

The workshop "Anti-corruption and gender dialogue: an analysis of the gender dimension in the fight against corruption in Latin America", held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 2 and 3 April 2018 was organised by the European Union Cooperation Programme for Social Cohesion in Latin America (EUROSociAL+) and Transparency International (TI) with the support of UN Women and within the framework of the C-20. At the workshop representatives from international organisations, public institutions from the justice sector and mechanisms for the advancement of women, civil society and the Latin American and European Academy discussed the issues over the two days, with the following being agreed upon:

#### General Conclusions and Recommendations:

- a. Given that corruption is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon that affects the essential principles of democracy and the rule of law, it hampers development and affects the fulfilment of human rights, particularly those of the most vulnerable groups. Women and girls are among the most affected, not least because they account for the largest proportion of people living in poverty (the feminisation of poverty) and because corruption exacerbates existing inequalities as a result of asymmetric power relationships.
- b. Consequently, given that the effects of corruption are not neutral, it is necessary to **establish a dialogue between the actors dedicated to fighting against corruption and for gender equality and equity** to allow: i. a greater understanding of the links between gender dimensions and corruption, ii. public policy priorities to be brought closer together on both issues, and iii. specific coordinated and articulated actions to address the overlapping issues.
- c. Considering that an understanding of the relationship between gender and corruption has been understood, the idea that women, for essentialist reasons, are less corrupt than men, according to this approach, this gives a **causal relationship** between lower perceptions of corruption and a greater presence of women in power and decision-making spaces. This has been translated into some anti-corruption policies in the Latin American region, where the feminisation of certain areas is considered to be an anti-corruption measure. Despite this being positive in the first instance, the limitation of this focus is the lack of control over other variables that could be decisive, not only in reducing perceptions of corruption, but also for the greater presence of women in the public sphere, such as the full application of the rule of law, the recognition of civil and political rights and the degree of inclusion guaranteed by the democratic system. An analysis of the Latin American context shows that, although there may be a correlation between the two circumstances, there is no direct causality. Therefore, **a better approach to the problem that includes its causes and effects will allow more effective solutions to be defined.**
- d. It is recognised that, despite the importance and growing interest in addressing the relationship between gender and corruption, analysis in the region is still incipient. **This is** mainly because there is a deficit of disaggregated and gender-sensitive data and information. It is necessary to overcome this situation in order to consolidate the **empirical and theoretical bases that allow a greater understanding of the problem and generate more effective solutions from public policy and civil society.**
- e. Reiterating that the effects of corruption are not neutral and that they have a serious and differentiated impact on population groups that, due to different circumstances, may find themselves in a more vulnerable situation, particularly women and girls, it should be noted that these acts of corruption occur in critical situations or areas such as the following: i. **political participation by women**: scenarios ranging from undue influence in electoral processes through the illicit financing of campaigns and candidates or vote-buying, to individual manifestations of political violence (including threats, intimidation or enforced disappearances) when political participation by women threatens clientelistic networks or corruption. ii. **differentiated budgets and social programmes**: manifestations of corruption ranging from irregular decision-making, lack of transparency in recruitment and a lack of control in the fulfilment of objectives in their implementation, to

political abuse of social programmes that present women as beneficiaries (as individuals or carers). iii. **people trafficking**: seen from the perspective of the networks of corruption that facilitate the occurrence of this crime, which affects women. iv. **access to services** such as justice, health or education: by requiring public officials to provide benefits that may include, in the case of women, sexual favours in exchange for access to services or programmes. v. **access to the economy and entrepreneurial activities**: among others, when public contracts or works are allocated in an unfair manner, favouring private interest above the public interest, through corrupt pacts or cronyism that occurs in scenarios where women do not have access. Thus, **methodological developments** are required to understand the risks or manifestations of corruption that differentially affect women and girls on issues as critical as the ones mentioned above.

- f. In response to the analysis of the risks or manifestations of corruption in areas or situations that present special vulnerability for women, it has become evident that, in the Latin American context, both small- and large-scale corruption phenomenon can be identified that have gender dimensions. These include the fact that there is no single dimension or role that is affected by corruption (individual, carer, social leader, among others); as well as the need to precisely define what is understood by corruption and what is recognised as a differentiated impact based on gender, among other considerations that determine the undertaking of **specific actions**.

**In addition, the following are required in order to make the problem visible and assess its extent:**

- a. Development of communication, awareness-raising and education strategies that draw attention to the problems associated with the manifestations of corruption that impact women and girls.
- b. Identification of the data and information necessary to understand the size of the problem in the Latin American context, in order to **generate the differentiated and gender-sensitive data** required. But also, starting from an **analysis** of the data and information currently produced by civil society and public institutions with a gender and corruption perspective. Adjustments should be made to the **measurement and monitoring** tools of both civil society and public institutions to include this approach.
- c. Bringing to light the fact that, in cases of bribery, influence peddling and graft, among other criminal acts associated with the phenomenon of corruption, the currency for payment, in addition to money, includes favours of a sexual or other nature, to which women are mainly exposed. Reviewing the state's criminal policy to identify whether it is necessary to make sexual extortion a criminal offence related to corruption.
- d. Taking the methodology for dialogue between anti-corruption and gender actors to **national and local roundtables** in order to make the problem and its particularities visible in national contexts and on focussed or specific aspects of the relationship between gender– and corruption.

**To prevent, tackle and punish correlation with a gender perspective:**

- a. Based on analysis and mapping of corruption risks from a gender perspective, include concrete actions in anti-corruption plans.
- b. Promote social auditing and institutional control mechanisms, including specific protocols and reporting channels for women in both justice system institutions and civil society mechanisms (such as Transparency International's –ALACs, anti-corruption advocacy and legal advice centre).

- c. Develop tools and mechanisms for the advancement of women that can be used by policy makers, justice officials and civil society, such as: i. building gender-sensitive corruption risk maps, ii. creating a bank of cases and jurisprudence that demonstrate the differentiated impacts of corruption and that can be used as training tools, iii. social audit methodologies, training and awareness-raising modules for justice officials such as police officers, defenders, judges and prosecutors, iv. codes of ethics that focus on those particular manifestations of corruption that affect women, and v. protocols and guidelines for criminal investigations to guide criminal prosecution of corruption networks that facilitate the commission of crimes such as human trafficking and understanding the differentiated impacts of corruption.
- d. Develop communication, awareness-raising and education strategies that encourage reporting and produce differentiated measures for women in whistleblower protection schemes.
- e. Encourage the development of territorially focused strategies, including those for border areas. These will provide an understanding of the asymmetries between the national and local, among other particularities necessary to construct actions in this area.
- f. Encourage the creation of formal and informal networks and groupings of women focussed on fighting corruption at both the national and international levels. Encourage existing networks working on gender and anti-corruption issues to make the most of their correlation, so that priorities and actions can coincide.

#### From the international and multilateral spaces:

- a. Seek the conceptual and operational linkage between **the anti-corruption component of Sustainable Development Goal 16**, on achieving peace, justice and strong institutions and Sustainable Development Goal 5, on achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, including the generation of relevant indicators.
- b. Include the issue in the discussions and action plans of the C20, G20, W20, the Summit of the Americas and other multilateral and international forums.
- c. Generate connections between gender and anti-corruption working groups in multilateral spaces. In particular, within the framework of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (–AIAMP), actions that include: conducting a second dialogue on access to justice and corruption within the framework of international standards; preparing a document that will provide guidelines on incorporating the gender perspective into the analysis of corruption at the regional level; promoting the gender approach in the discussions of groups working on corruption and human trafficking and promoting the incorporation of this approach into the analysis and fight against corruption in the public ministries of the countries that are members of the gender equity group.
- d. Promote the revision of international conventions on anti-corruption and gender equity to generate documents, recommendations or others that link the issues (civil society). In particular, identify actions within the framework of Recommendation No. 33 of 2015 (15.e) General Recommendation on Women's Access to Justice 23 July 2015. "To combat corruption in justice systems as an important element in eliminating discrimination against women in accessing justice".