



CCO REVEALS PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES FOR COLOMBIA IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

- The progress evaluation in the compliance of the Lima Agreement in Colombia showed an average score of 1.53 points in a scale from 0 to 3, 0 being the lowest score and 3, the highest.
- One of the main findings of the report reveals that, despite the fact that the country has numerous regulations to fight corruption, there is a poor implementation of the mechanism, channel, and public policy, which contribute to the regulations compliance.

Colombia, October 27, 2021. The Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO) in Colombia, comprised by ten Civil Society Organizations present the results of the Follow-up Report to the compliance of 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.

Colombia has numerous regulations to fight corruption, however, there are several gaps in these regulations’ implementation, partly due to lack of technical, administrative, financial and human resources capacity of the entities involved in the anti-corruption strategies in the whole country.

The main progress and development the CCO found are related to the promotion and use of electronic systems in the government procurement and contracting, the strengthening of the transparency bodies and access to public information, the adoption of measurements that prevent conflicts of interests and the implementation of national plans and policies of an open government.

The setbacks and weaknesses are found in the concentration of power of the executive branch, the growing human rights violations given in the country and the lack of regulations regarding the protection of whistleblowers that inform on acts of corruption.

Furthermore, the lack of political will to face these issues from the public policies tools to fight corruption is distressing, like the recent “*Transparency, Integrity, Legality, Shared Responsibility and Innovation: Towards an Open Government*”, which does not include concrete measurements to fight corruption from the perspective of Human Rights or gender mainstreaming. Likewise, at the Congress assembly to discuss the Bill 341 of 2020 that seeks to reform the Anti-Corruption Statute, the section that included the protection to whistleblowers that inform on acts of corruption was removed. (See previous communications: [About the Transparency Public Policy](#) and [protection to whistleblowers](#))

From the information gathered by the Civil Society Organizations who participated in this follow-up, we call on the Colombian Government to move forward in the fight against corruption from the following aspects.

1. To resume the Lima Agreement as an instrument to articulate anti-corruption measurements that already existed in different international agreements.

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 de 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.

2. To strengthen the local implementation of the measurements to fight corruption.
3. To guarantee the regulation developments implementation since the regulations issuance is not enough to consolidate the fight against corruption.
4. To promote the citizen participation to create, discuss and implement the anti-corruption measurements.
5. To guarantee the gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of the different vulnerable groups in the public policies to fight corruption.

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

This 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.

Transparencia por Colombia [Transparency for Colombia], Ocaso, Transparencia en el Deporte [Transparency in Sports], Asociación de Becarios del Casanare (ABC) [Fellows Association of Casanare], Instituto de Política abierta [Open Policy Institute], Funcicar, Red Universitaria Anticorrupción (RedUva) [Anti-corruption University Network], Corporación Región para el Desarrollo y la Democracia, Dialogo Democrático [Regional Corporation for the Development and Democracy, Democratic Dialog], and Corporación Desarrollo y Paz De Córdoba y Urabá-Darién (CORDUPAZ) [Development and Peace Corporation of Córdoba and Urabá-Darién].



Acerca de About the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO):

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