

Transparency International: A Key Partner in Building an Honest Algerian Society

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ABSTRACT

Transparency International is one of the largest non-governmental organisations engaged in the global fight against corruption. Transparency International was established in 1993 and is headquartered in Berlin. It is one of the international mechanisms that work at both the international and domestic levels to combat corruption. Transparency International has been and continues to make significant strides in combating corruption, elucidating its nuances, and holding those involved to account. The organisation has played a pivotal role in the formulation of numerous international conventions and has also contributed to the enactment of national anti-corruption legislation

Keywords

Anti-corruption, Transparency International, international conventions, national legislation.

Introduction:

Corruption represents one of the most significant concerns for the international community, regardless of whether the focus is on individuals, organisations, or even governments. This is due to the extensive damage that corruption has caused and continues to cause to countries around the world.

Corruption is a pervasive phenomenon that has existed in all societies throughout history, manifesting in varying degrees but with a similar set of underlying causes. Corruption is a global phenomenon that has affected all societies and has significant consequences at all levels and in all sectors, particularly in the field of development.

Given the gravity of corruption and its pervasiveness in the majority of developing and developed countries, this issue has transcended the boundaries of national concern and acquired an international dimension. It has become imperative for international bodies and entities to collaborate in order to establish the foundations, programmes and agreements that are necessary to combat this phenomenon and identify and reduce its causes.

One of the international initiatives to establish organisations with the objective of combating corruption is the establishment of Transparency International in 1993, based in Berlin. This organisation is one of the first international non-governmental organisations to focus on issues of corruption and strategies for combating it.

Transparency International has made significant contributions to the fight against corruption, becoming a leading international non-governmental organisation in this field. Its policies, plans and programmes have been instrumental in establishing international conventions and national legislation aimed at combating corruption.

In light of these achievements, this study aims to assess the effectiveness of Transparency International in combating corruption.

In responding to this query, we employed the inductive method, which is the most suitable approach in this particular study. To address this question, we devised a plan comprising an introduction and two research studies, each of which encompasses two requirements, two

sections, and a conclusion. The initial study is entitled "What is Transparency International?"

The second research project was entitled "Transparency International's Contributions to the Fight against Corruption." This was done in order to achieve the study's primary objective, which was to provide insight into Transparency International and its role in the fight against corruption.

The first part: What is Transparency International?

Transparency International is one of the largest non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with a primary focus on combating corruption. The primary objective of this organisation is to combat corruption in all its forms and develop strategies to combat the latter. In order to study this organisation, we have divided this research into two requirements, each of which includes two requirements as follows:

First Requirement: Defining the concept of Transparency International

Transparency International is a global anti-corruption organisation established in 1993 for specific reasons and objectives. It represents a significant turning point in the fight against corruption. This requirement will therefore be studied in two sections:

Section I: Definition of Transparency International

Transparency International (TI) is defined as follows: Transparency International (TI) is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) that is concerned with corruption. It is comprised of 100 local branches, with an international secretariat in Berlin, Germany.

The organisation was established in Germany in 1993 as a non-profit foundation and has since evolved into a global non-governmental organisation. It is committed to maintaining a fully democratic structural system. Transparency International is a global civil society organisation that spearheads the anti-corruption movement and unites individuals in a formidable coalition to eradicate the pernicious effects of corruption on

individuals of all genders and ages across the globe.

The mission of Transparency International is to facilitate the transition towards a world in which corruption is no longer a prevalent phenomenon. The organisation rejects the notion that corruption is a global issue and has been committed to the exposure of corruption worldwide since 1995 (Lakhmissi, July 2013).

The aforementioned points are further elaborated upon in the following sections.

The organisation holds the view that the issue of corruption is a global phenomenon that requires a comprehensive, large-scale initiative. It is its contention that financial crimes can only be eradicated by publishing reports related to corruption and exposing those who practice it, whether secretly or openly. This is to be achieved by increasing global awareness through the national branches of the organisation.

Furthermore, long-term plans are being developed with the objective of establishing a division of those with interests around the world, with the intention of creating political will to suppress corruption and all financial crimes. In this way, countries can be gathered in a strong global alliance with the goal of ending the devastating impact of corruption. The mission of this organisation is to expose corruption around the world, and countries must use financial aid to strengthen government institutions and the MAS judiciary (Azouk Lindeh, 2017).

Furthermore, it is imperative that the very individuals responsible for interpreting and enforcing the law are held to the same standards. This organisation is dedicated to combating corruption and eliminating financial crimes, and has been actively and effectively working towards this goal since its inception. Its efforts have included encouraging the drafting of international agreements to eliminate all corruption crimes.

The city of Berlin is regarded as a model of transparency in the formulation of policies and the management of public services. In this context, the President of the World Bank makes the following observation: the level of investment and trade, and the rate of economic growth, are of

secondary importance when seeking political stability. Such stability cannot be achieved in an environment that is undermined by poor leadership (Lindeh, Ibid).

Section II: The rationale behind the establishment of Transparency International

The International Transparency Organisation (ITO) was established for a number of reasons with the objective of achieving a set of defined goals.

First: The rationale behind Transparency International's anti-corruption stance

Transparency International has articulated in its annual reports that its interest in the phenomenon of corruption is due to multiple reasons, the most important of which are:

A. Humanitarian reasons: Corruption impedes numerous development processes that affect citizens and violate their human rights.

B. Correctional reasons: where corruption impedes the establishment of good governance, the realisation of democratic processes and the success of institutional reform, particularly in countries in the global South that are undergoing economic transition.

C. Moral reasons: Corruption hinders the integration of society and its interaction on an integrated moral plane (Omar Abdul Hamid, 2016).

D. Economic reasons: Corruption has the effect of distorting international economies, which in turn affects the benefits of an efficient economy.

Transparency International, in light of its interest in the phenomenon of corruption, posits that the most effective means of combating it hinges on two fundamental pillars:

The necessity for an alliance is evident. Transparency International operates through its national chapters (Omar Abdul Hamid, op.cit).

Transparency International strives to cultivate a coalition comprising government, civil society, labour and the private sector with the objective of combating corruption.

Transparency International's mission is not to attack corrupt individuals, but rather to address the systems that facilitate corruption. To this end, the organisation provides assistance and information, as well as free media and judicial support, which are crucial elements in the anti-corruption apparatus. This is achieved through the coalition.

It is important to note that the organisation does not call upon bribe-takers to avoid entering into any political dialogue. Rather, it employs specific programmes in unique ways through its alliances and national branches to alert to negative phenomena, thereby creating a situation that necessitates resistance and limitation.

2 - The organisation raises global public awareness through its national branches in different countries.

II: Objectives of Transparency International

The primary objective of the organisation, as outlined in its founding document, is to reduce corruption at the international level. This is to be achieved by establishing a global federation with the aim of enhancing and strengthening local and global integrity systems, increasing the rates and opportunities for accountability of governments and officials, and monitoring corruption practices and exposing their deals. Additionally, the organisation seeks to identify the extent of corruption and the involvement of officials in various countries around the world, as well as to track all changes occurring in each country within the field of anti-corruption (Mohammed, 2024).

The organisation strives to achieve a number of objectives, including:

- The organisation seeks to facilitate the breaking through of the wall of silence that surrounds corruption cases in countries, given that such cases are often implicated by the political system in countries, which makes matters more sensitive.

The objective is to establish an environment conducive to enhanced collaboration and transparency in the anti-corruption domain. Rather than pursuing the identification and prosecution of culpable parties, the organisation's focus is on fostering an understanding of the investment

climate in various countries and promoting equitable opportunities, as well as raising awareness among countries, with the ultimate goal of achieving sustainable development (Mohammed L., 2019).

- The objective is to enhance central control at the local and global level with the aim of eradicating the phenomenon of corruption. This can only be achieved by civil society and the average citizen, who will be unable to fulfil this role without a high degree of transparency in the management and disbursement of public funds, as well as integrity in their management and disbursement, in order to serve public interests and not to achieve personal interests and benefits. The intention is to achieve this by forming a global anti-corruption coalition and to gain a deeper understanding of the reality of corruption in the world.

- The objective is to draw the attention of the press and media to corruption issues in order to enlighten local and international public opinion. This will be achieved by relying on the principles of transparency and integrity and by highlighting the effects of this scourge on the national economy (- - Omar Abdul Hamid, op. cit.).

The second requirement: The structural structure of Transparency International and its definition of corruption

Transparency International is structured around administrative bodies that facilitate the implementation of its policies and strategies to combat corruption. Additionally, the organisation has provided a comprehensive definition of corruption, which is as follows:

First section: Structural organisation of Transparency International

The structural organisation of Transparency International was determined at the founding conference by its founders, who selected the German capital, Berlin, as the headquarters of the organisation. This was on the condition that a small secretariat would be sufficient to coordinate the activities of the branches (Charters) that could be established in different regions of the world. These branches would be led by an executive and advisory board (1). The Executive Board is

comprised of between 10 and 15 executive directors, with two chairpersons and two deputy chairpersons who are legally responsible for the organisation's activities. They are assisted by an elected Advisory Board, which consists of experts from two countries with different geographical and professional backgrounds. The members of the Board and Advisory Board volunteer their services to Transparency International without financial compensation. They oversee the work of the central secretariat in Berlin and more than 70 national branches from around the world.

With regard to the issue of funding for NGOs, it should be noted that there are various sources of funding available. In the case of Transparency International, it has been emphasised that the organisation should not rely on a specific source or category of funding in order to protect its independence and neutrality. Furthermore, it should not place undue reliance on public sector funding. Furthermore, the fundraising process from the private sector was below expectations, representing only approximately ten percent of the budget. However, it should be noted that the organisation relies on a combination of donations and subsidies from a multitude of governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as economic institutions such as the World Bank, the United Nations, Boeing, and General Motors (Omar Abdul Hamid, op. cit.).

The Foundation's interest in social and economic aspects is evident in its publicity efforts. Additionally, combating corruption can yield economic benefits. Following an anticipated surge in activities and institutional support, the Foundation's total expenditures reached an estimated 570 thousand US dollars in 1995, exceeding the figure of two million 571 thousand dollars in 1998 (Lakhmissi S. , op. cit.).

Section II: Transparency International's definition of corruption

There are multiple approaches to defining corruption. One definition is a departure from law and order, or non-compliance with the law, which can be exploited for political, economic, or social interests. Another definition is the improper conduct of a public official, which violates the

official duties of their position and aspires to achieve private material or moral gains.

Some have expanded the concept of corruption to include any behaviour that is contrary to the public interest.

There is international consensus on the definition of corruption as defined by Transparency International. This definition is as follows: 'Any act that involves the misuse of public office to achieve private self-interest for oneself or one's group.'

The phenomenon of corruption manifests itself in a set of behaviours carried out by some individuals in positions of public authority. Despite the similarity and overlap between these behaviours, they can be summarised as follows:

- Bribery: The act of offering, giving, or soliciting anything of value to influence the actions of an individual in violation of the established rules.

Nepotism can be defined as the practice of carrying out work in favour of an individual or entity to which a person belongs, such as a party, family, region, etc., without being entitled to do so.

Favouritism can be defined as the act of conferring preferential treatment upon one party over another in the provision of services, with the aim of securing a particular benefit.

- The misappropriation of public funds, defined as the illicit acquisition and disposition of state assets under various pretexts.

- Blackmail (Blackmail): This can be defined as the act of obtaining financial gain from a specific individual or group in exchange for the implementation of an artifact related to the duties of the individual engaging in corrupt practices.

The concept of transparency is defined as follows: It is based on complete clarity and frankness in data and information, provided that these data are truthful and complete without any element of obfuscation, as well as clarity of goals, policies, decisions and all operations (Lakhmissi S. , op. cit).

Research II: The most important efforts of Transparency International in the fight against corruption

Furthermore, this organisation has contributed to the development of international and national legislation with the aim of eliminating this phenomenon. In this research, we will examine the contributions of this legislation to the field of combating corruption, focusing on the following demands:

First Requirement:: The contributions of Transparency International to the fight against corruption through its internal policy

Transparency International has made significant contributions to the fight against corruption at the international, regional and national levels. This has been achieved through the implementation of a range of strategies and the adoption of specific indicators. In order to provide a comprehensive ove

Section I: Transparency International's Anti-Corruption Strategies

Transparency International employs a range of strategies to combat corruption, including:

First: Creating international, regional and local coalitions

The formation of international, regional and local coalitions is a key objective of Transparency International. The organisation seeks to establish and cultivate alliances at the local, regional and global levels through its national chapters. These alliances encompass a diverse range of actors, including governments, civil society, business and the private sector. Additionally, the organisation has garnered significant support from governmental and non-governmental civil society organisations in its fight against internal and external corruption. Corruption, if left unchecked, can have a detrimental impact on human rights and the application of property rights, which are essential for communication and the development of professional standards. These standards are crucial in fields such as law, accounting, engineering, protecting children from exploitation and protecting the environment. The overarching objective of Transparency International, which is

shared by numerous parties engaged in the work of non-governmental organisations and advocacy groups, is to foster alliances between states, civil society and the private sector.

In light of the aforementioned considerations, Transparency International has been eager to forge close connections with a range of stakeholders, including:

- Business organisations, represented by local and global private sector companies, have demonstrated a gradual willingness to engage in the anti-corruption campaign and establish business ethics as research centres, publications, seminars and networks distributed across the globe.
- The term "government" is used to refer to the political authority of a country or state. The involvement of civil society in anti-corruption initiatives has been acknowledged by numerous countries, with constructive collaboration with the organisation's branches, particularly within the regional framework of the European Union (Hannan, *ibid*).
- International financial institutions: By influencing the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to adopt more robust stances on corruption.
- Individuals have also played a role in this process. Transparency International underscores that the coalition against corruption would not have materialised without the impetus provided by individual leaders and their unwavering dedication to this cause. The organisation also benefits from the input of a large cohort of volunteers, high-level professionals and critics who believe that key decision-makers make Transparency International a more effective force than many traditional groups. Academics contribute to the organisation's work through research and dissemination.

II: The promotion of accountability and the combating of corruption in local government

Transparency International proposes a campaign of tools and mechanisms through which to identify corruption hotspots on the one hand, and to collect knowledge and information to help

increase transparency in local government, monitor government activities and the performance of local representatives. Furthermore, the position and role of civil society organisations should be strengthened, based on the experience of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. This can be achieved by strengthening urban work with accountability mechanisms (public and internal), producing effective monitoring processes that contribute to deterring corruption and help improve the performance of local governments by increasing effectiveness and efficiency on the one hand, and including civil society in the monitoring process and conducting studies and research on the other (Hannan, *ibid*).

Section II: The adoption of indicators by organisations is a key strategy for combating corruption.

Transparency International has developed and adopted a set of specific indicators for use in its work on corruption at the local level. These indicators are designed to facilitate the research and monitoring of corruption issues and to provide a means of measuring their prevalence. The indicators are as follows:

1- Corruption Perceptions Index:

The CPI is an index that evaluates and ranks countries according to the degree of corruption among officials and politicians in them based on the perception of businessmen, analysts and politicians. It was first issued in 1995 and is published annually. The Corruption Perceptions Index is the most important index issued by the organisation. It is a composite index and is called a survey, as it relies on data collected through specialised surveys and opinion polls conducted by different independent institutions.

The index is primarily concerned with corruption in the public sector. In accordance with Transparency International's definition of corruption, the surveys and opinion polls utilized to compile the index inquire about instances of the exploitation of public office for private gain. This encompasses practices such as the acceptance of bribes by public officials during procurement processes or the misappropriation of public funds.

Additionally, the index assesses the efficacy of anti-corruption measures (Awaid, 2016).

II: Comprehensive Global Report on Corruption

Since 2001, Transparency International has published an annual comprehensive global report on corruption. The report focuses on a significant sector of the public sector in each country, as outlined below:

- The inaugural report, published in 2001, concentrated on the examination of global corruption.
- The second report was published in 2003 and concentrated on the subject of corruption in the context of the acquisition and utilisation of information.
- The third report, published in 2004, addressed the issue of political corruption.
- The fourth report, published in 2005, addressed all aspects of corruption within the construction, contracting, reconstruction and reconstruction sectors. The fifth report, published in 2006, focused on corruption within the healthcare sector.
- The sixth report, published in 2007, addressed the issue of corruption within the judicial system.
- The seventh report, published in 2007, addressed corruption in the water sector, water resources, poverty and development in general.
- The eighth report, published in 2009, concentrated on corruption and the private sector.
- The tenth report, published in 2010, addressed the issue of corruption in the context of climate change.
- With regard to the year 2011, the eleventh report addresses the issue of corruption in the field of education, which is a fundamental requisite for the exercise of human rights and the foundation for economic advancement.
- The twelfth report addresses the issue of corruption in the sports sector.

Third: Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is a further measure of corruption. It monitors major

foreign companies that offer bribes to obtain large market shares. The number of countries from which foreign companies that pay bribes originates from 22 countries. The organisation attempts to demonstrate the sources that supply the bribe through this index. According to this index, the bribes paid in countries receiving foreign companies and investments are as follows: Bribes may be paid to senior politicians or political parties, to junior state employees with the objective of expediting services and procedures, or to utilise personal or family relationships with the intention of obtaining government contracts (Hanan, op. cit).

Transparency International relies on Galloweb International for the conducting, designing and application of the Bribe Payment Index survey. However, the value of this indicator is considered limited due to the restricted number of countries included in the Bribe Payers Index survey that receive foreign investments. Furthermore, it should be noted that this index does not include data from Arab countries, due to the limited number of countries included in this index.

The distinction between the Corruption Perceptions Index and the Bribe Payers Index hinges on the fact that the former assesses the prevalence of corruption in countries, whereas the latter examines the extent to which companies in major countries engage in the practice of paying bribes abroad, thereby assuming the role of a conduit for corruption. Consequently, the Bribe Payers Index underscores that the phenomenon of corruption in international business transactions involves two parties: the first being the party that pays the bribe, and the second being the party that accepts or receives the bribe (Omar Abdul Hamid, op. cit).

The second requirement: The role of Transparency International in creating international conventions and domestic legislation to combat corruption

Transparency International has played a significant role in establishing numerous international agreements and contributing to the issuance of various national legislations for countries that have ratified these agreements.

These agreements and legislations are concerned with combating corruption. This role will be examined in the following sections.

Section I: Transparency International's contribution to the establishment of anti-corruption conventions

For years, Transparency International has played a significant role in the development of international conventions against corruption. It has participated in the drafting and editing of these conventions and has also examined the extent to which countries have committed to effectively formulating the provisions of these conventions in their domestic legislation. For example, Transparency International was involved in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) anti-corruption work prior to the signing of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions by member states (Omar Abdul Hamid, *ibid*).

Transparency International played a pivotal role in the conclusion of this Convention, acting as an observer at all OECD Working Party meetings (Hannan G. , *ibid*).

Transparency International proffered suggestions and recommendations to the OECD regarding the necessity of concluding an international agreement to jointly deter corruption. It is noteworthy that the experts responsible for drafting these recommendations and suggestions demonstrated considerable expertise and competence. Furthermore, the organisation succeeded in mobilising the heads of global institutions and companies to engage in the fight against corruption in the context of the OECD.

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With regard to the monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of the OECD Convention, Transparency International has played a significant economic role in the reformulation of the provisions of the OECD Convention in their domestic legislation, as well as in the assessment of the actual implementation of the directives and principles of the OECD Convention.

In this regard, Transparency International prepared a comprehensive report based on field investigations into the extent to which ECO member states adhere to the provisions of the Convention in their domestic legislation. This effective work was made possible by the assistance of Transparency International chapters (Hannan G. , *ibid*).

Section II: Contributions of Transparency International to the issuance of national legislation, exemplified by Algeria.

The emergence of Transparency International had a significant impact on the formation of an anti-corruption coalition and its local branches, as well as the mobilisation of civil society to reduce corruption and exert pressure on governments. This was particularly evident following the issuance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003 and its subsequent entry into force in 2005. The convention was signed and ratified by numerous countries, which subsequently enacted domestic legislation aimed at combating and preventing corruption. This included the establishment of anti-corruption bodies and agencies.

To illustrate, Algeria has enacted special legislation to combat the phenomenon since signing and ratifying the Convention in 2005. This is exemplified by Law 06/01 dated 20/02/2006 and Order No. 10/05 dated 26/08/2010, which established an anti-corruption agency represented by the Central Office for the Suppression of Corruption. Furthermore, the role of the Audit Council was activated to limit corruption in public funds, as set forth in Order No. 0/1/02.

Like many developing countries, Algeria has sought to establish legal and institutional frameworks to combat corruption and achieve good governance. The recently enacted legislation reinforces existing regulations in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which Algeria ratified on August 25, 2004.

Among the mechanisms created to combat corruption are the Algerian Anti-Corruption Association, which is active in the fight against corruption, and the Public Procurement Law, which states that public procurement is subject to the Public Tenders Law and not to private agreements. Additionally, there is Law No. 1/2005, which was the first anti-money laundering law in Algeria and was published in the Official Gazette on 9 February 2005.

The implementation of this law is being facilitated by technical assistance from the Central Bank of France and the World Bank. In December 2004, a unit appointed by presidential decree commenced its duties at the Ministry of Finance, with the objective of investigating any suspicious banking or financial operations.

Nevertheless, the national economy is not invulnerable to the corrosive effects of corruption and bribery, which impede the potential for attaining effective governance (Lakhmissi S , op cit).

Conclusion:

In conclusion, it can be stated that:

Transparency International represents one of the most significant international mechanisms with the objective of combating corruption in all its forms at the international and domestic levels of countries through the implementation of internal policies that regulate the activities of the organisation.

The indicators issued by Transparency International represent a significant mechanism for the organisation's work in monitoring and measuring the level of corruption in countries, providing a comprehensive overview.

Transparency International has made significant contributions to the development and

conclusion of numerous international agreements aimed at combating corruption. These include the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Commercial Transactions. Additionally, Transparency International has played a pivotal role in the enactment of national legislation pertaining to anti-corruption measures. This includes the enactment of Law No. 1/2005 of 6 February 2005, which was the first anti-money laundering law to be introduced in Algeria.

Transparency International engages in collaborative efforts with numerous international organizations that are dedicated to combating corruption, and it has established a significant presence in various locations across the globe.

The findings of this study have led to the following conclusions:

The findings of the study are as follows:

Notwithstanding the endeavours of Transparency International, instances of corruption remain pervasive.

Transparency International produces reports based on indicators that define and measure the degree of corruption in countries.

Transparency International has played a role in the formulation of anti-corruption conventions.

The enactment of numerous domestic anti-corruption laws in countries that have been assisted by Transparency International is a further consequence of its activities.

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