13th International Anti-Corruption Conference
IACC

Global Transparency:
fighting corruption for a sustainable future.
Athens, Greece | 30 October - 2 November 2008

Background Note for discussion
Plenary 1: Corruption, Peace and Security

Traditional notions of how to ensure the peace and security of states must reconcile the broader social, economic and environmental risks that citizens and communities now confront. Contraband trading, uncontrolled migratory and refugee flows, state-led violence, rigged elections, pandemics and environmental degradation — each forms part of today's growing list of human security concerns. Whether internal or external, corruption can be found facilitating and causing these pressures, marginalising citizens and undermining the security of states. Yet the security agenda of countries has surprisingly been disconnected from the anti-corruption discourse.

Corruption and insecurity can spring from relatively stable and well-governed states as well as countries that are known hot-beds for mismanagement and abuses. Recent scandals in the US and United Kingdom regarding opaque defence industry practices serve too well of a reminder of corruption's reach and the fall-out from abuses. In other cases, systemic corruption and abuses by governments can fuel political, social and economic insecurities. According to the 2007 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) produced by Transparency International, many of the most notorious offenders of violence against their own citizens rank highest in corruption — including Chad (1.8), Democratic Republic of Congo (1.9), Myanmar (1.4) and Sudan (1.8).

The IACC Stream: Peace and Security
This stream focuses on how corruption facilitates and causes insecurity as well as possible strategies to respond to the broader umbrella of risks. Issues to be addressed include:

• The capture the state and its security agenda from citizens by organised crime and shadow networks.
• The role of illegal trafficking (humans, drugs, natural resources, arms) and illicit money flows in facilitating corruption and compromising the security of countries.
• The importance of transparency, accountability and the institutional reform to address corruption and insecurity.
• The inter-linkages between corruption and terrorism in causing and facilitating the broader spectrum of security risks.
• The security threat that systemically corrupt governments pose as a result of their human rights abuses, marginalisation of communities, and impunity.
• The risks of corruption in delivering aid and assistance and promoting a lasting peace.

Plenary Objectives
The aims of the plenary are:

1. To identify entry points for how corruption is causing and facilitating the insecurity of states and citizens.
2. To reflect on the security risks posed — military, political, social, economic and environmental — and integrated anti-corruption solutions for addressing them.
3. To develop a dialogue for change among different stakeholders and sectors of society on the importance of linking the security and corruption agendas as part of promoting peace.

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Plenary questions
Participants should consider these following points as they prepare their remarks:

1. How have corruption and security risks overlapped? What have been the drivers of this shift?
2. How has corruption raised the security risks for different groups in society (e.g. the poor, marginal and vulnerable citizens, women, ethnic and religious minorities, youth, etc.)?
3. Why have corruption concerns been disconnected from the broader security agenda of countries?
4. How are anti-corruption efforts (such as to build integrity, transparency, accountability and participation) useful for promoting peace and security nationally, regionally and globally?
5. How can the anti-corruption movement better align its efforts with stakeholders working to battle the risks threatening peace and security?