

Workshop X: Enhancing accountability and transparency

(Transparency International)

A number of new mechanisms have been introduced in many countries to ensure that political, economic and administrative institutions are efficient, responsive to the needs of the people and that civil servants are accountable for the performance of their functions. Ensuring accountability, through appropriate mechanisms, is essential to guarantee that public institutions operate in an efficient, effective and transparent manner. Combating corruption - which lowers investment, decreases efficiency, acts as an additional tax on business, and negatively affects the political legitimacy of the government - has also gained priority in the political agenda of many countries. Furthermore, transparency in fiscal and financial operations has been recognized both by domestic and international market participants as an essential basis for investment and/or lending.

This workshop will discuss how to improve accountability and transparency in a number of areas. It will identify new frameworks and tools for political, administrative and financial transparency and accountability including institutions and conventions against cross-border corruption, and measures to combat domestic corruption. The effectiveness of anti-corruption Commissions, the role of oversight institutions, and cross-border corruption instruments will thus be considered. This workshop will also focus on ensuring accountability in the budgetary process and the use of financial resources; improving the effectiveness and efficiency of public expenditure programs; and improving institutional arrangements and management practices to create incentives for better resource allocation, resource use and financial management.