

Talking Points

Session 1 of the 2021 CCPCJ Thematic Discussions

SESSION 1

15:00-18:00 10 November

“Addressing the causes, including the root causes, of crime - Evidence-based crime prevention - Tailor-made crime prevention strategies.”

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- It is a pleasure to be here today to take part in this panel discussion on “Addressing the causes, including the root causes, of crime - Evidence-based crime prevention - Tailor-made crime prevention strategies.”
- As Dean of the International Anti-Corruption Academy, it will come as no surprise that the crime my work focuses on is corruption. But corruption is often not a stand-alone crime. There is a strong nexus between corruption and other types of crime. Corruption at a border crossing can facilitate illegal movement of persons or goods. Corruption can facilitate the production of fraudulent documents. Corruption can, of course, also be present in the criminal justice system itself.
- Additionally, corruption has a very detrimental impact on our societies, and not only through its facilitation of other crimes. It siphons funds away from national and local budgets. While corruption in law enforcement and the judicial system undermines efforts to prevent and combat crime, damaging trust between governments and societies.
- At a fundamental level, I believe that one of the key methods of addressing the root causes of crime must be education. Education gives people opportunities, it can raise them out of poverty, it can reduce inequality in our societies, it can increase engagement with the political system, increase public trust, and overall, steer people off the dark path that leads to crime and towards a wide range of legitimate opportunities.
- At IACA, we believe in tackling corruption, including its causes and root causes, through education. The academy empowers Anti-corruption and compliance practitioners with the tools they need to fight corruption. But it also goes beyond that. Our aim is to ensure that all managers of the international system, in both the public and private sectors, have at least a basic anti-corruption education. Having the ability to recognise corruption when you see it may seem like a basic skill, but this remains far from the truth in environments where it may be engrained in the culture. Only when a tipping point is reached in the number of people who are able to recognise corruption and know how to combat it can we affect cultural change.
- IACA has been providing people with the skills, knowledge and tools needed to fight corruption for a decade. In that time, we have trained over 3,500 people who now make up our alumni

network. While impressive, we aim to scale up and greatly grow that number in the coming years. This expansion effort is already having an effect through our online offerings which include open online trainings which enable us to reach a much wider audience.

- Of course, fighting corruption also requires strong institutions and policies. Through its training and capacity-building activities, IACA contributes to building resilient national criminal law systems. Such activities provide crucial anti-corruption tools particularly to professionals and other practitioners from developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

To build strong anti-corruption policies you need to have solid research on which to base them. I am a strong believer in evidence-based decision making and that is why I have made the enhancing of IACA's research role a priority since I joined the Academy. One of flagship research projects we are developing is the IACA Repository of research on anti-corruption, compliance and collective action. Until now the sum of research on anti-corruption has been very spread out and not at all easy to access or navigate. Through our repository we aim to put all this research into a publicly accessible one stop shop. Anyone looking for the latest academic research should be able to easily access it. We hope that this will assist people and institutions in developing anti-corruption policies based on the best and most up to date knowledge available from all over the world.

- Through education, training, and research, IACA is doing its part to tackle corruption and its root causes. I hope that with the support of our constituency we can continue to scale up that effort in the coming years.
- Thank you.