



MORE EFFECTIVE PROGRESS IS NEEDED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE AMERICAS, ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY THE CITIZEN CORRUPTION OBSERVATORY

October 29, 2021. Most countries in the Americas have extensive constitutional, normative and/or jurisdictional development in the fight against corruption. However, not enough progress has been made to implement anti-corruption measures. This conclusion was obtained from the latest analysis done by the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO) which contains the results and specific recommendations of 19 national reports carried out by civil society organizations that belong to platforms led by the national chapters of Transparency International (TI) in the region, as well as the focal points of the Citizen Forum of the Americas (CFA) in every country where the CCO was present. They have followed up on the fulfillment of the Lima Agreement, signed by the governments of the region in 2018 at the VIII Summit of the Americas.

At the event entitled **“Achievements and Challenges in the Compliance with the Lima Agreement: A Look from Civil Society”**, which took place on Friday, October 29, it was announced that the countries analyzed by the Citizen Corruption Observatory only achieved an average score of 1.17, on a scale ranging from 0 (meaning no development of the measures described in the Lima Agreement) to 3 (which means high development). This rating is based on the fact that 64% of the regulatory indicators used by the Observatory had a positive response to the existence of anti-corruption legislation, however, *“only 43% of the practical indicators had affirmative responses in terms of evidence of effective implementation of the regulations.”*

In the report, the CCO notes that governments in the region still have a lot to achieve regarding a greater gender focus and increased participation of vulnerable groups in the formulation and implementation of anti-corruption policies and strategies, an unprecedented topic included in the Lima Commitment. The Observatory **also highlights levels of lag in effective access to public information, protection mechanisms for whistleblowers, and international cooperation in the fight against corruption.** In contrast, general progress is evident in the regulation of campaign financing, electronic procurement systems, asset and income declarations, and open government plans.

Therefore, the report derived from this research succeeded in bringing multidimensional perspectives to the analysis of the topic; sharing and generating new knowledge to broaden understanding of the phenomenon of corruption; and having elements to evaluate the management of governments in the topic. It also allowed the development of collaborative and advocacy scenarios from civil society.

About the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO):

The Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO) is an alliance between civil society organizations and social actors of the continent, created with the purpose of allowing the follow-up to the agreements adopted by the governments of the hemisphere at the VIII Summit of the Americas, held in Lima, Peru in 2018. It also promotes citizen participation in the fight against corruption.



It should be noted that after a year of work, the CCO has managed to get more than 400 recommendations for anti-corruption public policy reforms and two regional analyses – one normative and one general – and is positioned as a critical mass of diagnoses and calls for action on the fight against corruption in our region, from civil society itself, with a perspective of human rights, gender, diversity, inclusion and intersectionality.

After the presentation of this analysis from the perspective of civil society, a panel of reflection was developed with the participation of **María Barón**, Global Executive Director of Directorio Legislativo [Legislative Directory]; **Rolando Ruiz Rosas Cateriano**, Director of Multilateral Agencies and Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru; **Diana Posada Solís**, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Justice and Peace, Republic of Costa Rica; and the moderation of **Gina Romero**, Executive Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy, LACND (REDLAD, by its Spanish initials).

In addition, the virtual event generated reflection on the fight against corruption in the region, through the keynote presentations of the President of Transparency International, **Delia Ferreira Rubio** and the intervention of **Enrique de Obarrio**, General Coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (LACND).

Other participants of the event were: **Samuel Rotta**, Executive Director of Proética [Pro-ethics]; **Gerardo Andrés Hernández Montes**, Executive Director of Transparency for Colombia; and **Moirá Vargas**, Executive Director of Fundación Construir [Foundation 'To Build'].

The CCO is a shared effort between the **Citizen Forum of the Americas (CFA)**, the **Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (LACND)**, **national chapters of Transparency International (TI) in Latin America** and over **150 Civil Society Organizations** in the Americas to promote citizen participation and to monitor the progress of the governments measures and their challenges, as well as to research, document and systematically analyze evidence on the effectiveness of the anti-corruption efforts in the region.



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