

**Q: mention 3 challenges to corruption and the SDGs.**

**A:** Reaching the SDGs will on all accounts be extremely difficult.

We will not be able to reach most of the goals unless there are real changes, in the way we are using available resources, manage revenues and tax systems, and prevent corruption and illicit financial flow.

**Thus – I will choose as the first challenge the need for leadership and political will to carry out the necessary changes.**

We know that in many countries the political leadership and government officials are closely associated with corruption and actively preventing important institutions to operate with the necessary mandate and budget to deliver on expectations.

We see a shrinking space for civil society and restrictions on media and their access to information.

Promoting openness and transparency, demanding accountability and encouraging the active participation by the civil society, private sector and academia may open new ways of responding to the problems rather than deepen the conflict.

**The second challenge is global , and concerns the access to safe havens for criminal proceeds also stemming from corruption.**

Although we see improvements through country-by-country reporting and information exchange agreements - it is obvious that it

is not enough to ensure that proceeds from crime do not find safe havens.

We need better monitoring of banks and increase our expectations to financial oversight bodies. Enablers of corruption should be held accountable when facilitating wrongdoing for their clients.

**The third challenge is more sector related at country level and relates to the need to integrate national and sectorial anti-corruption targets into existing funds and programmes.**

We know what the problems are, but maybe less how to do overcome these. We can all do better in securing integration of anti-corruption measures into programmes. But governments must also want it.

And let me just mention one example where UNODC, through cooperation with experts from many countries, and with support from Norway – has developed a “handbook” on corruption in the fisheries sector - Rotten Fish - which looks at the entire chain of the fisheries and how and where corruption occurs. We need more of that to tackle the sectorial changes.

**Q: Which area would you say there has been little focus on which should deserve more attention?**

**A: There are two things I would like to mention:**

- First: We have seen protests around the world against impunity and that those looting state resources get away with it. How to ***end impunity and provide and rebuild trust*** - can often feel as an impossible task. But there is no way around it – it must be dealt with. There are tools available, knowledge and experience that can be used and support sought from domestic and international actors.
- The second is ***the need for support and protection of those in the “front line”*** to the brave ones who on our behalf investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption cases, and the witness, whistle blowers and the media that bring cases forward.<sup>1</sup>

**Q: what do you all think about the types of solutions that are being discussed concerning the international legal and institutional framework? Which are the top priorities?**

**A:** The preliminary studies TI has done provides us with insight to what type of schemes are being used in corruption involving vast quantities of assets, which common features they have. This need to be studied further, to assess if UNCAC has gaps or if it is the lack of enforcement and implementation of the convention that is the main problem.

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Maybe UNCAC has been interpreted more as an instrument for the government and is not necessarily well **known and used within countries by civil society actors, academia, international actors as well as sectors outside the legal system** (health and education). It could be used for monitoring progress and identifying challenges, as well as part of a political dialogue between countries, and to priorities activities – in a much more strategical way than today.