



CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

Developing Anti-Corruption Strategies for the Digital Age – Recent Trends and Best Practices in the OSCE Area

Rome, 12-13 November 2018

On 12-13 November 2018 in Rome, the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, the LUISS University and Istituto Affari Internazionali organised an international conference on “*Developing Anti-Corruption Strategies for the Digital Age –Recent Trends and Best Practices in the OSCE Area*”. The event was hosted by Professor Paola Severino, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption and Vice-President, LUISS Guido Carli University.

The event brought together senior decision makers in the area of justice, integrity and combating corruption and provided a platform for representatives of the governments of the OSCE participating States, officials of the international institutions engaged in promoting anti-corruption policies, academics and experts. Participants discussed contemporary topics in the field of combating corruption, such as measuring corruption and assessing its impact on economic development and the rule of law, identifying efforts undertaken by anti-corruption institutions and explore concrete policies and strategies and understanding links between corruption and organized crime. Following conclusions were reached:

1. Deepening economic disparities, deficiency of rule of law, weak governance, and corruption are among the factors that contribute to global threats such as terrorism, violent extremism, transnational organized crime, as well as to illegal economic activities, including money-laundering, as well as illegal trafficking, such as trafficking on cultural property, human being including minors, and illegal migration.
2. Poor governance deprives participating States of the capacity to ensure sustainable economic development and to address challenges and threats to security and stability.
3. Good governance leads to the maximization of economic benefits in the globalized economy and accelerates economic development.
4. Effective anti-corruption measures require an all-inclusive and participatory approach among governments, civil society, private sector and business community as well as academia, in order to foster the “culture of compliance”, the trust of citizens and social consensus to the support of anti-corruption.
5. Further support is required in identifying ways in which civil society, the private sector and the public may contribute to their anti-corruption policy measures.

6. Access to information legislation, transparency of budgets and procedures, public hearings on policy and legislation, and strong whistle-blower protection in both the public and private sectors are necessary in order to enable citizens to take charge and contribute to improving good governance.
7. Effective anti-corruption legislation is an essential requirement for efficient corruption prevention policies.
8. Education from early stage as possible, as essential component to cultivate the social culture of legality with the aim to make corruption socially unacceptable and morally unethical.
9. Good governance and combating corruption require the state adoption of a comprehensive and long-term strategy and subsequent regulations.
10. Good governance implies the creation of a national framework of economic policies, institutions and legislation, in which business can thrive and the confidence of investors can grow.
11. It is necessary to continue building capacities of relevant independent anti-corruption agencies, departments and structures to enable adequate and timely assessment of anti-corruption potential of drafted regulations.
12. Reliable measurement and credible index corruption play an important role in designing an effective comprehensive strategy to tackle corruption.
13. Support the process of normative and institutional strengthening of intra-governmental co-operation, especially in the law enforcement community of a state aiming at creating a sustainable anti-corruption system.
14. Successful adjudication of corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing crimes – from identification through prosecution, sentencing and finally stolen asset recovery – require effective national co-operation among investigative and financial oversight authorities as well as international co-operation among Financial Intelligence Units, law enforcement and prosecutors.
15. Digitalisation increases public awareness and levels of information and knowledge and, therefore, enhanced digital transparency could be an effective instrument against corruption.
16. Technology is a powerful tool to promote transparency, accountability and good governance and government agencies, private sector and civil society institutions should use the advantages of digitalized transactions to ensure efficient and effective public policy process.
17. The OSCE remains committed to providing support to all relevant government structures of the OSCE participating States in their continuous efforts to fight corruption.

18. The OSCE stand ready to provide technical assistance and advice, promote information exchange, expertise, know-how and best practices, and assist in the implementation of commitments, policies and recommendations in the area of good governance and combating corruption on national and regional levels.