



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
NORGE

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Norway in the United Nations Security Council: Get anti-corruption on the agenda

As an organisation dedicated to promoting integrity and countering corruption in all its form, Transparency International Norway is looking forward to the upcoming Norwegian membership in the UN Security Council (SC).

We understand that Norway's election to the UN Security Council (SC) has represented a vote of confidence and trust among members of the international community, with regard to the announced programme and priorities of work, and in recognition of Norway's standing in the international arena for the rule of law, human rights and humanitarian action. To use this position in the fight against corruption is even more pressing in the present situation. In his recent statement¹, the UN Secretary General António Guterres has addressed the potential of corruption in the time of COVID-19 to seriously undermine good governance around the world, and to send the global community even further off-track in the work to achieve the SDGs.

Over the last few years, Norway has taken a leading role in the multilateral work against grand corruption through its work on the adoption of UNCAC COSP resolution 7/2 and its follow-up work that led to the adoption of the Oslo Statement on Corruption involving Vast Quantities of Assets. Norway has also been instrumental in establishing the FACTI-panel and co-sponsored, as the only European country, resolution 73/191 that laid the foundation for the first ever UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on corruption.

We thus believe that Norway is uniquely positioned, as a member of the SC, to lead the work towards strengthening international cooperation and making decisive progress in the fight against corruption.

¹ <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-10-15/secretary-generals-statement-corruption-the-context-of-covid-19-scroll-down-for-french-version>

Regain the momentum for anti-corruption global efforts

The international community as such has largely recognised the negative effects of corruption. For the last two decades, the anti-corruption global struggle placed a major milestone with the signing of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The 2030 Agenda, in particular Goal 16, focus explicitly on reducing corruption and illicit financial flows (IFFs) worldwide, building peaceful societies and strong institutions as a precondition for sustainable development. The European Union and organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank have contributed to create standards and mechanisms for international cooperation on anti-corruption as well. Likewise have non-state actors been important actors in this work.

Nevertheless, the gaps to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are worrisome, and the crisis of multilateralism of the past years, as well as the current pandemic, have broadened the challenges and relevance for effective anti-corruption global action. A particular opportunity is offered by the first-ever UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS)² on corruption, which is taking place in New York on June 2.-4. 2021 based on resolution 73/191³. A work that is inspired by the resolution 7/2⁴ approved at the State Parties Conference in 2017 and spear headed by Norway, Colombia, Peru, as well as Belize, Nigeria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

- *Transparency International Norway urge the Norwegian government to have an active role on anti-corruption in the UN Security Council to:*
 - Stress the relevance of anti-corruption action in matters regarding the maintenance of international peace and security.
 - Integrate anti-corruption in all peacebuilding and conflict preventing operations, including in the mandate of the operations.
 - Stimulate countries' mobilisation and put the foundations for norm-building on thematic aspects in which corruption in all its forms plays a role (e.g. climate-related security, cyber-security, enjoyment of human rights)
 - Address impunity for the most serious forms of corruption, often linked to conflict and serious human rights violations.

Cross-cutting agenda

Addressing corruption is not only a goal in itself, but also a mean to produce positive impact and change. There is no doubt that corruption jeopardizes security and peace building, undermines public service delivery, seriously affects the rule of law, weakens institutions, and

² <https://ungass2021.unodc.org/ungass2021/index.html>

³ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/191>

⁴ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/session7-resolutions.html>

has severe negative effects on public and private investment, international assistance, and humanitarian aid.

It fuels inequality, conflicts, distrust in national and international governance systems, and prevents people from the enjoyment of human rights. The impact of corruption is thus greater on the poor and effect women more severely than men. Corruption finances terrorism and transnational organised crime, often in alliances with public officials and politicians. It also plays a key role in environmental crimes, with far-reaching implications for justice, security, and climate. One of the latest and most comprehensive contributions to highlight the challenges related to corruption and the achievement of sustainable development is provided by the UN High Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel), which emphasises in its interim report⁵ the need to stop the drain of resources caused by financial crimes and illicit transactions, in order to redirect these to finance and achieve the SDGs.

Inclusive agenda

Building an inclusive anti-corruption agenda for the coming decades should be a priority for the international community. We see the opportunity for Norway to build broad alliances, working together with our natural allies among the Nordic and Western countries, as well as with countries of the Global South. We also call upon the Norwegian government to use its position as a SC's elected member to be a representative of non-state actors from around the world, bringing civil voices to be heard in the institutional arena and making sure to fulfil the "leave no-one behind" aspiration of the 2030 Agenda.

Sincerely yours,

Hans Petter Graver
Chair of the Board
(sign.)

Guro Slettemark
Secretary general
(sign.)

⁵ <https://www.factipanel.org/reports>