Invitation

Roundtable: The 2030 Agenda: Addressing corruption in support of democracy governance and sustainable development

Date: Wednesday, 04 October 2017, 14h30-17h00
Venue: Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the European Union, 4 - 10 Avenue de Cortenbergh, 1040 Brussels
(Participants will be required to present a passport or ID card upon arrival)

The Office of International IDEA to the European Union, with the support of the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the European Union, would like to cordially invite you to attend the Roundtable on "**The 2030 Agenda: Addressing corruption in support of democracy governance and sustainable development**".

Our inter-connected, globalized and constantly changing world faces multiple and complex challenges in the 21st century. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits the international community to collaborate to address these challenges.

As stated in its Preamble, the 2030 Agenda, "is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity" that "seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. (…) All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan (...) to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and to heal and secure our planet." Sustainable development is achieved at different speeds around the world, and is intertwined with multiple elements that either allow or prevent the effective realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national, regional, and global levels.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to end poverty and ensure lives of dignity for all, recognizes the need to fight corruption in all its aspects and calls for significant reductions in illicit financial flows as well as for the recovery of stolen assets. To this end, the SDG16[1] targets include commitments to fight corruption, increase transparency, tackle illicit financial flows and improve access to justice and effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

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[1] United Nations A/RES/70/1, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Goal 16: "*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels": http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

Corruption represents a major obstacle to reaching all the SDGs as it impacts sustainable development and democratic governance. Corruption has no boundaries and it is an issue for all countries. The stability, security and development potentials of our societies are threaten by corrupt practices. They undermine the institutions and values of democracy, citizens' confidence in democratic institutions, practices and politics, threaten political stability and allow for policy capture, and directly impact sustainable development. The fight against corruption is complex, and requires the involvement of many actors – politicians, civil society, public and private sectors – and political will.

Given this, we would like to provide a platform to openly and informally exchange views on these issues, and to contribute to shaping the discussion on the accountability, follow-up and review framework for the Post-2015 Agenda. Some issues for consideration, include the following:

-What are the key lessons and innovative practices of donor approaches to addressing corruption?

-In support of democratic governance, can corruption be controlled?

-Anti-corruption advocacy is an important instrument. What is being done, are efforts sufficiently supported, and what assistance is needed to ensure greater effectiveness?

-How does democracy support efforts contribute to address corruption, and are "red lines" respected?

-Are we benefitting from the use of new technologies to monitor the transparency of politicians and business actors?

-What is the impact of corruption on partnerships, and partner relations?

-Could oversight mechanisms and new incentive structures be used to build integrity within the political sphere?

-What are effective strategies against corruption to counter money in politics, increase citizen's confidence in the representative political system, and strengthen institutions?

-How can improved integrity, transparency and accountability be supported?

-What are examples/good practices of collaboration between public and private sectors in fighting corruption?

-Do countries make sufficient resources available for the fight against corruption?

Attached, a draft programme for the Roundtable. Light refreshments and snacks will be served to participants prior to the event.

Please register before Thursday, 28 September 2017 via the following link: http://bit.ly/2xiSIzg

14h30-15h00	**Registration and light refreshments**
15h00-15h15	**Welcome remarks:** Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the European Union **Opening remarks: H.E. Mr. Gonzalo Gutiérrez,** Local Chair of International IDEA's Council of Member States, and Ambassador of Peru to Belgium and Luxembourg and Head of the Peruvian Mission to the European Union
15h15-16h05	**The 2030 Agenda: Addressing corruption in support of democracy governance and sustainable development** Facilitator: **Andrew Bradley** (Office of International IDEA to the EU) Presentations: **Nadia Molenaers** (University of Antwerpen) **Alison Coleman** (Transparency International – EU Office) **Thomas Millar** (DG International Cooperation and Development, European Commission) **Jan Vanheukelom** (ECDPM) **Irina Stefuriuc** (DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission)
16h05-16h50	**Discussion and exchange of views**
16h50-17h00	**Summary and conclusions**

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The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. International IDEA's mission is to support sustainable democratic change by providing comparative knowledge, and assisting in democratic reform, and influencing policies and politics. In addressing our mission, we focus on the ability of democratic institutions to deliver a political system marked by public participation and inclusion, representative and accountable government, responsiveness to citizens' needs and aspirations, and the rule of law and equal rights for all citizens.