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“DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AGAINST CORRUPTION”

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Content

Executive Summary..... - 3 -

I. The Fight against corruption and democratic governance in the Summits Process in the Americas - 5 -

II. Background: Joint Summit Working Group..... - 5 -

III. Summit of the Americas: Democratic Governance against Corruption..... - 7 -

IV. Progress by the JSWG institutions with regard to the mandates from the VIII Summit - 8 -

A. Strengthening Democratic Governance..... - 9 -

B. Transparency, Access to Information, Protection of Whistleblowers, and Human Rights, including Freedom of Expression..... - 10 -

C. Financing of Political Organizations and Election Campaigns..... - 13 -

D. Prevention of Corruption in Public Works and Public Procurement and Contracting.. - 14 -

E. International Legal Cooperation; the Fight against Bribery, International Corruption, Organized Crime, and Money Laundering; and Asset Recovery - 14 -

F. Strengthening of Inter-American Anti-Corruption Mechanisms - 15 -

G. Follow-up and Reporting - 15 -

Executive Summary

This report synthesizes the activities carried out by the international and regional organizations comprising the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) to support efforts by the member states participating in the Summits Process to implement the mandates from the “Lima Commitment: Democratic Governance against Corruption,” adopted at the Eighth Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru, in April 2018.

The JSWG institutions’ contributions contained in this report provide an opportunity to address current and future challenges in fighting corruption, which call for collective and transnational action, as stipulated as well in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17: “*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,*” which is in part the spirit that inspires the work of the JSWG.

The information covered in this report was compiled by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat after the adoption of the Lima Commitment. Specifically, it reflects the information entered by the JSWG institutions on progress made in implementing the mandates from the VIII Summit, on the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment online platform,^{1/} for which the registration phase ran from January to April 2019, subsequently extended until the end of May of the same year. During the registration phase, 17 states that took part in the VIII Summit replied directly on the platform of the aforementioned Mechanism.

The information provided by the JSWG institutions in the registration process answers the following questions provided on the Mechanism’s online platform for each Lima Commitment mandate: i) What level of progress did your institution^{2/} make in implementing this commitment?; ii) Describe (identify and summarize) the measures your institution has adopted to ensure full implementation of this mandate of the Lima Commitment; iii) Provide examples and, as appropriate, statistics for how these measures are being applied by your institution; and iv) What type of technical cooperation could your institution offer countries that took part in the VIII Summit of the Americas, to contribute to the Lima Commitment implementation process?

The main contributions made by the work of the JSWG can be summarized under the following headings:

1. Open government principles get special attention from the JSWG institutions. Transparency, participation, collaboration, and technological innovation, through open data, are areas that recorded the greatest contribution from the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) institutions. Lima Commitment Mandate 14, regarding the promotion of open government, e-government, and open budgeting, is supported by five of the eight JSWG institutions – that is, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF)-Development Bank of Latin America, the World Bank, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Furthermore, e-government projects and the increasing role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in public

^{1.} Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2018/112818/Mecanismo_EN.doc.

^{2.} For the purposes of this questionnaire, the term “institution” is understood to mean the relevant GS/OAS Department or entity.

administration provide opportunities to increase service efficiency and quality, improve transparency and traceability, and increase prospects for citizen participation.

- 2. Open contracting in government procurement has become a global standard that significantly reduces the risk of corruption.** Open government is a concept that drives public sector modernization in Latin America. Open government must be understood as a process that is more than digitalization, cutting red tape, and decentralizing public services but as a platform for rethinking the role of the state.
- 3. The use of information and communication technology (ICT) tools to encourage citizen participation is an innovation that is delivering visible results in urban governance.** The mechanisms for customer feedback about the delivery of public services are one example of such tools. They have the potential to significantly improve the quality of those services and access to them, as well as to prevent corruption. In an effort to foster these measures, the World Bank has developed an approach^{3/} to more systematically incorporate citizen participation into the Bank's operations, specifically in investment projects. This approach enables citizens to take part in decision-making on development, so as to improve direct, intermediate, and final outcomes.
- 4. Successful efforts to combat corruption call for concerted action through a “coalition of stakeholders,” including governments, political actors, the private sector, civil society organizations, and citizens in general.** The JSWG institutions collaborate with the private sector to develop integrity policies that are applicable to the private sector, in matters such as political financing, a conflict of interest regime for public servants, and compliance systems.
- 5. Promotion of civil service reform is vital to the agenda for state modernization in Latin America and is a key factor in the fight against corruption.** It is crucial to develop capacity for financial disclosure by civil servants, establish a conflict of interest baseline, conduct ongoing ethics training, and put in place measures for establishing a merit-based government thereby strengthening government credibility.
- 6. Corruption at state-owned enterprises has garnered attention in Latin America and the Caribbean as a result of several high-profile scandals with a major, widespread impact.** Stronger corporate governance measures are needed for state-owned enterprises in the region.
- 7. Inclusion of Indigenous peoples and people of African descent in the public agenda to design anti-corruption measures continues to be a major challenge for the region.** Based on information provided by the JSWG institutions, this issue is an area that has still not been given attention. Specific actions can be taken in this area.

^{3/} For further information about the World Bank initiative, please visit:
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/what-we-do/brief/citizen-engagement>

I. The Fight against corruption and democratic governance in the Summits Process in the Americas

As the leading policy forum for the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, the Summits of the Americas Process has played a facilitating role in promoting issues of common interest and importance to the region, among them fighting corruption and its impact on the quality of democratic institutions.

Since the First Summit of the Americas (Miami, 1994), concrete action has been proposed to promote hemispheric cooperation to move forward in fighting corruption. In the Plan of Action of the First Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government agreed to negotiate a hemispheric instrument to combat this scourge, giving rise to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC). Adopted by the OAS member states in March 1996, the IACAC became the first international legal instrument on the subject, and would later serve as a precedent for other mechanisms now in force, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption.⁴

During the following Summits, leaders of the Hemisphere made commitments to support the “Inter-American Program to Combat Corruption” and promote the ratification and proper follow-up of the CICC⁵, as well as the development of the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), which was adopted by the States Parties to the OAS General Assembly, held in San José, Costa Rica in 2001.

In the same way, effective public management has occupied an essential place in the fight against corruption and the strengthening of democracy since the Summit Process, emphasizing aspects of transparency, integrity, respect for social rights and freedom of expression. The commitment to promote transparency in electoral processes in order to mitigate the impact of corruption on electoral democracy has become a key issue in the Summit Process.

II. Background: Joint Summit Working Group

The Heads of State and Government at the Quebec City Summit (2001) called for a Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) to be established as the main vehicle for providing the countries of the region with support to follow up on and implement mandates adopted through the Summits of the Americas Process. The JSWG currently brings together and coordinates efforts by 13 international and regional organizations, including the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Andean Development Bank (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and, more recently, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OAS, through its Secretary General, chairs the JSWG. The Summits of the Americas Secretariat serves as the Technical Secretariat to the JSWG.

⁴ United Nations Convention against Corruption:
<https://www.unodc.org/ropan/en/AntiCorruptionARAC/united-nations-convention-against-corruption.html>.

⁵ Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, 1998)

To understand the JSWG's role in the Summits of the Americas Process, we must go back to the Plan of Action of Québec City, which underscores the importance of ongoing coordination between the inter-American system and the United Nations system in order to provide and facilitate the member states with further technical support during the Summits of the Americas implementation and follow-up phase. Subsequently, the "Letter of Understanding" (2001) was signed between the highest authorities of the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), whose objective was to establish an instance of permanent coordination and information between the parties to promote greater coordination of their work for the implementation of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas. Other organizations gradually joined to strengthen support to countries from the Inter-American and multilateral System.

Currently, the JSWG brings together and articulates the work of thirteen (13) international and regional organizations, including the OAS, the IDB, ECLAC, PAHO, the World Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Bank Central American Economic Integration (CABEI), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (BDC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Program of Nations United for Development (UNDP) and, more recently in 2019, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was incorporated. The OAS, through its Secretary General, chairs the JSWG. The Technical Secretariat of the JSWG falls to the Summits of the Americas Secretariat.

As part of the follow-up and implementation phase of the VIII Summit of the Americas, and through efforts promoted by the Summits Secretariat, significant progress has been made to renew and strengthen the commitment of the JSWG entities in relation to their support for Summit Process. In this regard, in September 2018, the High Authorities of the international and regional organizations, including Inter-American organizations that make up the JSWG, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in order to renew their commitment to provide technical and financial advice and assistance to the States participating in the Summit Process regarding their efforts to fulfill the Summit mandates.

The evidence shows the important support that, through the Summit Process, the entities of the GTCC have provided to the States for the implementation of Summit mandates, from the GTCC and at the level of their institutional offers of collaboration in different fields, whether in terms of education, migration, security, democratic governance, citizen participation, energy, environment and health, which coincide directly with the priorities and challenges of the region. These inputs have been documented by the Summits Secretariat since 2002 and have been recorded in 13 Reports⁶, which were presented annually to Member States for consideration during the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) meetings.

⁶ Reports can be found at: <http://www.summit-americas.org/jswg/pub.html>

III. Summit of the Americas: Democratic Governance against Corruption

The Government of Peru, as President of the Summits of the Americas Process, proposed from the beginning of the discussions during the preparation of the VIII Summit, the need to address the effects of corruption on democratic institutionalidad and governance, as well as Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the international community in the 2030 Agenda, this being the main reference of multilateral organizations.⁷

The process of preparing for the VIII Summit, including negotiation of the final document of the Summit, “Lima Commitment: Democratic Governance against Corruption,”⁸ provided an opportunity to reflect on the advances, achievements, and limitations that states and the inter-American system faced in preventing and fighting corruption, as well as in drawing up recommendations and courses of action in this area. In addition, regional experts from various sectors participated in defining discussion topics around the Summit’s central theme, “Democratic Governance against Corruption.” From their different perspectives and experiences in the field, they provided input regarding the current challenges and opportunities they faced in fighting corruption. As a result of the deliberations by the participating states, the Lima Commitment addresses the different dimensions of the anti-corruption cycle, including prevention, detection, investigation, and punishment, which are reflected in 57 mandates or concrete measures. These 57 mandates ensure a comprehensive approach to the challenges of fighting corruption.

To address corruption and its manifestations, the Lima Commitment takes a comprehensive approach in the following seven action areas:

- A. Strengthening democratic governance;
- B. Transparency, access to information, whistleblower protection, and human rights, including freedom of expression;
- C. Financing of political organizations and election campaigns;
- D. Prevention of corruption in public works and in public procurement and contracting;
- E. International legal cooperation, the fight against bribery, international corruption, organized crime, and money laundering, and asset recovery;
- F. Strengthening of inter-American anti-corruption mechanisms; and
- G. Follow-up and Reporting.

The Summits Secretariat has embarked on a process to update the institutional support role of the JSWG entities in following up on and implementing the Summit mandates in order to provide an appropriate and coordinated response to the priorities adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas through the Summits Process.

The Summits Secretariat firmly believes that better coordination among the JSWG institutions is vital to providing member states with more effective support in the areas they have identified to be priority, so that they can move ahead with their anti-corruption efforts.

⁷. GRIC/0.1/INF.7/17. Opening remarks by Ambassador Antonio García Revilla, Peru’s National Coordinator for the Summit Process.

⁸. Lima Commitment: Democratic Governance against Corruption:
http://www.summit-americas.org/viii/compromiso_lima_en.pdf.

The JSWG MoU, signed in 2018, set the stage for a Plan of Action for the JSWG institutions for the period 2019-2021 to be prepared, as part of the VIII Summit follow-up and implementation phase. Part of preparing the JSWG Plan of Action involved conducting a preliminary institutional mapping of the JSWG institutions to identify their program offerings in the area of preventing and fighting corruption. The information provided by the states on the virtual platform of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment will be a major input for establishing the scope and the involvement of the JSWG institutions in this process.

The states that took part in the Summits Process adopted the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment on November 28, 2018, at the Sixth Regular Meeting of the SIRG. The Mechanism has a virtual platform whereby states and JSWG institutions report on their level of progress in implementing the mandates from the VIII Summit. The Mechanism also facilitates the exchange of national best practices as well as promotion of cooperation initiatives in preventing and combating corruption among states and JSWG institutions. The Mechanism's platform is a tool designed to record possible JSWG offers of cooperation under the Lima Commitment.

Furthermore, as part of the efforts to strengthen the participating countries' work in implementing the Summit mandates, particularly those arising from the Lima Commitment, and in order to extend any possible cooperation offer to the countries of the region in the areas of integrity and combating corruption, the Chair of the Summit Process invited the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to become a member of the JSWG. Through a Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme,⁹ the OECD is expected to contribute to the implementation of the mandates from the VIII Summit.

IV. Progress by the JSWG institutions with regard to the mandates from the VIII Summit

Based on the information the JSWG institutions provided via the virtual registration platform of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, interventions by the JSWG institutions in the countries revolved around the following issues:

- Support for countries in designing regulatory and institutional frameworks for the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and punishment of acts and perpetrators of corruption.
- Support in designing, implementing, and monitoring public policies.
- Designing transparency and accountability mechanisms to lower the corruption risks and vulnerabilities in our regulations and institutions.
- Implementation of international conventions, standards, and rules.
- Promotion of a culture of lawfulness.

The areas under which JSWG institutions have made progress on the Lima Commitment are as follows:

⁹. Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme: <https://www.oecd.org/latin-america/>

A. Strengthening Democratic Governance

Support from the institutions that make up the JSWG envisages the design of regulatory and institutional frameworks for the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and punishment of acts of corruption (Lima Commitment, Mandate 1). In order to put a solid integrity framework in place at all levels of the state, support has been given for measures geared towards executive, legislative, and judicial organs of the public service.

With regard to the executive branch of government, the OAS established the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH/OAS), whose mission is to support and strengthen Honduran state institutions responsible for preventing, investigating, and punishing acts of corruption, as well as to contribute towards improving coordination among them. The MACCIH Agreement with the Government of Honduras provides for a national plan of action to be prepared.

In order to reduce the level of impunity, it is especially important to strengthen the independence and autonomy of the judiciary (Lima Commitment, Mandate 2). Concerning this mandate, the OECD¹⁰ has recommended a review of laws related to the selection, retention, and termination of functions of judicial personnel, to avoid improper influences. The MACCIH/OAS has been working on this, through its involvement in the selection of special jurisdiction judges in the Judicial Branch, as well as in the selection of prosecutors for the Public Prosecutor Office Special Prosecutor's Unit against Corruption and Impunity (UFECIC/MP).

For its part, the World Bank provides technical advice to strengthen the institutional capacity of justice system personnel in the countries of the region.

In order to promote a merit-based professional public sector founded on public service ethics, the OECD recommends: i) develop an incentives structure for the public service, with clearly-defined rules for promotion and performance evaluation; ii) strengthen values related to merit, probity, political impartiality, and lawfulness in selection processes; iii) establish transparent organizational structures associated with specific roles; iv) keep results-based evaluations and identify corruption risks; and v) ensure that the integrity management framework is based on corruption risks and applicable to all officials regardless of employment status.

The OAS and the World Bank have led efforts to train civil society organizations in justice system monitoring and oversight processes, as well as in commitments made by the state.

MACCIH/OAS has been supporting the creation of a Criminal Justice System Observatory¹¹ with participation from various social actors engaged in human rights, justice, and corruption, as a

^{10.} Through the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme, the OECD has prioritized efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and governance, as reflected in the OECD Action Plan. The *OECD-LAC Integrity and Anti-corruption Action Plan*, containing 103 recommendations to help Latin American and Caribbean countries design and implement national integrity and anti-corruption strategies with commitment from governments in coordination with national and sectoral development plans.

^{11.} Concept Paper: Criminal Justice System Observatory: <https://www.observatoriohonduras.org/sitio/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/documento-conceptual-Observatorio-MACCIH.pdf>

mechanism for decentralized observation and follow-up that will issue recommendations to help improve the Honduran criminal justice system.

The Observatory is geared towards building civil society capacity for this sector to be able to systematically monitor, observe, and evaluate the state of the justice system in Honduras in future, in order to propose changes, produce impact, and empower society vis-à-vis its judicial system. The Observatory is also a center for information and dissemination on issues in developing policies and information mechanisms to raise awareness about contexts and concrete situations, and to monitor cases of corruption and human rights violations so as to reduce impunity in the country.

In recent years, the JSWG institutions provided the countries of the region with more support to strengthen their institutions and public management practices, with significant progress made in the area of state modernization. They have also contributed to policies on transparency and access to information by opening up information, promoting citizen participation in the design of public policies, and creating collaboration and innovation forums bringing the public sector, civil society, and the private sector together to jointly produce worthwhile proposals.

The World Bank has been supporting through initiatives to strengthen governance in a variety of sectors, including infrastructure, social sectors, and central government systems. Governance Global Practice (GGP) is a World Bank initiative that promotes the strengthening of democratic institutions (Lima Commitment, Mandate 1) and provides for activities that are geared towards increasing knowledge, transparency, and accountability for governments in the region, generating incentives for increased integrity in the public sector. The GGP also supports activities to make citizens better able to participate in public policies and report illegal activities.

According to the World Bank, a number of regional governments are supporting reforms with a view to promoting transparency and responsibility in public sector. Those reforms focus on advancing open data and open government (Honduras), strengthening supreme audit institutions (Caribbean region), and anti-corruption agencies (Argentina), improving corporate governance in state-owned enterprises (Uruguay), as well as global financial reporting and auditing standards, among others.

B. Transparency, Access to Information, Protection of Whistleblowers, and Human Rights, including Freedom of Expression

The OAS has promoted transparency and access to public information through its Department of Effective Public Management (DEPM), in collaboration with ECLAC. Against that backdrop, states have been given technical assistance in implementing national policies and plans for open data, open government, digital procurement systems, and public contracting (Lima Commitment, Mandates 14 and 17).

In the area of national open data policies, through DEPM the OAS supported the process of drafting national open data policies in Guatemala and El Salvador in the second half of 2018. Similarly, through a co-creation process, in November 2019 the Government of Honduras received support for dissemination and validation of its national open data policy, with institutional and financial support from the Summits Secretariat. At the sub-national level, DEPM in collaboration with the Trust for the Americas supported Costa Rica in the creation of its municipal open data policies for 15 municipalities.

Through the OAS School of Governance Virtual Campus, members of local government and civil society were offered training. Through DEPM, the OAS also serves as technical secretariat to the Electronic Government Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (Gealc Network) – a tool for horizontal cooperation among e-government authorities in the region to support the development of citizen-centered e-government policies. DEPM also supports the establishment of forums for exchange with governments and civil society, to create the Inter-American Open Data Program (PIDA), for which it produced a preliminary draft PIDA concept paper that was presented to OAS member states at the November 2018 meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP).

ECLAC continues to promote open government principles, meanwhile, with a view to translating them into concrete initiatives to improve the levels of transparency and access to information. This is accomplished by opening up public data in open formats to advance transparency and accountability, and by reusing public information to promote innovation and economic development.

Since 2011, ECLAC has conducted some twenty international and national courses on open government issues, in the process sharpening the skills of more than 1,000 individuals from 19 countries of the Americas. The purpose of the courses is to strengthen national capacity in state reform, open government, transparency, and access to public information and open data. Partnering with the *Open Government Partnership* (OGP), it conducts an annual international blended-learning course on “Strategies for Open Government in the Americas,” a joint initiative of ECLAC, the Latin American Center for Development Administration (CLAD), and the OAS.

Through its Directorate of Digital Innovation of the State, CAF promotes activities to encourage state modernization at both the national and sub-national levels, through more agile, open, and innovative governments, leveraging new technologies and data intelligence consistent with the commitments arising from the VIII Summit of the Americas.

Regarding public contracting (Lima Commitment, Mandate 20), the OAS has undertaken a series of activities through DEPM in order to diagnose, raise awareness, and foster the exchange of experiences, strengthen institutional capacity, and create forums for policy and technical dialogue among the member states of the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP), for which it also serves as technical secretariat.

In the area of gender equality and women’s leadership (Lima Commitment, Mandate 7), a group of regional and international institutions engaged in women’s empowerment and leadership established an “Inter-American Task Force on Women’s Leadership and Empowerment,” coordinated by the OAS through the Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). The Task Force has two intermediate expected outcomes: (i) greater commitment from key institutions to increase women’s participation in public decision-making in the Americas; and (ii) better coordination of key stakeholders in efforts to increase the empowerment and rights of women and girls in the Americas.

The Task Force comprises key Inter-American and international institutions with recognized experience and programming in women’s leadership. Besides the OAS – through the CIM and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) – these institutions include ECLAC, the

IDB, PAHO, UNDP, CAF, UN Women, *ParlAmericas*, the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWL), and the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM).

In its mission to encourage, promote, and support the member states' efforts to develop their agriculture and well-being for rural populations, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has a Gender Policy (2016) and a companion Gender Strategy (2018) to promote gender equality, especially for rural women. Using a cross-cutting approach, IICA aims to ensure that women can fully participate in its institutional policies as well as in the technical cooperation activities of member countries.

In terms of dealing with women's rights and the fight against corruption, the IACHR has promoted the incorporation of a gender perspective into public policies, regulatory frameworks, and judicial decisions in the region. It paid a working visit to Peru in October 2018 to follow up on the country's justice system reform projects and to gather information on the human rights situation of women, girls, and adolescents. One of the issues it observed and examined was the impact of corruption on the judicial system and on the right of access to justice for women, girls, and adolescents who are victims of violence, as well as on the institutional response seeking to eradicate corruption in the justice sector through the institutional reforms announced.

The World Bank on the other hand promotes the agenda of public administration reforms, transparency, and ethics in public service through asset disclosure systems to prevent conflicts of interest and combat unlawful enrichment. These commitments are currently being acted on in Argentina, Mexico, and Paraguay.

In order to encourage effective private sector participation in public policies to prevent and combat corruption, the World Bank is supporting corporate governance reforms in state-owned enterprises throughout the region. Under the CReCER initiative, training and outreach activities are conducted for public and private sector players – on high-quality auditing practices and corporate financial reporting, as well as on the adoption of international accounting and auditing standards.

The MACCIH/OEA, meanwhile, has signed a formal letter of commitment to promoting compliance, through the Presidential Commission on Transparency and Modernization, to ensure that Honduran private enterprise is committed, through business deals, and to promote probity in certain sectors.

For years, the World Bank invested in the development of the region's statistics capabilities by providing funding and technical assistance, with mixed results: many Latin American countries still lack data to track socio-economic conditions such as poverty, inequality, and service delivery. As a result, there is increased demand for more financial support and capacity to solve this problem. Countries need political incentives if they are to develop statistics capabilities. In a number of countries of the region, perverse political incentives lead people in power and decision-making positions to avoid investing in capacity building or to actively undermine the development of statistics capabilities.

The OAS has been implementing the mandate on whistleblower protection (Lima Commitment, Mandate 22) through the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and the Secretariat for Multidimensional

Security (SMS) Department of Public Security (DPS). Through its case system, the IACHR continues to receive and evaluate complaints pertaining to protection of whistleblowers, witnesses, and corruption whistleblowers, pursuant to its mandate to protect human rights in the region. In addition, the Department of Public Security (DPS) of the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) carries out initiatives in Central America to protect and care for witnesses and victims of various crimes, including those associated with transnational organized crime and corruption.

The World Bank views legal protection for whistleblowers as a critical measure that can make a country's risk management policies more effective. Faced with political uncertainty, competitive systems are more likely to protect whistleblowers because today's ruling elites know that they will stand a better chance under independent actors than under their political rivals' machinations and retaliation. The World Bank supports justice and rule of law initiatives in several countries, as well as whistleblower protection through legislative instruments.

The MACCIH/OAS collaborated in the drafting of regulations for implementing the law to protect human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators, and justice system personnel, especially this latter group. It has also worked with the judiciary to create a unit with specific responsibility for these matters in that institution.

C. Financing of Political Organizations and Election Campaigns

The OAS Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy's (SFD) Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) supports the adoption of measures for transparency and accountability in political financing, especially through recommendations on political-electoral financing, issued by Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) deployed in OAS member states. It has also promoted the preparation and publication of a methodology for observation of political-electoral financing systems.¹²

In the area of public policy, SFD/OAS provides member states with support for preparing and disseminating a draft model law on the regulation of political parties, the "Draft Model Law on the Registration and Regulation of Political Parties," which includes rules for election campaign financing and financial accountability.

As well, the MACCIH/OAS has been moving forward with implementation of the Law on Transparency and Control of Political Parties and Campaigns (Clean Politics Law), which was applied in the Honduran elections in 2017.

The OECD recommendations focus, meanwhile, on compulsory disclosure of contributions to political campaigns, setting limits on financing, and banning vote buying. As regards electoral management bodies, the OECD recommends that it is important for them to act autonomously and have suitable human resources to perform their supervisory work.

^{12.} Observing Political-Electoral Financing Systems: A Manual for OAS Electoral Observation Missions. https://www.oas.org/es/sap/deco/pubs/manuales/MOE_Manual_e.PDF

D. Prevention of Corruption in Public Works and Public Procurement and Contracting

The efforts pursued by the OAS, as Technical Secretariat to the Inter-American Government Procurement Network (INGP), have raised awareness and generated technical and leadership skills in national public procurement agencies, thereby delivering on its commitment to using technology as a vital tool to deliver better services to citizens for them to get engaged in public policy, have an ecosystem of collaboration involving government, citizens, and the private sector, and prevent corruption.

The national government procurement directors of the various INGP bodies have highlighted the enthusiasm and subregional effort to advance transparency in government procurement, viewing it as technological progress for generating more investment and analysis with a view to digital transformation through intelligent analysis and use of data.

With respect to the promotion of anti-corruption clauses, CABEI's new operations have anti-fraud and anti-corruption clauses, as well as clauses on other prohibited practices, in addition to details of the elements of its integrity system. CABEI declared a zero tolerance policy toward prohibited practices and recognizes that entities or individuals that are punished cannot be financed by the CABEI. Furthermore, in order to promote transparency in infrastructure project management, it is looking into the feasibility of creating a CABEI information platform – to include a repository for executive reports on public oversight visits.

Meanwhile, IICA has incorporated anti-fraud and anti-corruption clauses into all its Agreements, including Memorandums of Understanding, Corporation Agreements, and Contracts, reflecting the principle of zero tolerance of fraud and corruption. Along the same lines, IICA has strengthened whistleblower and witness protection policies, as well as a policy to prevent money-laundering and terrorism financing (July 2019), which is binding on all persons, natural or legal, who are engaged in activities for the Institute or on its behalf.

Seeking to bolster transparency, IICA also crafted an institutional action plan on ethics (with staff input) to be implemented and monitored over the next two years; established an Ethics Committee (July 2019) with terms of reference and a Confidentiality Agreement that all members must sign; and developed rules and regulations for procurement of goods and services, to strengthen the implementation of the Procedures Manual for Goods and Services (June 2019).

CAF will also make its Economy and Development Report (EDR) 2019 on Transparency and Corruption Prevention Policies available to the countries. The findings from this report will be presented between the latter half of 2019 and the first half of 2020, so as to encourage a public policy discussion with support from local experts and institutional actors involved in fighting corruption. Lastly, at the request of certain countries, CAF will organize meetings or workshops to address these issues together with stakeholders.

E. International Legal Cooperation; the Fight against Bribery, International Corruption, Organized Crime, and Money Laundering; and Asset Recovery

The OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) is pursuing efforts through the Department of Public Security's (DPS) Inter-American Network for Police Development

(REDPPOL), to foster cooperation among the police forces of the Americas, through a variety of mechanisms, including courses, seminars, and the creation of a virtual platform.

For its part, the OECD promotes the exchange of information on evidence submission and on the freezing, seizure, confiscation, and recovery of the proceeds of bribery.

F. Strengthening of Inter-American Anti-Corruption Mechanisms

In relation to the promotion of exchange and dissemination of best practices, technical skills, and measures to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for preventing and combating corruption, in 2018 the MESIC Committee of Experts adopted a methodology that includes elements of said mandate, and has already started implementing it. This methodology regulates how states present best practices for preventing and combating corruption; their compilation and dissemination, through the MESICIC website; promotion of their use; and information from states that want to provide technical assistance to implement them.

G. Follow-up and Reporting

With regard to civil society participation and contribution, Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) supports the implementation of measures to fulfill the Lima Commitment, through partnerships with young people, including social actors, government entities, youth networks, nongovernmental organizations, universities, and academia.

In terms of Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) contributions, the recommendations of the Americas Business Dialogue have been distributed to the IDB's technical divisions, seeking to identify potential areas for collaboration to pursue the implementation efforts recommended. In that connection, the Bank undertakes efforts to implement recommendation No. 20, to strategically advance the implementation of the state-of-the-art, interoperable Foreign Trade Single Windows (VUCE), outlined in the report "Action for Growth: Policy Recommendations and 2018-2021 Action Plan for Growth in the Americas."

Regarding follow-up and implementation of the Lima Commitment, and as the states envisaged in the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment — based on the information recorded by the states and the JSWG institutions during the Mechanism's recording period — the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, as the technical secretariat and institutional memory for the Summits Process, prepared a report on challenges and technical assistance needs of the states that took part in the VIII Summit in the implementation of the Lima Commitment,^{13/} which gives a preliminary assessment of the states' level of progress in implementing the Lima Commitment. The Secretariat also designed and created a Database of Regional Best Practices and Skills in Preventing and Combating Corruption. The Chair of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) – the Government of Peru – made a presentation on both the report and the online platform of the aforementioned database of regional best practices and skills at the SIRG Ministerial Meeting held during the forty-ninth regular session of the OAS General

^{13.} Challenges and technical assistance needs of the states that took part in the VIII Summit of the Americas in implementation of the Lima Commitment. Document GRIC/M.1/doc.43/10. Available at: http://www.summit-americas.org/SIRG/2019/27062019/Informe%20de%20Retos_EN.doc

Assembly (Medellín, June 2019), which meeting was dedicated to Lima Commitment follow-up and implementation.¹⁴

The purpose of the aforementioned Database, which has an interactive online platform and is part of the Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, is to systematically present information on best practices provided by participating states, based on criteria they approved, as well as institutional cooperation offers gathered from JSWG member organizations. With the consolidated information in this database of regional best practices and skills, the Summits Secretariat will be able to promote cooperation initiatives or forums during the Mechanism's post-execution phase, as also established by the states. The Mechanism for Follow-up and Implementation of the Lima Commitment, including the database of regional best practices and skills, will be available to the public shortly, via the Eight Summit website. Also highlighted is ongoing Summits Secretariat work to promote active participation of civil society organizations and social actors in the current follow-up and implementation stage of the Lima Commitment.

¹⁴. Further information at: http://www.summit-americas.org/sirg_meet_en.html