



THE CITIZEN CORRUPTION OBSERVATORY REVEALS PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, October 13, 2021. The organizations named Participación Ciudadana [Citizen Participation], Fundación Solidaridad [Solidarity Foundation], Centro Juan XXIII [John XXIII Center], Centro de Planificación y Acción Ecuémica (CEPAE) [Ecumenical Planning and Action Center] and Ciudad Alternativa [Alternative City], as part of the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO), presented the report results of the follow-up on the Lima Agreement “**Democratic Governance against Corruption**”, signed at the VIII Summit of the Americas in 2018, which aims at keeping a direct fight against corruption in the Americas.

Among the findings, the report reveals that, the themes in which the commitments have been divided at the Summit, with a possible score from 0 to 3, with 0 as “*not registered*” and 3 as the highest score, in the country those scores have not reached a mean score (2.0/3.0), despite the fact that in most cases, there are regulatory indicators. The result points out that the smallest achievement was about the democratic governance strengthening, in which the score was a little above low. The topics in which there is a bigger progress, however, lack of some basic regulations necessary to fully comply with the commitments.

The administration who signed the Agreement had the characteristic of a high institutionalized corruption and justice damage, where none of the corruption cases reported was prosecuted.

In general terms, the commitments prioritized by the Citizen Corruption Observatory have been partially complied with; however, in spite the government’s continuity principle, the compliance of most part of the measures adopted are subject to the current government, reflecting a weakness in the will to institutionalize the efforts, and limiting the sustainability guarantee in time; this means that we cannot state that in reality, these commitments have been adopted by the Government.

Among the recommendations, the information gathered shows the need to:

- Use the financial resources that allow the Judiciary (Supreme Court) and the Government Attorney General’s Office, provide a proper justice administration to face the big challenges involved in the prosecution of the administrative corruption.
- To guarantee the independence of the Government Attorney General’s Office with a legal support, in which the designation process of the Attorney General is modified, which at the time, according to Article 171 of the Constitution, is done by the President.
- To require a consequence regime with coercive measures to comply with Law 200-04, which ensures, among other aspects, the people’s right to access the information registered in all types of documents.

Acerca de About the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO):

El Observatorio Ciudadano de corrupción es una alianza entre organizaciones de la sociedad civil y actores sociales del continente americano, creada con el propósito de permitir el seguimiento a los acuerdos adoptados por los gobiernos de la hemisfero occidental en el VIII Cumbre de las Américas, celebrada en Lima, Perú en 2018. También promueve la participación ciudadana en la lucha contra la corrupción.

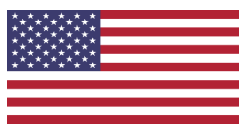


- To have a law to protect victims, witnesses and whistleblowers and the creation of proper protocols for their implementation.
- To reform Law 340-06, by virtue of updating and improving its content, by adding a consequence regime, and by adapting the regulations to the needs of the public purchase and contracting process.
- To make a list of individuals and legal entities linked to corruption acts, to avoid their contract.
- To have an asset forfeiture law, so the assets from corruption can be recovered, and to establish the proper mechanisms and all the necessary tools for their application, and that defines the purpose of the assets, funds, and securities recovered.

For further information, refer to the complete report at:
<https://occ-america.com/republica-dominicana/>

The analysis was done by identifying the regulatory and practical developments in order to comply with the Lima Agreement in 19 countries of the region. Subjects related to the reinforcement of democratic governance were considered; transparency, access to information, protection of whistle-blowers, and human rights, including freedom of expression; financing of political organizations and election campaigns; prevention of corruption in public works and public procurement and contracting; and international legal cooperation, the fight against bribery, international corruption, organized crime, and money laundering, and asset recovery.

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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