Video 5: Collective Action & the revolution. What is the future of Collective Action?

Insights from the 3rd International Centre for Collective Action Conference: Evolution to Revolution. November 2018

The conference was held by the Basel Institute on Governance with support from the Siemens Integrity Initiative, KPMG and Hughes, Hubbard & Reed. See www.collective-action.com/conference2018.

Transcript

Private sector engagement

Gretta Fenner, Managing Director, Basel Institute on Governance: I certainly hope that we will on the one hand see much more tangible evidence of the real impact that Collective Action has had on anti-corruption and on business efficiency. We also, or I also hope that we will see other CEOs like this morning Erik Fyrwald from Syngenta, who said: well really, alone you’re only going to lose business but if you are collectively strong you can really start pushing the needle in a direction of interest to business. So clearly more CEOs and leaders who recognise the value of collective approaches to things as essential to business as anti-corruption.

International collaboration

Kevin Abikoff, Deputy Chair, Hughes, Hubbard & Reed: I think sitting next to and in between someone from the Department of Justice as well as from the French enforcement authorities and seeing the level of cooperation and agreement between the two of them really takes me to a place that I didn't think we'd get to quite so soon. Certainly I think in terms of world enforcement and coordination, which is in everyone’s best interest, it’s very exciting times. I’m very optimistic.

Momentum and change

Robin Hodess, Director, Governance Transparency, The B Team: It’s very exciting for someone who’s been working in anti-corruption for a long time to see a new generation of professionals coming in with curiosity about where the field’s going, taking some of the things for granted that those of us who’ve been involved for a long time didn’t, seeing the cooperation and collaboration and above all understanding that we need to work across different stakeholder groups in the anti-corruption space to really see change come about and to work together for that change.

Technology
Stephen Zimmermann, Senior Adviser to the Governance Global Practice Group, World Bank Group: Public procurement makes up as much as $10 trillion a year in the global economy so the opportunities to use tools around procurement to fight corruption are enormous. At the World Bank we're focused on trying to use technology to mine data from procurement information to really transform how we can predict and identify proactively where corruption risk lies in procurement. That gives us an opportunity to stop corruption before the contract is let and before the bribe is paid and that's where we think there is really a tremendous amount of potential.

Gemma Aiolfi, Head of Compliance, Corporate Governance and Collective Action, Basel Institute on Governance: Probably the use of technology is going to be a bigger feature than it has been until now. We're beginning to see that. Maybe getting people to gather around technological solutions in a collective way I hope will be what we're going to be looking at in two years’ time.

Transparency in public procurement. The High Level Reporting Mechanism.

Erica Pedruzzi, Director, Centre for Anticorruption Studies, Universidad de San Andrés: I think it has achieved several objectives. One of them is to convey the idea of a strong commitment from the government towards increasing transparency. That would be the second objective: I believe that a general sense of an increased transparency in the public bidding processes has been achieved. I consider that the High Level Reporting Mechanism has highly contributed to that.

Measurable impact

Susanne Friedrich, Director, Alliance for Integrity: It's quite interesting to see that there's still an interesting debate about what are collective actions and how they can be measured. The Alliance for Integrity is still a young initiative. We have tried out many different formats, different dialogue formats and trainings and so on and now we are getting into the phase of how we want to define our success and measure our impact.

Mark Pieth: I dearly hope that we will be talking about concrete Collective Action. We've been a bit fluffy so far.

Closing slide: Collective Action: evolution to revolution. Collective Action has the power to clear out corruption and drive sustainable development worldwide. Be part of the revolution.
About the International Centre for Collective Action

The Basel Institute on Governance launched the International Centre for Collective Action (ICCA) in 2012. It builds on the Basel Institute’s decade-long track record of support to and research into Collective Action initiatives against corruption. The ICCA serves to formalise and further strengthen the impact of this engagement.

The purpose of the ICCA is to assist companies and other concerned stakeholders in enhancing their ability to reduce the risk of corruption through Collective Action.

Highlights so far include:

- Founding and current Member of the Board of the World Economic Forum Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI).
- Founding and current member of the Wolfsberg Group on Money Laundering.
- Founder and facilitator of several sectoral Collective Action initiatives, including in the defence, logistics and transport, art trade, finance, and transport & energy sectors.
- Development of the High Level Reporting Mechanism, in collaboration with the OECD and Transparency International.
- Facilitation of a high-level Collective Action anti-corruption initiative in Ukraine.

The ICCA is partially funded through a grant by the Siemens Integrity Initiative (SII) and through Basel Institute core funding. Additional funding comes from members of sectoral Collective Action initiatives moderated by the ICCA and sponsorship from global companies actively engaged in anti-corruption Collective Action.

Institutional partners of the ICCA include:

- International Anti-Corruption Academy
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- TRACE
- Transparency International
- World Economic Forum
- Universidad de San Andrés, Argentina.

B20 Collective Action Hub

The B20 Collective Action Hub is a platform that:

- facilitates Collective Action initiatives;
- builds knowledge;
• informs;
• facilitates policy dialogue and peer learning.

In 2013, the B20 mandated the ICCA to develop and maintain this hub, in partnership with the UN Global Compact and the ICCA’s institutional partners. The hub marks a significant development in the international efforts to combat corruption. It offers tools and a forum for businesses to take concrete steps to jointly step up against corruption and strengthen good business practice. It also offers a space for businesses and governments to collaborate in this endeavour.

www.collective-action.com

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