



## Corruption Facts



- Each year, over US\$ 1 trillion is paid in bribes worldwide.  
[World Bank, [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)]
- Corruption reduces a government's ability to provide basic resources and services for its citizens.

- Corruption and the transfer of illicit funds have contributed to capital flight in Africa, with more than US\$ 400 billion having been looted and stashed away in foreign countries. Of that amount, around US\$ 100 billion is estimated to have come from Nigeria alone.
- Former President of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko (in power 1965-1997) is believed to have looted the country's treasury of some US\$ 5 billion—an amount equal to the country's external debt at the time.
- The late Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha and members of his inner circle looted and exported an estimated US\$ 2.2 billion. The World Bank estimates that 70 per cent of the population of Nigeria live on less than US\$ 1 a day.
- In Mexico, the brother of former President Carlos Salinas amassed US\$ 120 million as a result of corruption, an amount that the World Bank estimates could have covered the annual health care costs for more than 594,000 Mexican citizens.

### Corruption causes reduced investment.

- Investment in a relatively corrupt country compared to an uncorrupt one can be as much as 20 per cent more costly.  
[“Economic Corruption: Some Facts”, Daniel Kaufmann 8th International Anti-Corruption Conference 1997]
- Nations that fight corruption and improve their rule of law could increase their national income by 400 per cent.  
[“US\$ 1 Trillion lost each year to bribery says World Bank”, UN Wire, 12 April 2004]

### Increasing evidence indicates widespread corruption in the judiciary in many parts of the world.

- Judicial corruption undermines the rule of law and government legitimacy.
- A corrupt judiciary cripples a society's ability to curb corruption.
- A report examining the judiciary in 48 countries found that judicial corruption was pervasive in 30 of them.  
[Centre for Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Ninth annual report on Attacks on Justice, March 1997, February 1999.]



### Corruption allows organized crime and terrorism to flourish.

- Corrupt practices facilitate drug trafficking and organized crime.
- Corruption is associated with money-laundering and illicit international money transfers, which can be used to support international terrorists.



**Strong political commitment is required to combat corruption.**

- The United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted on 31 October 2003, is the first legally binding global instrument to combat corruption.
- The United Nations Convention against Corruption entered into force on 14 December 2005. It obliges countries to criminalize certain corrupt practices, including bribery, embezzlement and money-laundering. To date, 36 countries have ratified the Convention and more than 130 have signed it.

- The UN Global Compact is an international initiative that calls on its more than 2000 partners to support 10 universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. They should embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, its 10 principles.
- Added in June 2004, the tenth principle, derived from the UN Convention against Corruption, stipulates that businesses should work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery. The Global Compact brings together the private sector with UN agencies, labour and civil society organizations.

