Natural resource wealth, properly managed, can provide enormous benefits. Mismanaged or abused, it can also accompany untold suffering. Given the abundance of oil, gas and minerals in the developing world, and its potential to fuel development, the challenge of resource governance cannot be ignored.

The second plenary session of the 13th IACC, brought together experts from a range of disciplines with extensive experience in Africa, including Mary Robinson, former Prime Minister of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Patrick Alley, Director and co-founder of Global Witness, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Managing Director of the World Bank, Peter Eigen, Chair of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and Karin Lissakers, Executive Director of the Revenue Watch Institute. The discussion concentrated on Africa’s extractive industries sector.

Patrick Alley illustrated the brutal inequality that is the dark side of natural resource extraction: mansions; million-dollar-motorcars; and international institutions assisting in the laundering of looted assets. So serious is the offence, he suggested, that corruption should perhaps even be considered a crime against humanity. This point was echoed by Mary Robinson, who reinforced that the anti-corruption and human rights agendas are increasingly interlinked and interdependent. The message was clear from both: businesses must take a more pro-active approach to human rights – to ‘do no harm’ is no longer enough.

Access to information was a key theme in discussion of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, presented by Peter Eigen. Its importance was confirmed by all panellists. It was acknowledged, however, that at present, with no punitive component within EITI, enforcement remains difficult and expensive. Panellists were also clear that more effective asset recovery is a crucial concern, with natural resource revenues often siphoned off by corrupt officials.

The panellists provided robust examples of how to effect positive change. Karin Lissakers cited work to integrate transparency into international banking standards for extractive companies. Patrick Alley suggested that donors withhold aid from corrupt states and companies. The World Bank’s withdrawal from Chad, it was argued, could be seen as a sign of a more robust response to poor governance. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala urged civil society to harness the same outrage at corruption that has driven campaigns on other issues.

The panel concluded that success is achievable. Despite the challenge of managing inherently volatile extractive revenues, between 2003 and 2008, improved governance increased Nigeria’s extractive revenues by tens of billions of dollars. Beyond revenue transparency, procurement and supply-chains, as alluded to by Mary Robinson, bear great potential for progress.

The plenary was clear: regulatory tools are vital, but existing ones must be used more effectively and new ones developed. A more profound engagement with civil society will also be necessary to keep the issue on the agenda. Above all, the stark human cost of corruption in the extractive sector must be shown, so that companies and states can no longer ignore their responsibilities.
Plenary 3: Climate Change & Corruption (9:00 – 10:30)

The Climate Change & Corruption stream will focus on the extent to which corruption is one of the causes of climate change and how existing strategies to address it already highlight corruption risks.

Festus Mogae, Former President of Botswana, UN Special Envoy on Climate Change
Daphne Wysham, Senior Fellow Institute of Policy Studies and SEEN
Hartwig Schafer, Director, Strategy and Operations, Sustainable Development, the World Bank
David Nussbaum, Chief Executive, WWF UK
Jacob Werksman, Programme Director, World Resources Institute

Moderated by Fiona Harvey, Environment Correspondent, Financial Times

What kind of diagnostics is available to help guide our knowledge of corruption and climate change? How can or has corruption emerged in the solutions already attempted?

Join us for the third plenary to discover what role good governance and transparency play in integrating the many policy agendas affecting climate change.

Workshop Session 4 (11:00 – 13:00)

4.1 Breaking the Links Between Banking and Corruption
Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall / Level 0

4.2 Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Aid
Nikos Stavropoulos / Level 1

4.3 Transparency in Resource Rich Perilous States: Getting out of the Resource Curse and Into the Path of Development
The Banqueting Hall / Level 2

4.4 The Private Sector’s Role in Fighting Corruption in the Wood Supply Chain: An Example from Russia
MC 3.4 / Level -1

4.5 Corruption & Carbon Trading Projects: Is Carbon Finance Helping to Combat Detrimental Climate Change?
MC 3 / Level -1

4.6 Shedding Light onto Investment Arbitration
MC 3.4 / Level -1

4.7 Youth Integrity: Ethical Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future
MC 2 / Level -1

Workshop Session 5 (14:00 – 16:00)

5.1 Sustaining Corruption Investigations in a Hostile Political Environment
Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall / Level 0

5.2 Beyond the Voices of Pain - Strategies against Gendered Corruption
MC 3.4 / Level -1

5.3 Forest Governance and Corruption: Preventing Illegal and Unsustainable Deforestation
The Banqueting Hall / Level 2

5.4 Climate Change and Migration: Human Security Risk for the Mediterranean Region
MC 3 / Level -1

5.5 Transparency in Education Management
Nikos Stavropoulos Hall / Level -1

5.6 Preventing Corruption in Construction Projects through Increased Transparency and Accountability
MC 3.2 / Level -1

5.7 Corporate “Best Practices” from In-House Compliance Officers
MC 2 / Level -1

Special Sessions (17:00 – 19:00)

Lessons Learned from the EU Anticorruption Policy
Nikos Stavropoulos Hall / Level -1

Mobilisation for Action on UNCAC Review Mechanism
The Banqueting Hall / Level -2

Implementing the World Bank Governance and Anticorruption Strategy: Year 1 Progress Report
Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall / Level 0

ACCOUNTABILITY 2.0: Using Social Media in the Fight Against Corruption
MC 3 / Level -1

Faith and Human Security
MC 2 / Level -1

Transportation to the Official Conference Dinner Venue
(19:00 – 20:00)

Official Conference Dinner (20:00 – 24:00)

PHOTOS OF THE IACC
Global transparency: fighting corruption for a sustainable future

IACC Interview:

Irene Khan
Secretary General, Amnesty International

Do you think corruption exacerbates or facilitates human rights violations? And if so, to what extent and how?

Corruption very frequently causes human rights violations. A very common example is the way in which bribery can subvert the justice system – police demand bribes, judges’ verdicts are influenced. It also takes place on a larger scale when funding, development assistance for example, is diverted. This denies people their right to water or their right to health, of course, there is also the illicit enrichment that takes place, particularly in the public sector. So, in many ways, these are all ways corruption subverts human rights, undermines the rule of law and deniers people equal access.

In that way, I would say that corruption is a major cause of many human rights abuses.

According to the International Organization for Migration, abuse of power is one of the hardest issues to tackle in human trafficking. Do you think enduring human rights can be achieved while corruption is prevalent?

Human rights are basically there to regulate power in favour of the individual. When an individual has human rights, it means the state and other actors have obligations to respect those rights. I actually feel that, with respect to human rights as a means to bring corruption under control, human rights promote accountability, transparency, and the active participation of people, and these are all tools through which you can address corruption. In that sense I feel very strongly about the link between the promotion of human rights and the eradication of corruption.

Has Amnesty International, in its documentation of human rights abuses, come across many that deal with corruption? Is there a case that stands out?

One particular case that comes to my mind is Zimbabwe, where political abuse of power, and massive human rights violations come hand-in-hand and we have seen cases from the justice sector, of personal enrichment, illustrating how a corrupt system generates massive human rights abuses. Another example on which Amnesty International has worked and documented is the situation in the Niger Delta, where again the authorities have been extremely corrupt, diverted funds away from local communities, sometimes with the collusion of the corporate actors in that area, with the result that it has actually led to massive communal violence in that region.

What risk do anti-corruption advocates face in some countries?

Amnesty International’s experience has been that where people have actively protested or spoken out against abuse of power, they have come under pressure. Human rights activists have been attacked, environmental activists have been attacked, and now, as more and more people engage in the fight against corruption, they are also coming under attack, particularly journalists who expose corruption. Recently, in Russia for instance, a journalist was attacked. There have been incidents in other countries too, where individuals that are now being attacked, they speak out against corruption.

Transparency International’s 2007 Global Corruption Report on corruption in judicial systems, shows that corruption feeds impunity. Have there been occasions where this has frustrated Amnesty International’s work?

One of Amnesty International’s biggest challenges, which we have been working on for the longest time, is impunity – no remedy, no action taken against those that commit human rights crimes. Very often corruption in the judicial system has been a factor in that, but at the end of the day, what it comes down to is a lack of political will. Corruption in the judiciary and the police force cannot exist without the support of the political will. Ordinary police would not dare to take a bribe if it were not being sanctioned at the highest levels of the government. So, yes, impunity is encouraged by corruption, but it is not only petty corruption, but I would say large scale larceny right at the top that is taking place alongside human rights abuses.

Tackling Corruption in the Defence Sector – Disarming the Risks

Only ten years ago the defence sector was a ‘closed arena’. It was only possible to talk about its obvious problems, such as the cash-strapped contractors and the opacity of budgets. A decade on, however, the environment is changing.

With the recognition of the implications of massive budgetary losses and the consequent erosion of public trust, governments and defence companies have begun to work more closely together. With this in mind, Transparency International UK assembled a panel of experts from the US military, the defence industry and civil society to discuss constructive measures and tools.

Governments have considerable leverage to keep their defence sector in check, both internally through their own contracting procedures and externally by requiring good practice from companies. Since the early 1990s the US has been using debarment to improve the integrity of companies by barring those that commit violations from government contracts for a period of time. According to Stephen Shaw, debarment has a threefold impact: it penalises companies for misconduct by denying them the right to tender, it damages their reputation, and it provides incentives for proactive ethical policies, as debarment officials can choose to be lenient on companies when they have taken preventative measures to mitigate corruption risks.

A sectoral approach, in the form of the ASD Common Industry Standards, has also grown out of a rising awareness that defence companies need global standards in an environment where they are subject to increasingly demanding and restrictive regulations. Dominique Lamoureux’s presentation illustrated how these new responsibilities are being adopted by companies. In employing these standards of zero tolerance and due diligence and by defining basic procedures the industry is taking important steps towards transparency and accountability.

Increased transparency can also be observed through the involvement of civil society in independent oversight. Sung-Goo Kang’s role as an independent ombudsman for the defence sector in South Korea illustrates how civil society is being meaningfully incorporated into the supervision of the industry.

These three approaches, coupled with commitments to education and awareness raising, exemplified by a NATO module on building integrity, provide opportunities to expand the project. Such advances paint an optimistic picture of the anti-corruption movement’s progress and the impact it can have, even in one of the most traditionally protected and secretive of industries.

Transparency in the Extractive Industries – Making the Case for a Global Standard

Is EITI a sham? The question, posed by Jonas Moberg, Head of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Secretariat, was put to members of civil society, government and business who are integrally involved in EITI. A voluntary process, EITI obliges extractive industries to disclose the amount of taxes and royalties they pay to operate abroad, as well as requiring host governments to publish the revenue they receive from those industries. These reports are overseen by a multi-stakeholder committee that includes civil society.

According to Humphrey Assis Asobie, EITI Board Member and Chair of EITI Nepal, this three-pillar approach closes the gap between the government and citizens, providing a minimum accounting standard that governments can adopt to national circumstances. Revenue transparency can also reduce conflict in regions where a lack of government accountability leads to widespread instability and volatile markets. Oxfam International’s Bennett Freeman says EITI’s ‘frontal assault on corruption’ carries value beyond its immediate stakeholders, as supporting countries that do not directly participate nevertheless benefit economically from stable markets.

Six years after EITI was first announced, the programme is arriving at a critical crossroads. Over the next two years, EITI’s 23 candidate countries face evaluations by multi-stakeholder committees that will determine whether they have been successfully compliant, and crucially, whether the EITI process is capable of creating a global standard for revenue transparency.

A litany of challenges remains. Radhika Sarin of Publish What You Pay acknowledges that despite progress, civil and political abuse of power still exist in EITI. In countries where governance is poor, identifying truly independent civil society actors can prove difficult. Contrary to EITI’s goals, confidentiality agreements continue to be signed between companies and government, sometimes with the collusion of authorities. Some observers believe that EITI enables participating governments to avoid implementation of vital anti-corruption programmes.

EITI proponents believe that with wider participation these challenges are surmountable. If EITI is to strengthen accountability in countries like the US and Norway, will also need to join. Legislation and accounting laws that are compatible with EITI should also be supported. In this regard there are some positive developments. Recently, US Congresswoman Barney Frank introduced a bill that would oblige all extractive industries listed on the New York Stock Exchange to publish their accounts on a country-by-country basis. There is cautious optimism that this legislation could be met favourably in the years ahead.
We talk to...

Maria Kouneli
Greek

What do you do?
I am an interpreter for English and Italian.

How do you like the 13th IACC?
Very much. I think corruption is a very interesting issue, also for those of us who are not experts.

Do you think corruption is a problem in the world?
Yes, corruption is a problem because it makes the lives of all citizens more difficult. From small scale corruption to what you call grand corruption where politicians are involved.

Have you ever experienced corruption yourself?
Not directly, but perhaps in an indirect way that I am not aware of.

What do you think can be done to reduce corruption?
People should avoid corrupt practices. If we know of any incidents of corruption, we need to expose it and make it public. It should not be ignored.

Did you know?
The Greek name for the country is Elliniki Dimokratia. The people are called Ellines (or Hellenes). Women are Ellenides and men Ellines.

No time to visit the Greek islands?
Take a trip to Piraeus, a short ride on the Metro, and have dinner at one of the renowned sea food restaurants of Microlimano.

Useful information and important numbers

Business centre in Megaron centre (level -1)
- PCs - Internet - Printers - Photocopying

Telephone numbers:
- Police emergency: 112
- Tourist police: 171
- Ambulance: 166
- Pharmacies Athens: 107
- Greek National Tourist Organisation: 210 327 1300

How to say
- Ναι (nee): Yes
- Όχι (oh-kee): No
- Γεια σας (yiassas): Hello
- Καλημέρα (kalee-maira): Good morning
- Καλησπέρα (kalee-spaira): Good evening
- Παρακαλώ (parakalo): Please/ You’re welcome
- Ευχαριστώ (ef-ha-ree-sto): Thank you

Megaron levels plan
- Tower Restaurant
- The Hall Friends of Music - Upper - Tower Restaurant Bar
- The Hall Friends of Music - Trianti III
- Ground Floor Foyer*, Conference Suites 1st - Musae II* - Trianti 1st/ Foyer* / Balcony*
- Mitropoulos, Shop - Musae I/ Atrium - Trianti I / Foyer
- Exhibition Hall II - Banqueting II, Skalkotas Hall - Conference Suites 2 & Foyer
- Exhibition Hall I - Banqueting I
- Parking I
- Parking II
- Parking III

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