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Grantham
Research Institute
on Climate Change
and the Environment

2nd Symposium on Supranational Responses to Corruption

Integrity in Climate Finance & Action

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The World Bank's Office of Suspension and Debarment (OSD) and Sanctions Board Secretariat (SBS), the Green Climate Fund's Independent Integrity Unit (IIU), and Transparency International's Climate Governance Integrity Programme are organizing the 2nd Symposium on Supranational Responses to Corruption: **Integrity in Climate Finance & Action**. The organizers encourage an interdisciplinary and cross-sectorial approach and invite practitioners and scholars from all relevant fields (finance, law, economics, technology, sociology, etc.) and sectors (government, private sector, academia, non-profit, international organizations, etc.) to submit proposals for contributions (*i.e.*, essays, papers).

Climate change is the defining crisis of our time, and our collective response is the defining choice of our age. Rising temperatures are driving natural disasters, extreme weather, and food and water insecurity, which can trigger economic disruption, migration, and conflict. In its various manifestations, corruption is fueling the climate crisis by enabling the misuse of key natural resources (*i.e.*, bribery and undue influence in sectors such as water, hydrocarbons, mining, land, and forestry lead to decisions that are misaligned with the sustainable management of resources). Corruption is also diminishing the effective mobilization and deployment of financing for the achievement of climate goals. The world is expected to mobilize US\$ trillions for climate initiatives in the coming decade, and data shows that many of the expected country recipients are among the riskiest places in the world for corruption. In other words, climate change interventions are worth vast amounts of money and have commensurate fraud and corruption risks. Even if only a fraction of the US\$ trillions in the necessary investments were lost to fraud and corruption, that would amount to US\$ billions siphoned away from vulnerable communities in need of urgent assistance and at the high cost of hindering the global response to the climate emergency. This puts in sharp focus why addressing integrity risks - with a focus on prevention and loss recovery - is critically relevant to effective climate action.

The symposium aims to generate **new ideas, research, and knowledge on the connection between the climate action and integrity agendas**. It seeks to study and reflect on why and how to manage integrity risks throughout climate funding and investment cycles across the private and public sectors. Further, the symposium aims to strengthen dialogue and collaboration between knowledge-producing actors and decision-makers to support a creative, efficient, and coordinated evolution of integrity and anti-corruption policies in climate finance and action. The discussions will also address how, and to what extent, anti-corruption responses can lean toward creating an anti-corruption ecosystem at the supranational level. The distinctive feature of "supranational" mechanisms is that they can act against integrity risks in contexts where a government is unable or unwilling to actively counter corruption. In other words, their effectiveness does not depend on the immediate actions or inactions of a specific state.

Themes of this symposium may include (but are not limited to):

- Corruption risks in policymaking, financing, and implementation of climate interventions, including analysis of how climate policies and allocations are or could be captured.
- Integrity risk profiles and safeguards in key sectors for climate action (energy and extractives; infrastructure; agriculture; food; water; land; cities; transport; manufacturing, etc.).
- Specific integrity risk and mitigation strategies in carbon markets and emergency procurement.
- Innovative integrity safeguards for newly established climate initiatives and institutions.
- The role of technology, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and other innovative approaches to optimize anti-corruption work in the climate context.

- The role of multilateral financial institutions, including the multilateral development banks' sanctions systems against climate corruption.
- The role of international corporations, service providers (*i.e.*, banking, insurance, financial, legal), institutional investors (*i.e.*, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, investment funds), and professional associations against climate corruption.
- The role of civil society oversight and social accountability in climate finance and action.
- The role of public authorities to monitor corruption and integrity risks, respond to complaints, and take action.
- The role of legislators to amend or pass new regulations that address climate-related corruption crimes.
- Case studies and examples relating to prevention, management, or responses to integrity issues in climate finance.
- The role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Conference of Parties in advancing integrity in climate finance and action, including through reporting on the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.
- Partnerships to maximize the impact of integrity safeguards in climate finance and action.

Timeline

The deadline for submission of proposals is **February 4, 2024**. Successful applicants will be informed by February 25, 2024. The deadline for submitting the essay is **March 31, 2024**.

Guidelines

A proposal should be between 300-600 words (in Word Format) and indicate explicitly how the proposed essay relates to the symposium's theme. The final essay should be between 2,500-7,500 words without annexes. Please submit the proposal along with a short biography (including name, affiliation, and contact details) to **IntegritySymposium@worldbank.org**.

Symposium

The symposium will take place in person on May 9-10, 2024 in London, UK. Participation funding (travel and accommodation) may be available for a limited number of selected speakers.

Post-Symposium

The organizers will produce a knowledge report based on the essays presented at the symposium to be made available to the public. Selected contributors may be invited for further collaboration with the organizing institutions.

Organizing Committee

- Alexandra Manea, OSD, World Bank
- Albert Lihalakha, IIU, Green Climate Fund
- Brice Böhmer, Climate Lead, Transparency International

Partners

Columbia University - Sabin Center for Climate Change Law

Michael Burger, Executive Director

Norges Bank Investment Management

Matthew Genasci, Senior Investment Stewardship Manager, Corporate Governance

London School of Economics - Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

Joana Setzer, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – Anti-Corruption Center

Cris Geers, Senior Innovation Advisor