are however required to elevate transparency, openness and accountability from “buzzwords” to clear and stringent frameworks. This is done not by addressing one single policy or operational issue but looking at the bigger picture, ensuring a balance between a values-based (open organisational culture) and rules-based (registers, declarations) system.



## Incentivising integrity in infrastructure: A systemic and multi-stakeholder approach

Panellists emphasised the importance of collective action and multi-stakeholder solutions like the [Blue Dot Network](#) and the [Infrastructure Anti-Corruption Toolbox](#) to effectively tackle corruption in infrastructure.” Deputy Minister Derkach stressed that this was particularly crucial in Ukraine where, as in other conflict and post-conflict contexts, trust is a vital pre-requisite for the reconstruction of the country. The discussion also emphasized the importance of integrating technology in an evolving infrastructure landscape, for example exploring AI and blockchain to track beneficial ownership and enhance supply chain security. Finally, they stressed the need to adopt a systemic approach combining global values and local considerations when implementing anti-corruption solutions.



“Trust comes from agreements on small steps, from keeping and implementing these agreements and from showing there is a pathway to better. [...] It is a critical ingredient to make anti-corruption work, to make investment into infrastructure work.

Peter Maurer, President, Basel Institute on Governance

## Zero tolerance for corruption: What does it mean in practice for development co-operation?

Panellists from academia and development agencies shared country-based experiences to unpack the practical implications of the zero tolerance for corruption principle, highlighting some opportunities but mostly the challenges that this strategy carries. Corruption is “development in reverse”, but strict applications of the zero tolerance principle can have damaging consequences on development objectives and on fighting corruption, i.e. by impacting negatively on levels of reporting of corruption. Zero tolerance should be understood as looking into allegations of corruption when detected, and as a call to mitigate corruption risks. Panellists stressed the need to consider political and social realities of partner countries and to understand the root causes and underlying incentives of corruption to better inform and target anti-corruption efforts. They called for new, gradual, and proportional approaches to tackle and respond to corruption, including the need to separate the response provided to the incident of corruption as a criminal offence, from the response and consequences the incident might have on the overall development programming (see [Report on Implementation of the 2016 OECD Recommendation](#)).



“If there is a solution which allows you to have a developmental impact by changing the incentives, that’s what your anti-corruption response should be and that’s what ‘zero tolerance’ means to me.

Mushtaq Khan,  
Professor of Economics, SOAS University of London



From left to right: Mushtaq Khan, Professor of Economics, SOAS University of London; Jeanette Klangeheldt, Anti-Corruption Policy Officer & Quality Management Officer, European Commission; Jennifer Lewis, Deputy, Programs, USAID Anti-Corruption Task Force, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Pilar Garido Gonzalo, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD; Phil Mason, Independent anti-corruption specialist

## Corruption in critical mineral supply chains: Impeding sustainable development and disrupting security of supply

Meeting climate goals will require a quadrupling of the minerals currently used for clean energy technologies by 2040. Corruption undermines the mining and metals sector's ability to meet this surging demand responsibly – if at all – disrupting production just when responsibly produced minerals are urgently needed. Speakers discussed lessons learnt on how corruption risks manifest themselves in mineral supply chains, particularly in the early licensing phase of large-scale mining projects, and recommendations for mineral supply chain companies to identify and address those risks through the implementation of OECD due diligence standards. Panellists noted the need for greater transparency around mining contracts through adoption of contract, payment, and beneficial ownership disclosure in line with global standards. Transparency and disclosure are especially important to detect corruption risks and support supply chain due diligence efforts. Panellists also emphasised the importance of linking development assistance and minerals trade agreements to the anti-corruption agenda, to provide stronger incentives to supply chain actors and government stakeholders to take this issue seriously.



*“The beneficial ownership transparency agenda as a tool to fight corruption is even more important as we face risks accompanied by the energy transition.”*

Gay Ordenes, Asia Director and Anti-corruption Lead, Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative

## Are government efforts to strengthen integrity and combat corruption measuring up?



*“Once a scandal breaks out, one has never done enough to prevent it. Then the applicable laws and regulations turn out not to be strong enough after all.”*

Petra de Sutter, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Administration, Belgium

Governments are expected to encourage transparency and stakeholders' engagement at all stages of the policy cycle to promote accountability and the public interest. Yet, little evidence is available on the regulations and tools used in practice to promote public integrity and strengthen resilience to corruption risks. This session discussed key findings from the [OECD Public Integrity Indicators](#), a recently developed unique set of standard indicators that are drawn on primary data to show whether governments fall short or achieve their anticorruption commitments. Data shows that OECD countries have relatively strong regulations on conflict of interest (76% of regulatory safeguards are in place on average), political finance (66%) and access to information (60%), but weak regulations on lobbying (38%). Conflict of interest has the strongest implementation gap (33% of standards are implemented in practice), compared to political finance (55%), access to information (57%) and lobbying (33%). Panellists encouraged governments to strengthen their regulations and intensify implementation, especially in lobbying, and bolster data collection, especially in conflict of interest.



## Combating fraud amid crises: Lessons learned from the pandemic and the path forward

“ *Build an anti-fraud culture. My recommendation is talk about fraud. We need to build awareness, build it into our reflexes.* ”

Charlotte Arwidi, Head of Unit, Anti-fraud Strategy and Analysis,  
European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

This session explored how integrity and accountability actors are crucial for detecting and preventing fraud risks, which were particularly prevalent following the COVID-19 pandemic. Panellists recommended developing a strategic approach for dealing with fraud risks, underscoring the importance of robust internal control systems and data analytics to combat fraud in relief funds for example. New tools and technological advances for detecting fraud and error are only as good as the data being analysed, and are not themselves a panacea. The quality of data is vital when dealing with high volumes of fraud to avoid false positives. Overall, panellists highlighted



the need to establish effective internal control frameworks and make better use of the data as key elements to prepare for a future crisis.

## Reinforcing democracies in a globalised world: Countering foreign covert influence and foreign interference

“ *FARA is a very important tool. It allows the public to understand when foreign governments are trying to hide their influence on our government institutions and political processes.* ”

David Newman, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General,  
National Security, U.S. Department of Justice

Foreign interference activities from non-democratic regimes present risks for the integrity of democratic processes and threaten vital economic and security interests of democracies. Panellists emphasised the need to improve our knowledge and collective understanding of the institutional architecture of foreign interference activities, as these activities are typically implemented through channels and actors that go beyond intelligence services or diplomatic institutions. There was a consensus on the need for more transparency through tools

such as the U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). Other key tools discussed included strengthening rules on the financing of political parties, the screening of investments, contracts, purchase of technologies and ownership of media, better strategic communication, among others. Panellists called for increased cooperation between like-minded countries and the development of international standards in this area to avoid weak spots.



## Closing remarks

Speakers highlighted the importance of global cooperation across sectors to collectively fight corruption and strengthen trust and integrity. Combating corruption is essential to Saudi

Arabia's "Vision 2030" to promote transparency and good governance. Increased capacity-building through IT is a focus of India's G20 Presidency and technological advances, such

as an e-market place to facilitate online procurement of goods and services in government departments, can help to ensure the proper use of government funds. Thailand underscored the need for integrity to build strong institutions and highlighted OECD best practices as an important element in this.

“Turning commitments into action requires close public-private cooperation and sustained efforts to strengthen trust between key actors.”

Kerri-Ann Jones,  
Deputy Secretary-General, OECD





## Knowledge partners

Eleven sessions of the 2023 Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum were organised by Knowledge Partners, including non-governmental organisations, international organisations and governmental institutions. These sessions widened the perspective and scope of the Forum, covering a range of pressing issues from the use of machine learning to strengthening integrity in climate finance, to the integrity of post-war recovery in Ukraine.



From left to right: Vitor Geromel, Legal Analyst, OECD;  
Vanessa Hans, Head of Private Sector, Basel Institute on Governance;  
Dennis Wolf, Senior Manager, Koenig & Bauer AG;  
Cecilia Müller Torbrand, CEO, Maritime Anti-Corruption Network

### Leveraging machine learning to strengthen integrity in climate finance

*Green Climate Fund*

This session explored the application of machine learning and intelligent automation in identifying potential integrity vulnerabilities, accountability gaps, and other risks in climate projects.

### Racing to zero – Education and digitalization as enablers in fighting corruption

*Business at OECD*

This panel brought together representatives of the OECD and the global business community to discuss innovative ways of tackling corruption, looking specifically at the role that education and digital technologies can play.

### Due diligence in anticorruption and human rights: Connecting the agendas

*Paul Hastings*

This panel focused on how the due diligence experience in anticorruption can be transposed to the human rights agenda, as well as the limits of such synergies.



### Anti-corruption Collective Action: SMEs as drivers for business integrity

*Basel Institute on Governance*

This session brought together private sector representatives and experts with hands-on experience of the benefits and challenges of anti-corruption Collective Action from an SME perspective.

### Integrity of post-war recovery of Ukraine

*Government of Ukraine*

During this session, representatives of Ukrainian authorities (Ministry for Recovery, NACP, NABU) and civil society (RISE UA) provided an outline of the latest achievements in the field of public integrity, and describe innovative solutions that will ensure transparency and accountability of the use of international assistance and all recovery processes.

### From cosmetic compliance to an effective framework to combat integrity breaches

*CEELI Institute & International Foundation for Electoral Systems*

This session shared findings from a research project that examines the different approaches states take to navigate the challenges to preventing, investigating, and sanctioning integrity breaches by candidates and public officials.

### Taking stock of the Governance and Anti-Corruption work of the IMF and the way forward

*International Monetary Fund*

The IMF discussed recent efforts to focus on governance vulnerabilities in key state functions that result from corruption and/or give rise to opportunities for corruption, as well as specific proposals for the way forward, to facilitate effective progress in these areas in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.





From left to right: Salvador Dahan, Member of the Advisory Board of the Transparency Movement of the UN Global Compact – Brazil Network; Lydia Méziani, Legal Director, Nestlé; Nicola Bonucci, Partner, Litigation Department, Paul Hastings; Sierra Leder, Strategist & Human Rights Lead, The B Team; Matthew Genasci, Senior Investment Stewardship Manager, Norges Bank Investment Management

## Countering violent kleptocracies: Natural resource integrity in a war-fraught era

*The Sentry*

In this session, panellists discussed cases on the use of natural resources to fund violent kleptocracies and highlighted relevant solutions for policymakers, businesses and financial institutions with a specific focus on practical actions and implementation.

## Developing effective whistleblowing systems

*U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre*

This panel explored what an effective whistleblowing management system looks like, in the development of whistleblowing channels, the management of whistleblowing reports and for whistleblower protection.



## Merchants of integrity? Global trade and corruption risks in a volatile world

*Global Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence (GI-ACE)*

This session discussed a recent report by GI-ACE that analyses emerging corruption risks surrounding global trade in food, energy, and cryptocurrencies, as well as identifies avenues for future research and possible policy interventions in the changing landscape of global trade.

## Integrity risks in water infrastructure: The importance of planning and early decision-making processes

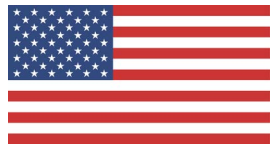
*CoST*

This session brought together experts from CoST, the Water Integrity Network and the Inter-American Development Bank who partnered to develop a set of indicators and associated data points to help strengthen transparency, accountability and integrity in the water sector. Panellists outlined the approach and methodology, shared the findings arising from the research and considered the potential impact of this approach if it were scaled-up.

## 2023 OECD Integrity week

The 2023 Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum was the flagship event of Integrity Week. The week consisted of twelve events focused on specific regions, sectors or policy areas. Events included the Auditors Alliance, the OECD Working Party of Senior Public Integrity Officials, Government incentives to promote corporate anti-corruption compliance and the Plenary Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Task-Team, as well as regionally focused events including the Meeting of the OECD-IDB Public Integrity Network for Latin America and the Caribbean and Promoting integrity and fighting corruption in the MENA region.

..... The 2023 OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum .....  
was held with support from the United States Government



..... With many thanks to our Knowledge Partners .....



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