



THE CITIZEN CORRUPTION OBSERVATORY (CCO) REVEALS LITTLE PROGRESS IN THE COMPLIANCE OF THE LIMA AGREEMENT IN EL SALVADOR

- With an average 0.86 out of 3 possible points, El Salvador shows poor progress in the fight against corruption
- The results of the research reflect a decay in the independence of the control institutions that promote, investigate and sanction corruption.

El Salvador, October 7, 2021. On this Thursday, the Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE) [National Foundation for Development], national chapter of Transparency International, along with the Asociación Salvadoreña para la Formación y Capacitación Integral Sostenible (ASAFOCAIS) [Association for Sustainable Comprehensive Training and Education in El Salvador], Centro de Capacitación y Promoción de la Democracia (CECADE) [Democracy Promotion and Training Center], Fundación Democracia Transparencia Justicia (FDTJ) [Democracy Transparency Justice Foundation], Asociación por un Futuro Abierto [Association for an Open Future], Jóvenes Iberoamericanos [Ibero-American youth], Asociación Mentes Jóvenes [Young Minds Association], Asociación Transparencia [Transparency Association], Contraloría Social y Datos Abiertos (TRACODA) [Transparency, Social Auditing and Open Data Association] and Plataforma Verdad a Domicilio [Home Truth Platform], as part of the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO), presented the report results of the follow-up on the Lima Agreement **“Democratic Governance against Corruption”**, signed at the **VIII Summit of the Americas in 2018**, which aims at keeping a direct fight against corruption in the Americas.

The report reveals setbacks on the fight against corruption in El Salvador, after actions like the removal from office of the judges at the Supreme Court’s Room of the Constitutional and the Attorney General of the Republic by the Legislative Assembly, the control of the Instituto de Acceso a la Información Pública (IAIP) [Access to Public Information Institute], the reform proposals to the Public Information Access Law submitted before the Legislative Assembly, the termination of the agreement with the Comisión Internacional Contra la Impunidad en El Salvador [International Committee against Impunity in El Salvador, ICAIES] and most recently, the reform to the Judicial Career Law. These actions confirm it.

In that sense, there are big challenges to move forward in the path of transparency and accountability in the Central American country, where it is urgent to have independent control institutions to promote, investigate and sanction corruption. Accountability must be considered as a key element in the public sector; public servants must respect and comply with the laws in force, as for example, the time and manner of submission in the patrimonial statements. To date, there is an important number of current public servants who have not submitted their corresponding statements.

The information gathered by the CCO shows the need to actively work in the construction of an anti-corruption agenda that allows the compliance of the different commitments taken internationally. In general, it is recommended to respect the separation and balance of powers that allows a democratic strengthening; the respect for the judicial independence; the control institutions strengthening, amongst them the IAIP; to include the vulnerable groups in the anti-corruption policies, which have been excluded in the constructions of transparency policies; and to move forward in the control of political parties’ funding and accountability. Likewise, it is recommended to have sustainability in these actions, so they can allow the reduction of bureaucracy and the proceedings in the public sector, and to continue, in a coordinated manner, the actions for the asset forfeiture from corruption, actions that are very appreciated by the CCO.

About the Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO):

The Citizen Corruption Observatory (CCO) is an alliance between civil society organizations and social actors of the continent, created with the purpose of allowing the follow-up to the agreements adopted by the governments of the hemisphere at the VIII Summit of the Americas, held in Lima, Peru in 2018. It also promotes citizen participation in the fight against corruption.



The report was done by identifying and analyzing the regulatory and practical developments in order to comply with the Lima Agreement in 19 countries of the region. Subjects related to the reinforcement of democratic governance were considered; transparency, access to information, protection of whistle-blowers, and human rights, including freedom of expression; financing of political organizations and election campaigns; prevention of corruption in public works and public procurement and contracting; and international legal cooperation, the fight against bribery, international corruption, organized crime, and money laundering, and asset recovery.

The CCO is a shared effort between the **Citizen Forum of the Americas (CFA)**, the **Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (LACND)**, **national chapters of Transparency International (TI) in Latin America and over 150 Civil Society Organizations** in the Americas to promote citizen participation and to monitor the progress of the governments measures and their challenges, as well as to research, document and systematically analyze evidence on the effectiveness of the anti-corruption efforts in the region.

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