RESEARCH CAPACITY

IMPLEMENTATION NOTE ON FACTI PANEL RECOMMENDATION 10C
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RecommenDation 10C: strentheN the capacity of unODC to do research on anti-corruption, including in collaboration with other international organizations, with a strategic aim of improving the effectiveness of capacity building and technical assistance.

INTRODUCTION

The systemic nature of financial integrity problems, and the vast range of sectors in which they are involved, means that the international community must periodically update a broad range of policies, and support the global implementation process. The lack of necessary knowledge, skills and capacities is a major impediment that must be addressed.

In particular, anti-corruption intervention effectiveness needs improvement, partly because of the historical lack of attention to research on the effectiveness of different interventions in different contexts. Much early research focused on corruption, rather than on evaluating anti-corruption policies. A wealth of studies on different anti-corruption policies has emerged only recently, as some development cooperation providers increased their focus on evaluation and effectiveness. These studies show mixed effectiveness of different types of anti-corruption interventions and demonstrate the need for better understanding of what works. As part of a recommitment to anti-corruption, the World Bank has done some stocktaking of lessons from its programmes, but coordination with capacity building related to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and United Nations Development Programme programmes on governance is relatively weak.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The FACTI Panel believes that capacity must not only be assessed based on the ability to adopt legal provisions, but must be based on clear and transparent criteria of effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. Anti-corruption policies, laws and enforcement mechanisms should consider features of corruption in different regions, countries and sectors. This requires a greater capacity to do research on all aspects of anti-corruption strategies, including corruption prevention. It also calls for learning from and collaborating with relevant international institutions such as United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, UNDP, and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). Moreover, research outcomes and lessons learned must be applied to capacity building agendas.
LOOKING FORWARD

As capacity building initiatives increase to generate financial integrity for sustainable development, it is critical that they focus on impact. Strengthening the capacity of UNODC and other international institutions to initiate and coordinate effectiveness. The UNODC should be partnering and establishing joint research groups with other international institutions as well as academic and independent researchers in the field to ensure that research work is not duplicative, is effectively targeted, and builds on the strengths of different actors. Other internation institutions should also take initiatives in this area.

The International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) has a strong research mandate. It promotes research collaboration among research and academic institutions, and anti-corruption think tanks around the world. IACA's research network, along with its in-house research department, can contribute to implementation of international research projects in partnership with UNODC and other international institutions, including at the regional level.

To ensure unbiased research, it will be important to dedicate time and energy to working with researchers and institutions not based in Europe/North America, which can be promoted with partnerships with regional development banks and regional institutions like the African Union and its capacity building initiatives.

Create an anti-corruption research advisory board: While UNODC-led research should be conducted by experts, it is always valuable to have a high-level group of researchers and academics with an independent view, who can review work, advise on priorities and help with partnerships. Such an anti-corruption research advisory board would entail modest costs to have meetings a few times a year alongside or in advance of other UNCAC meetings. It is essential to have geographic and gender balance on such a board.
ANNEX: POSSIBLE RESOLUTION LANGUAGE

Below is possible language for use in a United Nations General Assembly resolution or UNCAC COSP Resolution:

We agree to strengthen the capacity of the UNODC and other relevant international organizations, such as the International Anti-Corruption Academy, to conduct research on anti-corruption with the strategic aim of improving the effectiveness of capacity building and technical assistance; and will increase the financial resources available for this purpose in the next programme budget cycle.

Below is possible language for an amended UNODC programme budget document:

Subprogramme 6:
Research, trend analysis and forensics

Objective

The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure that Member States have enhanced knowledge of trends on drugs, crime and corruption for effective scientific and evidence-based policy formulation and capacity building.

Strategy

The subprogramme will provide research and analysis of economic and financial crime, with particular attention to anti-corruption interventions and related transnational dimensions. The subprogramme will collaborate with other agencies to publish data and analyses on the effectiveness of anti-corruption interventions, as well as provide support and input to capacity-building initiatives on preventing and combatting corruption. Furthermore, the subprogramme will seek research partnerships with other research institutions, particularly those in developing countries, and take the advice of an anti-corruption research advisory board.

ANNEX: FURTHER READING


