



Progress, no; setbacks, yes: The results of Venezuela against corruption

- *Venezuela obtained a general average of 0.28 out of three points in the follow-up carried out by the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO) to the implementation of the Lima Commitments that aimed at strengthening the confidence of citizens and reducing the negative impact of the corruption.*

Venezuela, October 19, 2021. Once again, Venezuela shows a minimum or low score in an anti-corruption evaluation. It is not only one of the three most corrupt countries in the world, according to the Corruption Perception Index 2021, and the one where this scourge is increasing the most and is being fought the worst, as indicated by the Corruption Barometer 2019; but today, **the country registers the worst general average in the follow-up carried out by the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO)** to the implementation of the Lima Commitments, that aim at strengthening the confidence of citizens and reducing the negative impact of corruption, in the full enjoyment of human rights and in the sustainable development of people. This situation was revealed at the presentation of the national report by Transparency Venezuela.

In the study, completed in June of this year, in which Civil Society Organizations from 19 countries of the Americas participated, the results show that Venezuela **has not registered progress** since they took on the commitment three years ago, before the rest of the presidents of the region and its citizens. **The score obtained by the country is 0.28 out of 3 points**, which means a compliance of just 9.3%, the lowest rating and percentage in the region. Peru is the country that obtained the best compliance record (1.84) and Nicaragua the second lowest, after Venezuela (0.41).

To follow up on the implementation of the commitments of the Lima Summit *Democratic Governance against Corruption*, 19 of the 57 commitments were selected, which were also grouped into five specific topics: reinforcement of democratic governance; transparency, access to information, protection of whistleblowers and human rights; 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 analysis responded to the identification of normative and practical developments, which were valued on a scale of 0 to 3 points, taking into account **effectiveness, relevance, and sustainability** criteria.

In addition to Peru, Argentina (1.69), Costa Rica (1.57), the Dominican Republic and Colombia (both with 1.53) stand out in the CCO follow-up, as the countries with the highest compliance averages. Meanwhile, in the low end we have following Venezuela and Nicaragua, Honduras (0.63), Guatemala (0.71) and El Salvador (0.86) among the five nations with the lowest records.

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.



By subject area

Regarding each topic of the Lima Agreement, the topics “Transparency, access to information and protection of whistleblowers” and “Financing of political parties” registered a score of 0.33 out of 3 points, equivalent to 11% of the maximum score. The different bodies of the national Government, since 2016, do not disclose their management reports, or annual records and accounts, and the national budget became the best kept secret of the Executive. While, in terms of electoral processes, the CNE does not investigate the use of government materials, digital platforms and social programs during electoral campaigns, nor does it sanction those involved allowing political advantage.

In terms of strengthening democratic governance, the score was 0.28/3 (9.3%), among other reasons, because in reality, 93% of the decisions of the Supreme Court favor the Executive and the Public Administration. Regarding the prevention of corruption in public works, contracting and public purchases, Venezuela registered an average of 0.22/3 (7.3%), due to the fact that the information available on the government procurement and contracting processes does not exist and the little that can be obtained it is inconsistent.

Finally, in "International legal cooperation", Venezuela obtained 0.21/3 points (7%). In the country, cases of Great Corruption are not investigated, nor are requests made by authorities of other countries regarding corruption investigations, that involve Venezuelan public assets or servers, obstructing the prosecution of cases.

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.



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.