

Workshop on Corruption
United Nations 10th Congress on the Prevention of
Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
Prof. Pino Arlacchi

Distinguished representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all know that anti-corruption work has so far produced many words but scarcely any solid results or positive change in institutional behavior. To change this is the challenge that we are faced with today.

Particularly in a number of developing countries, the failure has much to do with the complexity, dynamism and pervasiveness of the corruption. In these circumstances, development assistance and plans for reform are more likely to

Our Global Programme against Corruption program rests on four pillars:

- (a) economic development;
- (b) democratic reform;
- (c) a strong civil society with access to information and a mandate to oversee the state; and
- (d) the rule of law.

On the basis of these four broad contexts, there are four basic arenas in which action can be taken against corruption within a country:

- (i) First, the basic institution of good governance need to be strengthened. At the head of this list is the judiciary, which is itself the guardian of laws and integrity. But if the judiciary is itself corrupt, the problem is compounded and the public at large is without rule of law. Also if the judiciary is not independent.
- (ii) Second, the capacity and integrity of enforcement need to be enhanced. The best law has no value if it is not enforced. The best judges and magistrates are wasted if cases are never brought to them.

- (iii) Third, a government needs to put in place a solid set of preventive tools. Codes of conduct and strong independent oversight bodies can help ensure that the acceptable standards of behavior is respected in both the private and public sector. Political leaders in all branches of government, legislative and judiciary can be required to have transparency in their own financial dealings through asset disclosure for themselves and their family members.
- (iv) Fourth, the public needs to be educated on the advantages of good governance. It must also be clear that the public itself bears a large share of responsibility for insisting on honesty and integrity in government and business.

The challenge that faces you in this workshop is to improve our understanding of corruption, both as a phenomenon and how it can be effectively contained. You have to assess the lessons we have learned to date at both the national and the international level.

Most importantly, you have to help identify the measures required to succeed in the fight against corruption. In this process it is my hope that you will provide insights which will strengthen the preparation of an international legal instrument against corruption, which in turn will facilitate the efforts we are all making to counter this threat. A legal instrument that has been called for by the ad hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and it is a challenge that confronts you today.

I believe that if you can propose elements for such an instrument, this meeting will have been well worthwhile. I know, of course, that there will be other, perhaps less tangible benefits, which flow when experts come together to share the lessons they have learned in the field, and in this sense the success of your meeting is already assured.

I wish you well in your deliberations.