



Background Note for Discussion

Plenary 3: Climate Change and Corruption

Climate change and the threat it poses to sustainable economic growth increasingly dominates and challenges the international policy agenda. Climate change goes beyond the 'mere' issue of Greenhouse gas emissions and their negative effect on the environment, however, as it links major issues of development such as financing for aid and technical assistance, sustainable national development strategies and energy policies, public financial management and the delivery of basic public services, especially to the poor. Tackling the role of corruption in many of the above areas is crucial to better development outcomes, and, as a result, climate change will be an area of key concern for anti-corruption stakeholders in years to come.

As we move toward the negotiation of the post-Kyoto era, the policy frameworks that govern climate change need to be more responsive to the demand by citizens worldwide for increased accountability and transparency. This is equally true whether the approaches to mitigating or adapting to climate change take the form of public policy reform, such as via increased carbon taxes, or are market-driven, such as carbon trading under the Clean Development Mechanism. To reduce the risk of corruption, solutions require international and even greater intra-national cooperation, such as the better coordination of the environmental and finance agendas.

Strong and sustainable governance of the emerging climate change regime is essential. Without it, corruption threatens an already precarious situation, putting at risk people's lives and livelihoods, and will exact even more costs than 'mere' climate change alone. We need to act now to develop the tools, economic incentives and political will to provide the cleanest possible way forward for the planet.

The IACC Stream on Climate Change

This stream will focus on the extent to which corruption is one of the causes of climate change and how existing strategies to address climate change already highlight corruption risks. This stream aims to include, but is not limited to, the following issues:

- The effects of corruption in the natural resources and energy markets and their impact on climate change.
- The role of good governance and transparency in integrating the many policy agendas that affect climate change.
- The opportunities for employing anti-corruption tools in preventative climate change mechanisms (green branding) or market-driven reform (carbon trading schemes and projects within the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Reducing Emissions From Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), etc.
- The use of transparency and accountability as measures dealing with the effects of climate change, such as in relief and aid in post-disaster settings, drought, flood, food scarcity, mass migration.

Plenary Objectives

The aims of the plenary are threefold:

1. To provide an overarching view of the linkages between the fight against corruption and the growing demands of the climate change agenda. The audience should be well-informed why stakeholders from both areas now need to work together to find solutions.
2. To reflect on the many aspects of the international development agenda that are relevant to climate change issues – in short, the anti-corruption community has a running start and should look to apply existing solutions wherever appropriate as it increasingly gets involved in the climate change debate.

3. To emphasise the great need for cooperation across many sectors (public and private; energy and finance and agriculture; national and international) if change is to be sustainable, effective and successful. The concern of citizens, of people, must drive this cooperation and the solutions sought must be equitable.

Plenary questions

1. What needs to be dealt with most crucially in the area of climate change? How does the risk of corruption threaten first steps? How can or has corruption emerged in the solutions already attempted? What kind of diagnostics are available to help guide our knowledge of corruption and climate change?
2. What are the drivers for change and are they susceptible to corruption risk?
3. Where are the key openings for anti-corruption stakeholders to engage in the climate change debate? What are the key ongoing developments where the anti-corruption agenda (including issues of integrity, transparency, accountability, etc.) can be inserted into the debate?
4. What multistakeholder partnerships exist in the area of climate change? What kind of voice has existed for civil society in this debate? What is most urgently needed, to redress a lack of good governance, from the point of view of citizens?