

Forum: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Issue: Improving international cooperation to prevent and address corruption

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Introduction

Those who have been entrusted power, such as government officials or police officers, will find it simple to take this power to their advantage and engage in dishonest practices or criminal activity. In most circumstances, corruption leads to personal gain through the use of bribery or embezzlement. Other forms of corruption include graft, extortion and blackmail, influence peddling, abuse of discretion, and nepotism. Every country faces some form of corruption, but the extent of each form of corruption varies. For example, bribery is prevalent in Cambodia while nepotism is prevalent in Kyrgyzstan. The Corruption Perceptions Index (see appendix) is the most common method of measuring a country's corruption. As of 2016, Denmark, New Zealand, and Finland are regarded as the least corrupt, whereas Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria are regarded as the most corrupt.

According to Al Jazeera, "over \$1 trillion is stolen from the world's poorest countries every year." Thus, the government is not able to make the most out of their revenue to invest in areas which would further develop their country, such as education or healthcare. Injustices are common when there is corruption, such as evidence being destroyed due to the bribing of law enforcement agencies. Moreover, corruption could cause vehicles and factories to release unregulated exhausts since it is cheaper; this increases overall pollution. Nevertheless, one of the major concern when it comes to corruption is the fact that it undermines democracy. The core values of democracy include open discussion and the free exercise of votes for individuals; this is not achieved if votes are forced, bought, or rigged.

That said, there are various ways to prevent and address corruption. In order to effectively combat corruption, efforts need to be made within the government and particular societies. This includes efforts made by all branches of the government, civil society groups, and the private sector. Public cooperation is crucial. Although governments themselves must make a national effort to do so, improving international cooperation is also necessary. At the moment, international aid is already given in the form of more competitive economies, helping democratic reform, and an improvement of governance.

Nevertheless, the international community must still put effort to improve international cooperation so that all countries have both the will and resources to tackle this issue.

The United Nations has recognized that corruption is a hurdle in regards to the development of a country. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has encouraged international cooperation to prevent and address corruption through providing policy guidance to UN member states, funding regional centers, ensuring that there is mobilization for technical assistance and support for states when necessary, and holding a UN Congress on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders every five years. The sole anti-corruption instrument which is legally universally binding is the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has also taken various actions in order to combat corruption through aiding the UNCAC which come in the form of providing technical assistance. This includes education, asset recovery, and integrity in the criminal justice system.

Definition of Key Terms

Corruption

Dishonesty or criminal activity conducted by those who are in power for personal gain. Corruption can be categorized in “grand” versus “petty” and “active” versus “passive”. “Grand corruption is used to refer to a form of corruption where the highest sectors of the government are pervaded; this involves abuses of power which are major. On the other hand, petty corruption refers to very small amounts of money or where small favors are granted.

Election

Where votes are counted in a formal and organized manner in order to select someone for an official position. Stable democracies depend on electoral systems which are fair.

Bribery

If one gives or receives an item or position of value for something of influence in exchange, it is known as bribery. Active bribery describes the giving end of a bribe whereas passive bribery describes the receiving end of a bribe.

Embezzlement

The act of public funds being stolen or misappropriated for personal use when it is entrusted to a person or entity. This is a form of financial fraud that is typically premeditated. Usually, the individual who engages in embezzlement will minimize the risk of being caught through taking small proportions over an extended amount of time.

Extortion

When something, typically money, property, or services, is obtained through the use of force or threats. Blackmail by those who have been entrusted with power is a common type of extortion.

Abuse of Function

Abuse of function occurs when public officials fail to perform an act and violate the law, specifically because this failure is for the purpose of personal advantage. Typically, others are either benefited or harmed in this process.

Nepotism

The practice of favoring relatives or friends by those who have power and influence so that they receive unfair advantages, such as jobs. Although nepotism can be seen in various fields, it is particularly damaging when less competent individuals have been entrusted with influential positions.

Background Information

Corruption exists in all countries. However, the extremity of the form and scene of the corruption varies from one type to the next. For example, a police officer bribed by a motorcyclist who was not wearing a helmet would not fall on to the same page, in terms of its severity on future events and its longevity on forthcoming impacts, as a private contractor bribing government individuals to carry out their project.

Despite the variations in corruption that continue to exist, the element in a country that is under threat due to the sole existence of corruption is democracy. One could question whether democratic systems should remain to exist or if political reforms are necessary in countries which incorporate democratic systems. While corruption has the greatest impact on democracy, it would be incorrect to say that corruption is only a sin of the government; private sectors have an equal if not more contribution in government corruption than the government themselves.

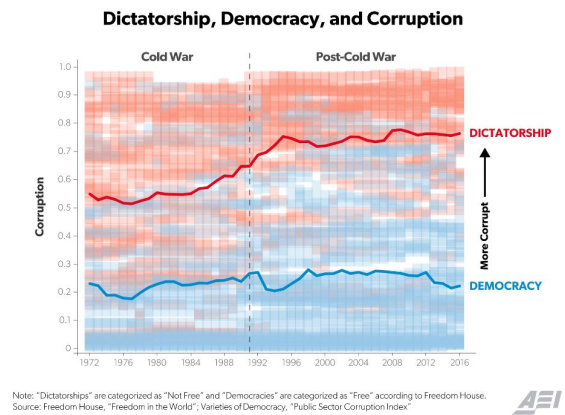
Nevertheless, in order to improve international cooperation on the matter in hand, we need to understand corruption to its full extent; its sectors, types, causes, effects, and past. In addition, we need to determine how it has helped shape the present.

Sectors of Corruption

Government

All forms of governments are susceptible to corruption. According to Clay R. Fuller, who is a Ph.D. holder and has conducted studies focusing on corruption, notes that corruption is

significantly greater in authoritarian regime than in democracies. Modern authoritarians seem to exploit their power to attain more influence. Moreover, their efforts reach and divide free societies. A clear example of the latter was when an official Russian embassy UK-Twitter account turned into a troll. Undermining the power and authority of UN Human Rights Council would exemplify the former. Note here that these are some examples of how modern authoritarians choose to exploit their powers and they are not the only agents of authority in the political systems that use their supremacy in unethical manners.



Political Agents

Any corrupt agent of authority in any form of government causes a hole in a political system. A study titled “Worldwide Clustering of the Corruption Perception” identifies that the longevity of any form of corruption will hamper the economic growth of a country. The possible suggested reason for this identification is that corruption reduces ‘marginal productivity of capital’ (the output from an additional unit of capital) because the actual capital is not where it should be to be used efficiently. Nevertheless, this correlation is not applicable to all the countries; there are few who, along with their high levels of corruption, also have high levels of income. Therefore, although there may be a correlation between the two variables (levels of corruption and actual GDP), we cannot with certainty claim that there is a causal relationship.

Police and Law Enforcement

Police officers are regarded to be honest, reliable, and conscientious. However, there are a select few that ruin this reputation; instead of serving as “guarantors of rights and protection,” they become a symbol of fear and harassment. This is especially the case in rural areas, where police officers become the means that rich landowners use to control their tenants and workforces. In cities, police officers may work for corrupt politicians who they know are corrupt. However, there are many others that simply work for themselves; using their position of power to extract as much income as they can. Factors such as poor salaries and working conditions can trigger the latter situation. Any corruption in law enforcement undermines justice.

Judicial

Another element of a weakly functioning state is judicial corruption. This form of corruption takes place when politically motivated bodies appoint and promote judges. Even the judges who

wish to uphold ethical principles are susceptible to corruption as they may be subject to heavy political pressures toppling with other temptations such as low salaries or their fear of retribution. There are a plethora of reasons why judicial corruption occurs; however, Transparency International has identified seven national-level factors:

1. In large-scale: the interference of government in the working of the judiciary leads to judicial corruption.
2. When society normalizes and tolerates economic and political corruption leads to judicial corruption.
3. The fear of demotion or physical harm by the judges result in an engagement in corrupt.
4. Low salaries for both judges and court workers makes them prone to bribery this is a form of judicial corruption.
5. Countries do not reward ethical behavior which in turn has a negative consequence as it leads to judicial corruption.
6. Judges from different courts working together and establishing a predetermined outcome may result in judicial corruption.
7. When court proceedings are not externally monitored this may lead to judicial corruption.

Education

A report has been released by UNESCO called “corrupt school, corrupt universities: what can be done.” This study has identified various corrupt practices in school such as the “illegal registration fees, academic fraud, embezzlement, and other problems” which contribute in undermining the education system worldwide. These corrupt practices, as summarized by UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura, “prevents poorer parents from sending their children to school, robs schools and pupils of equipment, lowers teaching standards and thus education standards generally, and compromises the future of our youth.”

While primary and secondary education systems and process are flawed in many countries, the same can be said for many fake universities that exist as well. Their form of corruption takes place in offering bogus degrees which between the years 2000 and 2004 has increased from 200 to 800 on the internet.

Healthcare

Corruption in health services occurs in all levels, from grand corruptions, when corrupt officials siphon funds during the construction of new hospitals, to petty corruption where bribes are demanded by health workers or administrators to perform their duties. The table on the right highlights the common forms of corruption in the health sector.

CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTH SECTOR			
Patient-Doctor	Payer-Hospital	Hospital-Supplier	Within hospital/Ministry
Bribes for treatment	Fraudulent billing for fictional treatment	Kickbacks for purchase orders for drugs, equipment, supplies, meals and cleaning services	Sale of jobs and promotions and transfers
Induced demand for unnecessary procedures (e.g. caesarean deliveries)	Patients with coverage get procedure and prescription	Bribes for approval of drugs	Theft of funds
Diluted vaccines		Doctors bribed by drug companies for prescribing their drugs	Theft of supplies

Source: Azfar and Azfar 2007.

The table highlights the most common forms of corruption in health sector

Types of corruption

Grand corruption

Grand corruption is an act conducted by the elite selected political officials who exploit their power to implement economic policies. These corrupt officials have the influence to modify or introduce national policies to serve their interests. This diverts the public spending to these sectors which makes the gains from this type of corruption greatest.

To measure and identify this type of corruption is difficult because the result of this corruption does lead to some parts of the population to gain benefits from it. In addition, the extent to which grand corruption negatively or positively affects a society or a population as a whole is difficult to interpret due to lack of precise measurement tools available to study the link between the two variables.

Nevertheless, grand corruption violates human rights and this has been recognized by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Moreover, the presence of grand corruption further encourages poverty, inequality and increases exclusion which are major hurdles to accomplish the sustainable development goals 1, 10 and 17.

Legislative corruption

Legislators, due to their influence towards policies, can be bribed by interest groups that want to pass certain legislations to change the economic rents associated with assets. This type of corruption, therefore, refers to the influence on the voting behavior of legislators. “Vote-buying” is a form of this type of corruption.

Bureaucratic corruption

This type of corruption occurs in small scale and involves dealings with appointed bureaucrats with their superiors or with the public. In simple terms, bureaucratic or petty corruption is bribery in connection with the existing laws, rules and regulations already implemented. For example, the public in order to receive a service (which they are eligible to) or to increase the rate of a bureaucratic procedure may bribe the bureaucrat. Since this type of corruption involves modest sums of money, it is also referred to as “low level” and “street-level” since an average person is inclined to experience this type of corruption on a day-to-day basis, either when they encounter with public administration or when they come across variety of different services such as in school or hospitals or from police or taxing authorities.

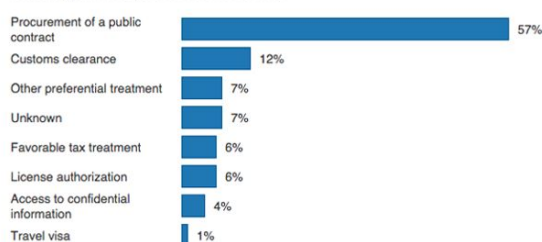
Different forms of corruption

Bribery

This form of corruption occurs in many countries as a result of the lack of measures taken to inhibit the activity of bribery. Bribery is more prevalent among business enterprises and governments. The chart on the right, published by the Washington Post highlights the percentage of bribes by public officials for various reason, the most common being the procurement of a public contract which is 45% greater than the second most common reason. This demonstrates the severity of giving power to public officials as procurement of a public contract eventually gives license to businesses to use public funds to carry out their projects in other countries. There is an opportunity cost when these funds are used because these funds are unlawfully being distributed to businesses instead of being used for services such as education and healthcare.

Why public officials are being bribed?

Percentage of bribes paid for various reasons.



Source: OECD

The Washington Post

Why public officials are being bribed?

Why Public Officials Are Being Bribed? Digital image. Washington Post. OECD, n.d. Web. 07 Feb. 2016. <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/12/03/how-the-worlds-biggest-companies-bribe-foreign-governments-in-11-charts/>>.

Extortion and blackmail

Extortion and blackmail are used interchangeably. However, there is a slight difference. Extortion is when an intentional threat is imposed upon one’s person or property, or when fraudulent claims of right of public duty, such as by impersonating a police officer, in hopes to

make money, goods, property or other forms that bring value from a victim against his/her will. The threats can vary and include violence, criminal prosecution or public exposure of information which may have the potential to damage the person's reputation. On the other hand, when a threat is made to reveal embarrassing, harmful or shameful information about the victim to their friends and family or public in general, it is considered to be a blackmail, which is a type of extortion.

Another example of this form of corruption would be when officials intentionally issue high bills to consumers to receive a bribe to correct the bill- this is a blatant blackmail and can only bypass influential people. Likewise, officials may under-bill their consumer in return for a bribe or a favour.

Embezzlement

This act has been widely carried out for over a decade. Some examples of embezzlement include the embezzlement during the Russian Olympics and the funds stolen by the Malaysian Prime Minister. Eradication of embezzlement is very important and its presence gives birth to a lack of trust in investment, which can then lead to abundant social and economic side effects, such as an increase in poverty (see appendix); the first sustainable development goal United Nations is trying to eliminate.

Nepotism

Nepotism is not uncommon, because a big factor for this practice is that there is no universal law attached to it. Nepotism is seen in a positive light in family-owned businesses as this promises the continuity in the business and assures it to be passed on from generation to generation. Hiring family members within a family-owned business may not even involve any ethical issues.

However, controversies occur when nepotism exists in governmental offices. For example in the United States of America, a high-level position in the government was given to Vice President Cheney's wife and his son-in-law Phillip Cheney by President George Bush during his presidential reign. Because many believed that there were more qualified individuals that fit this job in the government, President George Bush was highly criticized for this action.

Causes of Corruption

Low Wages

In Singapore, although salaries are seen as a means to attract skillful individuals into the workplace, they are also perceived as an anti-corruption measure. This is the main reason behind

why Singapore's judges are paid high salaries or as their former President, Lee Kuan Yu put it; "you pay peanuts, you get monkeys". This claim is not a generalization of all judges as they are few that are honest and courageous and are on low salaries, however, over the years many studies have conducted a fairly strong direct correlation between salaries and corruption behavior. To enforce this claim, Renee Bowen, an economist at Stanford, and Cecilia Mo, a political scientist at Vanderbilt, on their working paper titled; "The Voter's Blunt Tool" suggests raising legislator's salaries might be better off for America in the sense of reducing corruption in America's judicial system. This study uses a game-theory model to present their point they argue when elected agents in the government are paid more, they will tend to be more devoted in keeping their jobs and hence the outcome will result in these individuals to pursue citizen-friendly policies. In many countries, the biggest obstacle in removing corruption is lack of enforcement ensuring that workers are paid above their minimum wage to attract productivity and pulling them away from falling into corrupt-like behavior.

Power Play

Political elites and those they represent may have patronage ties. For example, during the Chavez government in Venezuela, military officers almost always had business and government affairs which were connected. Thus, this patronage may result in many obligations and demands that the political elites need to fulfill. Oftentimes, it is through corrupt means that these obligations are fulfilled.

Poverty

Corruption is the greatest obstacle, as warned by the World Bank, to poverty reduction. However, in recent studies, it has been found the opposite is true as economically deprived countries have corruption that is more widespread. Countries that tops the list of the most corrupt countries tend to be developing countries, nations that top the list for honest practices incline towards to be economically advanced and developed.

Although corruption is encouraged by poverty, corrupt public institutions can then further worsen poverty. This is because the poor participate in corrupt practices out of desperation, which in the long run helps only those already in power.

According to the United Nations, it estimates that there were 239 million undernourished people in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2010. When food is deprived from the poor, they are more disposed and forced to make money through means which are corrupt. Unquestionably there is a link between poverty and corruption, however, we can not with surety say that poverty causes corruption or corruption causes poverty.

Effects of Corruption

As a consequence of corruption, its effects may take in many forms such as political, economic, social and environment. In the political sphere, democracy and the rule of law is impeded by corruption. While in a democratic system, the legitimacy of public institutions and offices is lost when power is misused for private interest. Similarly, other negative consequences as a result of corruption may include an increase in cynicism from the public and a reduced interest in political participation. This may then end up distorting political development and using means such as patronage, clienteles and money and any other form of corruption to sustain political activity.

The impact of corruption develops in our society due to a lack of accountability and transparency from the governing body to the public and the nations low level of democratic culture which in turn may ignite political intolerance.

Past Scenes and How it Has Shaped the Future

We cannot pinpoint the exact moment the world gave birth to corruption, however, the continuity of corruption as Professor Robert Neild from Trinity College writes in *Public Corruption; The Dark Side of Social Evolution* (London: Anthem Press, 2002), “Rich countries and their agencies ... commonly have been and are accomplices in corruption abroad, encouraging it by their actions rather than impeding it.... (p.209).” Some of the problems he addresses on the continuity of corruption include: the impact of Cold War corruption, bribing developing nations rulers and officials to acquire export contracts such as in arms trade and in construction, the drug-trade as well as rich countries and their international corporations misusing their power to exploit natural resources of concessions in Third World countries. The abuse of power by the rulers keep corrupt rulers in power and for them embezzling a lot of money away is not uncommon.

In addition, over a period of time developed nations have become used to. Majority of times local agents are paid by wealthy businesses to carry out corrupt practices since they don't want to get their own hands dirty. However, although bribery is very common in these kinds of setting, it is unfortunately very difficult to detect it because it can be very subtle. It was only recently, bribery used to be a normal business practice in countries such as in France, Germany and the United Kingdom which they could then claim for tax deduction purposes.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Situated in the Netherlands, OECD is involved in promoting policies to enhance the social and economic well-being of people. They have been working on the issue of corruption for a decade and have taken up a multi-disciplinary approach which addresses corruption in different areas where it is prevalent such as businesses and governance in member countries. They have set up an OECD (see appendix) Anti-Bribery Convention where they monitor different countries that have signed the agreement and hold them accountable if they act against the convention by involving themselves in shape and form to bribes with foreign public officials. So far, out of 290 companies and individuals that faced criminal sanctions, only 40 have gone to jail and about 260 are under investigation. However, despite its progress, they still have a long way to go against corruption because as months pass and more national leaders and major corporations are being exposed of their unethical practices while the threat of terrorism increases.

Transparency International

The Transparency International organization aims to eradicate corruption in all nations by collaborating with businesses, government, and citizens. Their aim is to slowly but progressively eliminate the practices of bribery, abuse of power, and government secrecy. Transparency International has been heavily involved and recognized for the research they carry out and their global projects. They are the first organization to come up with means to compare corruption between 180 countries by scoring them using the Corruption Perception Index. They carried out a global campaign called Unmask the Corrupt and in 2014 made the G20 leader commit to making corrupt individuals harder to hide. Despite their progress, in 2017 more than 2/3 of countries scored below 50 on the Corruption Perception Index. Again, this highlights that either much work needs to be done or the issue of corruption needs to be tackled in a different manner.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was established in 1997 by combining the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre of International Crime Prevention. Its main roles are to combat illegal drugs and international crime. As global trade has increased in recent years, it has also created new and frequent opportunities for misconduct. However, UNODC has developed the only

legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). This means that nations, developed and developing, who have signed the accord are obliged to cooperate with each other to fight against corruption.

New Zealand

Periodically, according to the corruption perception index as the table in Appendix I shows, New Zealand places amidst the least corrupt countries in the world. A reason behind this is because businesses in New Zealand are less prone to fall into corruption as the regulatory environment they provide is favorable for those who work there. Moreover, penalties are handed out for active and passive bribery in both, the private and public sectors in accordance with the Crime Act and the Secret Commissions Act. The range of penalties a person can face due to their corrupt practice(s) can start from NZD 2000 and go all the way to 14 years of imprisonment. In addition, according to the States Services Commission Code of Conduct, public officials cannot ask for, nor accept gifts.

However, New Zealand's success to contain corruption to bare minimum cannot just be credited to their implementation of various acts against corruption but their independent bodies that they have set up to audit and deal with cases of corrupt practices play equally, if not a more important, role in inhibiting exploitation of power. Few independent bodies that have this power include The Independent Police Complaints Authority (IPCA), the Judicial Conduct Commissioner (JCC) and the Office of the Ombudsman. As a result of implementing rules and setting up independent bodies that constantly regulate them, it has brought harmony and trust between the public and the independent bodies.

Somalia

For years, Somalia has made little to no progress in successfully fighting off corruption in their nation. An independent analyst Hassan Sheikh Imam says that; "Fighting corruption has proven hard to fight by past and present governments. This is because the political establishment of Somalia is one based on massive corruption". Corruption in governments results in illegal activities being tolerated by government officials for bribes. In turn, a flawed government inadvertently results in an environment for institutions of lawlessness, which means a large vacuum is created due to the absence of any form of a regulatory framework which hinders these institution capacities to participate productively to the nation's economy. However, although Somalia's Provisional Constitution criminalizes corruption such as abuse of office, embezzlement, and bribe, there is no effective implementation of this constitution. Hence, because it has no powerful elites willing to stand up and fight corruption as well as implement and regulate the constitution, Somalia has made barely any progress in eliminating corruption.

South Sudan

Corruption in the form of bribery is present in all sectors in South Sudan. Although, many acts have been implemented such as the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009 and the South Sudan Penal Code Act 2008, which are the primary legislations for matters against corruption, there are ineffective to inhibit the growth of corruption as they are not effectively enforced. For example, under South Sudan’s laws, gifts and making payments in order to acquire an unfair advantage over others is illegal, but due to lack of enforcement in upholding these laws, these acts are widespread and prevalent. The situation in South Sudan proves to show introducing potentially effective laws to impede the growth of corruption is not enough; cooperation from people of different socio-economic backgrounds in the country is equally important and an action needs to be made to convince the general public to strive for the betterment of their country.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1993	Transparency International was created
1997	OECD Anti-Bribery Convention makes bribing illegal for member countries
2002	UN Convention against Corruption establishes an international legal requirement for corruption prevention
2005	UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) entered into action by criminalising corrupt acts and enforcing international cooperation.
2010	OECD releases; “Good Practice Guidance on Internal Controls, Ethics, and Compliance”.
2015	Transparency International developed its strategy against corruption until 2020

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- United Nations Convention against Corruption, 31 October 2003 **(A/RES/58/4)**
- Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, 13 Feb 2017 **(A/RES/71/208)**
- Observer status for the International Anti-Corruption Academy in the General Assembly, 18 Dec 2013 **(A/RES/68/122)**
- Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular, its technical cooperation capacity, 26 March 2010 **(A/RES/64/179)**

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

United Nations Effort

In the fight against corruption, the first international formal legal document was the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). However, following international agreements which took place, such as the OECD Convention Against the Bribery of Foreign Public Officials, it was determined that the UNCAC had several drawbacks. For example, the UNCAC failed to impose the following acts as a criminal offense:

- the act of making a bribe when agreeing to a contract
- the act of political party funding the private sector

This highlighted that the UNCAC struggled with fully implementing and enforcing its aims due to the “diversity of economies and cultures” that was present in UN. In turn, it made it difficult, sometimes or even impossible, to implement these principles. Therefore, a legislative guide was produced by UNODC to provide a base for initiatives taken by international efforts to spread and execute application elements from the Convention.

OECD efforts

Unlike UNCAC, OECD encompasses a more realistic platform as it is comprised of developed nations who have advanced economic systems and democratic institutions. This enables effective measures to take place to allow successful implementation of principles to establish operative ethics management systems alongside executing instruments to combat corruption. Hence, the OECD Convention Against the Bribery of Foreign Public Officials has proven to produce a successful international agreement. Besides only including developed nations, the primary reason behind its success is its nature of demanding peer review system the members of the OECD convention have to take part in. Since the OECD Convention has seen a steady progress and is continuously tracked by TI, we would need other conventions of similar nature to fight against other parts of corruption to speed up the progress of ever-growing nature of corruption.

International Anti-Corruption Conference

The IACC is a series of international conferences, taking place every two years. It is organized in association with organizations in the private sectors concerned with fighting corruption, the representative of local and national governments and Transparency International. The purpose of IACC is to raise awareness and stimulate debates on the topic of corruption. It is a platform that provides a global exchange of talk about means in which corruption can be controlled and promotes international cooperation by providing a chance for face-to-face dialogue between agencies and citizens.

Possible Solutions

Corruption is not a simple issue to prevent and address because it is simple for those who hold positions of power to engage in corruption and disguise it. That said, there are plausible solutions to prevent and address corruption. One of the crucial solutions in preventing and addressing corrupting lies in improving international cooperation.

Forming an Organisation for Influential Leaders

A body which is similar to The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development can be set up to include only the most influential and economically developed countries. This body, which will comprise of influential and law-abiding leaders, can periodically monitor the progress made through the anti-corruption measures they have taken. Moreover, with a formal body set in place, it is more straightforward to exchange ideas with other developed nations that have made progress against corruption. Through this, they can collectively discuss further programs and strategies necessary to prevent and address corruption. In addition, building a strong foundation of countries who have established themselves as nations progressing towards becoming corrupt-free will then encourage, due to the influence progressive nations tend to have, other countries to follow their footsteps. Hence, over time, the circle of countries in this body will expand.

Transparency Between the Government and the Citizens

International cooperation also relies on the populace. Thus, the government needs to ensure that their governance is inclusive and transparent. In other words, the government should be obligated to share information with its citizens; how they make use of their budget, what their plans and goals are, etc. Not only would this directly prevent and address corruption as it makes it significantly more difficult for public officials to engage in corruption, but it ensures that voices are heard in international cooperation. In turn, this would develop the trust needed to deliver effective results. Because of this, a balance between global strategy and the priorities of the locals must be met. It must be ensured that violence is avoided between the governments and its citizens when transparency is encouraged. This is because oftentimes, transparency makes it clear who engages in corruption, which may lead to violence due to citizen outrage. Although it makes it simpler to pinpoint those who engage in corruption, the international community must ensure that individuals are not harmed in the process of ensuring that all in power are law abiding.

Clear Goals Agreed Upon By Consensus

Clear goals must be set in place to distinguish which targets are essential. This straightforwardness allows for a link to be set in place between the resources and outcomes, which would keep countries committed. Furthermore, these goals must be agreed on by consensus to ensure that all countries are motivated to meet them. All sectors must be involved to reach an agreement. This is one of the largest challenges because those involved will have different interests and priorities. In order for this to happen, countries must be willing to make compromises and be incentivized to combat corruption. This means that those engaging in forming clear goals cannot be corrupt themselves because they will not be willing to make the required compromises as they do not have the incentive to do so.

Appropriate Resource Distribution and Usage

The international community must work together to ensure that the resources every country has available, particularly financial resources, are used as efficiently as possible. This means that countries should provide as many resources as possible in order to combat this issue. In particular, investments must be made in asset recovery, education, and justice sector institutions. The international community must then monitor the resources and ensure these resources reach their destination. Oftentimes, investments made by the international community to combat corruption end up being used for personal gain by those in corrupt. It is salient that funds are distributed appropriately and properly.

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Appendix or Appendices

- I. https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2017 (Transparency International's annual CPI)

This shows the corruption perceptions index, which ranks 176 countries based on their perceived levels of corruption. Results are obtained through expert assessments and opinion surveys. The scaled ranges from 0, which is highly corrupt, to 100, which is highly clean.

- II. <http://www.oecd.org/about/membersandpartners/list-oecd-member-countries.htm> (List of OECD member countries)

This includes a list of countries which are currently in the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. In 1997, this organization passed the Anti-Bribery Convention, which made bribery a crime in all member states.

- II. <https://financialtransparency.org/are-high-bribery-rates-in-poor-countries-blocking-development/> (Bribery rates in public services)

Displayed is a chart where there is a clear correlation between bribery and poverty, regardless of which public service it is. Thus, it can be deduced that preventing and addressing corruption would also help prevent and address poverty.