

**Transparency International India's (TII)
Communication on Engagement (COE)
to the UN Global Compact**

Statement of Continued Support by TII's Executive Director

January 28, 2016

To
Ms Lise Kingo,
Executive Director
UN Global Compact
685 Third Avenue,
FL 12, New York
NY-100017

Dear Ms Kingo,

Greetings from Transparency International India!!

TII endorses UNGC's Principle 10 which states that "Businesses should work against Corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery". Keeping in tandem with this Principle TII is working to weed out corruption from public contracting, creating awareness among the citizens about their rights, training citizens on seeking pertinent information from the government departments through the tool of Right to Information and engaging with various stakeholders such as education institutions, NGOs to prepare the youth to pose a stiff fight against corruption in all its forms.

Transparency International India is an active participant of the UNGC since 2010. We are pleased to submit our biennial report in line with UNGC's content for non-business participants submit the Communication on Engagement (COE) report in every two years commencing 31st October 2013. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we have described the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principle 10 as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Ashutosh Kumar Mishra
Executive Director

About Transparency International India

Transparency International India (TII) is part of an international anti-corruption movement and came into existence in the year 1997. TII is a non government, non party and not for profit organization of Indian citizens with professional, social, industrial or academic experience seeking to promote transparency and ethical governance and to eradicate corruption from the country.

TII is currently involved with five programs, namely; Integrity Pact, Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers (ALAC), PAHAL, Development Pact and South-South Exchange (SSE) Program.

Integrity Pact (IP): IP is a tool developed in 1990s by Transparency International to help governments, businesses and the civil society organizations fight corruption in public contracting and procurements. The IP establishes mutual contractual rights and obligations to reduce the high procurement cost and adverse effects of corruption. It covers all contract-related activities from pre-selection of bidders, bidding and contracting, to make public contracting and procurement transparent by binding all to ethical conduct. It also envisages a monitoring role for the civil society which is the ultimate beneficiary of such action. The IP was first introduced in India in 2006 with the support of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). At present, there are 49 Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), one State PSU and one Municipal Council who have adopted Integrity Pact through signing an MoU with TII.

Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC): In India, ALAC is staffed by a Lawyer and other logistics staff. A popular helpline number is installed to facilitate a large number of complainants. The core purpose is to inform citizens about their legal rights, provide legal assistance and equip them to take action on cases of corruption that they have been victims of. ALACs provide an effective mechanism for the victims of corruption to approach us and seek redress. The centers receive complaints from victims directly and advise them on the legal remedies available to them, thereafter if the complainant wants to pursue the complaint then all possible legal assistance is provided to him. We also draft Right to Information/Right to Services related application for citizens.

PAHAL: Shashan Sudhar Ki Ore: TII promotes a grassroots intervention, Pahal: Shashan Sudhar Ki Ore, for improving governance in rural areas of four states namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and Chhattisgarh since April 2009. The key idea behind the initiative is to disseminate knowledge about tools of good governance like RTI, Social audit, awareness about citizen charter and E-governance, etc. to the common masses with a special focus on BPL families, tribal women and youth, at the same time promoting positive interaction, participation and partnership between citizen and government officials to improve service delivery and good governance.

Development Pact (DP): DP is a change tool in the hands of poor people, to demand greater transparency and accountability from the political representatives and local administration, by exercising their political rights beyond simply voting, to a more authentic and continuous engagement in decision making. It also supports capacity building of civil society organizations. Thus the primary target of TII is to identify community based organizations that have the commitment and potential to promote local democracy in the real sense. The aim is to encourage people to move beyond mere voting, and to enable them to participate in processes that can hold the legislature and the executive accountable, for proper utilization of funds and implementation of programs.

Integrity Pact Activities

- **Book Launch:** Transparency International India along with Global Compact Network India conducted an assessment of Integrity Pact. For the assessment, all the stakeholders of Integrity Pact were involved. The report carried the model of Integrity Pact implemented internationally and the elements that can be borrowed for the Indian context. Further, the assessment report contained the comments on Integrity Pact implementation in India and the ways in which its presence can be consolidated in the country. The Assessment Report was launched on June 12, 2015 by Mr Srirak Plipat, Regional Director, Asia Pacific, Transparency International in India.
- **Training Programs:** Transparency International India conducted a series of training programs on the theme of Public Procurement and Integrity Pact across the country. The program is designed to impart knowledge on Integrity Pact, advise systemic changes in organization's procurement processes and elaborate on the existing legislations and guidelines pertaining to public contracting in India. In the year 2015, TII conducted five such training programs
 - Nuclear Power Corporation, June 26, 2015, Mumbai
 - Bharat Electronics Limited, July 23, 2015, Bangalore
 - Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd., July 24, 2015, Bangalore
 - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, October 16-17, 2015, Bangalore
 - CIDCO, October 30, 2015, Navi Mumbai
- **International Conference:** A two days International Conference on Integrity Pact and Probity in Public Procurement was organized on September 17-18, 2015, New Delhi. The Guest of Honor was Mr K V Chowdary, Central Vigilance Commissioner. Special guest to the like of Mr D K Sarraf, Chairman and Managing Director, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the biggest oil and gas company in South Asia, Mr B. Ashok, Chairman, Indian Oil, a frontrunner in oil and natural gas segment, representative from leading public sector undertakings and government bodies graced the occasion. The conference was a huge success with over 200 guests from eleven nationalities participating in the event. The conference was covered by leading media agencies of the country.
- **Assisting Thailand's Private Sector Collective Action Coalition:** TII in the month of October participated in an exercise to facilitate adoption of Integrity Pact in several leading private sector companies in Thailand. Further to that, Mr Ashutosh Mishra, was invited to speak at the Thailand's 6th Conference on Collective Action against Corruption.
- **Assisting Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Association (APCRDA) for introducing Procurement manual in the organization:** TII was invited to give a presentation of Integrity Pact with a prospect of introducing the tool in APCRDA's procurement process. Also, TII committed to conduct a series of trainings for APCRDA procurement and outsourcing staff and facilitate the introduction of procurement manual in APCRDA.
- **Reaching out to Central Ministries for adopting Integrity Pact in procurement intensive companies:** TII wrote to Ministry of Coal and Power for considering the inclusion of Integrity Pact in coal and power companies.

ALAC Activities

- **Complaint Handling:** During the January - December 2015, total 615 initial contacts/complaints were received at Delhi, Ranchi and Patna through ALAC Help lines, ALAC Walk-in Centers,

and Mobile ALAC. Four complaints relating to corruption in Provident Fund and labour issues were drafted, besides pursuing the claim of old age pension of a widow and petition of harassment under the Welfare and Protection of Parents and Senior Citizen's Act.

➤ **Training On Right to Information (RTI)/ Right to Service (RTS):**

Training program on the RTI Act & Right to Service Act was organized at Nand Nagri and Dwarka, Delhi in association with the local Resident Welfare Association (RWA) to promote good governance, more than 45 people participated in the workshop.

➤ **Volunteer:** ALAC wing of Transparency International India trained more than 35 Interns from reputed colleges of India.

PAHAL Activities

- **Awareness camps for Panchyats:** TII organized awareness camps in six selected Panchayats of four districts of Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Supaul in Bihar. The theme pertained to ill effects of corruption in interfering with people's entitlements under various welfare schemes, invoking the Right to Information Act to obtain the same, and facilitating securing citizens' rights.
- **Training on RTI & RTS and awareness camps:** Awareness camps were conducted in Panchayats of Darbhanga & Patna on ill effect of corruption, villager's entitlements under welfare schemes, legal ways to get their dues without bribing with the help of volunteers. Training was provided on framing questions for seeking information from local bodies, particularly for Panchayats. If there is accountability and transparency in the affairs of the Panchayats, there will be inclusive development in the village.
- **Youth volunteer training:** To educate the citizens, particularly the youth about their rights and to guide them about using the tools of good governance like RTI and RTS, TII organized training workshops about the kind of information that can be sought through RTI and framing the RTI applications.

Studies and Surveys

In 2015 engaged in conducting studies on various facets of corruption. In the past, TII has published studies on avoidance of Stamp Duty in Property transactions in Delhi, corruption in transport operations and corruption in Corporate Social Responsibility Schemes.

In April 2015, TII released a study on Grievance Redressal Mechanism in Indian Railways. The study was well received and saw a good media coverage. TII has been conducting surveys to understand the pressing transparency issues of the country and the prevalent gaps which can be possibility plugged by the policy makers. A standalone survey on legislations related to beneficial ownership was also undertaken. The findings of the study have been sent to the concern department of the Government of India.

Legislations

TII participated at the national level in discussions and drafting of the various laws. We had been also participating in the parliamentary group deliberations by appearing before parliamentary committees and ministerial groups.

Currently, TII is engaged in giving input on the proposed Money Laundering Bill, amendments Right to Information Act and Right to timely delivery of goods and services. Special efforts are being made by TII to include provisions of Integrity Pact in the proposed Public Procurement Bill. A detailed representation was made by TII in April 2015 when the Bill was up for citizens' feedback. Further, letters have been written to the Chairman and members of the Standing Committee of the Indian Parliament under whom the Public Procurement Bill will be reviewed.

Advocacy

TII had been writing to the various ministers and secretaries to the government for honoring their commitments of measurable improvement in business environment and promoting transparency and good governance. The following items have been taken up:

- TII has been pursuing the higher authorities to bring about changes in the current legislation and introduce new legislations to abide by the provisions of United Nation Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). TII is advocating the amendment of the Whistleblower Protection Act to make it more effective and passing of the overdue Public Procurement Bill.
- Persuading governments to comply with the landmark decision of the Supreme Court on police reforms.
- Moving the Union Minister for Home Affairs for introduction of the Integrity Pact among the Central Para Military Organizations, under the control of the Ministry, for procurement of arms and ammunitions, uniforms, communication equipment, transport, wireless, etc., besides the construction of police housing.
- The prisons in India are operating under the Indian Prison Act, 1894. The Chairperson of TII who was then a member of the Prison Reform Committee of the Government of Delhi, that had given a draft text for the new prison bill on the basis of which Delhi Prison Act was legislated by the Parliament, has now taken up the matter with the National Human Right Commission to implore that the existing Act of 2000 could be improved upon if reforms in prison administration are to be sought.
- The issue of the Benami Transaction Act shall be pursued till it is finalized and a new act is in shape, along with the necessary notifications.

New Initiatives in the year 2015

TII and Election Pledge:

India faces a persistent corruption problem that affects the daily lives of ordinary citizens. TI's Global Corruption Barometer 2013 perceived that 86 per cent of the respondents in India felt that political parties were corrupt and did not deliver. As part of the pre-election activity, TII has devised an election integrity pledge for all the candidates standing for Assembly Elections in the State of Bihar, a strategic state election of the ruling Party of India. By signing the pledge the candidate agrees to abide by the Code of Conduct of Elections issued by the Election Commission of India and not have any undue influence in the elections.

- The Bihar Assembly Election, 2015, is thus an opportunity for Indian political parties and candidates to redeem the situation by affirming a constructive agenda for tackling corruption in the country by a fundamental commitment for promoting the values of integrity, transparency and accountability.

- Therefore, in order to ensure a high standard of candidates, TII seeks a commitment from them so that, when elected, they keep the pledge in mind while attempting to serve the people of the State, and in raising the level of governance.
- Since what we are seeking is apolitical and in the interest of the State of Bihar, we expect cooperation and a positive response from all political parties and independent candidates in our earnest endeavor to raise the image of the country.
- TII invited all political parties for a discussion for consideration of and adoption of the proposed pledge soon.

TII and Local Circle:

TII partnered with Local Circles and engaged citizens in discussions and debate on various graft related topics such as corruption in School Admissions, Telecom Industry, Sports, Railways, Hospitals, Defense and Medical Abuse, to name a few. Through Local Circles, TII has been able to understand the graft related grievance of the citizens which has played a major role in selecting a target segment for TII's activities in the coming time. TII in collaboration with Local Circle have written short reports on various topics related to corruption. *More than 55,000 (Fifty five thousand) members have joined the circle within a span of 5 months.*



TII Annual Lecture



In order to involve the intellectuals of the country in advocating the need for transparency, TII in 2009, started Annual lecture series. Each year a prominent personality is invited to speak on pressing governance issues prevalent in the country. So far, six lectures have been delivered by thinking personalities in their domain of specialization. On April 6th, 2015, Former Attorney General of India Justice (Retd.) Soli Sorabjee delivered a 6th Annual Lecture in New Delhi. The lecture was titled "Fundamental Right and its protection by the Judiciary".

UN Anti-Corruption Day/Week

TII observed the UN Anti-Corruption Day/week by organizing a series of events like debates, discussions, cartoon competitions, slogan writing, oath taking as well as focusing on the theme of 'Tools of Good Governance' at Delhi, Srinagar, Raipur, Madurai, Dhanbad, Gonda, Bangalore and Patna. TII envisioned an "Integrity Pledge" which was e-mailed to colleges, NGOs and TII Chapters (state centers) across the country. The pledge was taken by students at various schools and colleges across the country.



