



**4th Conference of Brazilian Public Ethics Commission**  
***Ethics as a Management Tool***  
**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
**Monday, 1 December 2003**

## ***Combating Corruption: Where are we today?***

**Presentation by : ELIA YI ARMSTRONG**  
**Division for Public Administration and Development Management**  
**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
**United Nations**



# **Anti-Corruption Conventions**

- ∩ Reflect consensus on key issues and actions**
- ∩ UN Convention Against Corruption adopted by GA**
- ∩ 2 years of negotiations**
- ∩ Signing begins in Mexico in December 2003**
- ∩ Follows other regional and international anti-corruption conventions: OAS, OECD, EU, CoE, AU**



# **Anti-Corruption Conferences**

- ⌚ Brings together leaders, activists and practitioners to share ideas and information**
- ⌚ International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC)**
- ⌚ Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity (GF)**
- ⌚ Other international and national events**



# Lessons Learned

- ∩ **Prior to 1990s: corruption largely tolerated**
- ∩ **1990s: awareness raising and strategizing**
  - gathering data
  - national integrity strategies
- ∩ **Now: implementing specific measures**
  - political mobilization
  - “home grown” programmes



# **Lessons Learned** (continued)

## ∩ **“Infrastructural” dimension:**

- **Legal and administrative measures**
- **Public institutions**

## ∩ **“Cultural” dimension:**

- **Critical mass of leaders**
- **Commitment to change social attitudes**



# **Corruption worse on the Poor**

- ∩ Impoverishes economies**
- ∩ Undermines the rule of law**
- ∩ Breaks down social order and trust**
- ∩ Diverts resources from basic public infrastructure**
- ∩ Denies access to needed public services**



# **Age of Globalization**

∞ **Interpenetration of economies can permit:**

- **Continuous transactions**
- **Rapid diffusion of economic benefits (or costs)**

∞ **Interconnection of societies can permit:**

- **Linkages of networks, criminal and other**
- **Rapid diffusion of social problems (or solutions)**



# Implementing UN Convention

- Ω **Use opportunities in a globalizing world**
- Ω **A comprehensive set of standards for all:**
  - **Strengthening regulatory regimes**
  - **Creating or reinforcing institutions**
  - **Mobilizing and training personnel**
  - **Promoting cooperation for asset recovery**





# **Conclusion: Role of the UN**

- **Continuing partnerships with governments, private sector, civil society**
  - **Fostering international discussions**
  - **Conducting policy analysis and research**
  - **Carrying out technical cooperation**
- **Apply Convention principles to the Secretariat: Organizational Integrity Initiative**