

Global Forum V on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity

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**Sub-Theme 3: Setting the Stage for Non-State Actors
Workshop on “The Role of Civil Society”**

Chair: Geo-Sung KIIM, Standing Executive Officer of K-PACT Council

gs@ti.or.kr

1.

Good afternoon!

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honor and pleasure to chair this first workshop of the fifth Global Forum.

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Geo-Sung KIM, a board member of Transparency International, a Commissioner of Korea Independent Commission Against Corruption and Standing Executive Officer of K-PACT Council, that is the Council for the Korean Pact on Anti-Corruption and Transparency. If you are interested in this K-PACT initiative, please read some publications in your mail box.

As you know, we have five workshops on sub-thematic area of “Setting the Stage for Non-State Actors.” And our topic for this session is “the Role of Civil Society.”

Civil society is not one of extras in fighting corruption and safeguarding integrity. It is one of the main actors of that, as well as those actors in public and private sectors.

2.

What are the possible roles of civil society? I would like to mention some of them.

1) Watchdog

Mainly, civil society has performed its role as a corruption watchdog. It exposes

corruption cases and criticizes corrupt officials and institutions, including judiciary. It points corruption-prone areas within the legal and administrative system. It also makes efforts to protect of whistle-blowers as well as experts and victims.

2) Public awareness raiser

It makes efforts to raise “public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption,” as UNCAC article 13 says. It holds conferences, seminars, workshops and press conferences and operates information centers as well as education centers for that purpose. It conducts surveys and researches with experts, victims and others.

3) Alternative suggestion proposer

Civil society does not only criticize the problems but also gives alternatives, develop new system and new policies, proposes new legislation and/or amendment of laws for better governance with integrity and accountability.

4) Reservoir for civil participation

Civil participation in decision-making processes can contribute to enhance transparency and fairness. Some NGOs are operating local and/or global networks for preparing civil participation. That kind of reservoir, infrastructure for civil participation, is very much needed for effective participation.

5) Coalition builder

Civil society can initiate strong coalition among sectors for fighting against corruption and safeguarding integrity. I am the founder and acting chairperson of Transparency International – Korea. From the beginning of TI-Korea, it emphasized the importance of the coalition building. K-PACT was possible through the initiative TI-Korea played. Nowadays, K-PACT Council and TI-Korea are making efforts to build UN Global Compact local network in Korea. After two years history of K-PACT initiative, the numbers of UN Global Compact participants in Korea changed into thirty from zero.

6) Protector of whistle-blowers, experts and victims

Civil society gives extra protection for whistle-blowers, experts and victims through advocacy or joint action for them. Some awards for them, including TI's International Integrity Awards, can also make positive influence for them.

7) Monitor and/or evaluator

One important civil society activity targets ratification and implementation of global and regional initiatives.

8) Role model of integrity and good governance

One additional role of civil society organizations will be to make role model of integrity and good governance through themselves. This topic can be discussed more in the workshop of tomorrow morning on the topic "Integrity Systems for Civil Society."

3.

As you know, I did not mention all of the roles of civil society. What I am saying is that active participation of civil society is crucial for the success in fighting corruption and safeguarding integrity.

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In this regard, I would like to invite our presenters from now on. Each presenter has fifteen minutes for making presentation. After making all presentations, you will be invited for questions and answers, and further discussions.

5.

First presenter is Mr. P. Soccoja. He is

Mr. Soccoja, floor is yours.