“Strengthening Transparency and Reducing Corruption Risks in the Defense & Security Sector”

An exploration of practical measures to address the issue across African nations

Proposal: That the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Transparency International UK (TI), together with the African Union, will collaborate to co-host a workshop on ‘Strengthening Transparency and Reducing Corruption in Defense Establishments’.

Context: The work in addressing corruption has made much progress in the last ten years. Increasingly it is moving into sector specific work, both in nations and internationally. Whilst the top sector at risk is construction and infrastructure, addressing corruption risks in defence is possibly the second most important area. This is not because the amounts spent are as large - they are not - but is because the relative ease of extracting money corruptly from defence has led to its being a central factor in corroding the strength of anti-corruption work across the whole of government, and thereby impeding growth, development and trust. Corruption in defence and security also easily broadens to impact national governance, through making corruption easier elsewhere in government, for example for misuse of funds for electoral gain. It spells an active danger to individual security - the exact opposite of what a national military and security capability is intended to achieve. The topic is thus of direct importance to development organisations.

Concept: Until relatively recently, corruption in defence was regarded as being too sensitive a topic to address. This has changed significantly over the last five years. Senior defence officials hate the waste of resources, senior armed forces officers hate using inappropriate equipment: TI’s experience with nations is that such senior individuals are much more ready now to explore with others of reducing this risk, using workshops like this one as an initial way to explore practical measures. There are new tools and concepts to support constructive action.

This workshop will be an important first step in putting the topic of addressing defence sector corruption risk on the table for discussion. TI has led two comparable workshops: one in 2007 with NATO and the UK Defence Academy for 15 nations (mainly Eastern Europe and Central Asian nations), and a second workshop in Geneva in 2008 co-hosted with the Swiss Government and with the active involvement of the World Bank. We will build on experience of organising and leading these workshops, adapting it with your direction for Africa-specific considerations. We expect the workshop to foster follow up activity to be conducted by the countries themselves, as well as possibly through other pan-African organisations, such as ISS Africa, the African Security Sector Network in Ghana and the AU. A follow on workshop, probably to be held with the ISS in South Africa, is already at the concept stage.
**Logistics:** The workshop will be an invitation-only event for some 40 people, from 10-15 African nations (2 from each). It will be held at the AfDB facilities in Tunis. It will last 2 days, with delegates arriving the night before for a welcome dinner. Date: 21-23 July, as agreed with AfDB. AfDB would provide the conference facilities and the food. AfDB would provide a point of contact to organise the Tunis end of the workshop. TI and AfDB would jointly develop the invitation list, which would be strongly targeted at specific individuals in the countries.

**Financing:** Most of the cost will be for travel and accommodation costs for participants. TI has obtained funds from DFID sufficient to fund travel and accommodation for a large percentage of those traveling from African countries, together with TI attendees and key speakers. There is also money to make and publish an edited report of the proceedings.

**Hosting:** AfDB and Transparency International’s Defence team will jointly host the workshop. We also hope that the Tunisian Ministry of Defence will also act as a co-host. TI is working directly with the MOD in several other countries on related initiatives, e.g. with Poland, Ukraine, Bosnia, Colombia, as well as directly with NATO and with other NATO nations. Based on these experiences, we believe it is realistic and highly positive for the Tunisian MOD to participate.

**Benefits:** This workshop will be designed to initiate and develop constructive activity across African nations in reducing defence sector corruption risk. More specific benefits are seen as the following:

- A cadre of defence officials better versed in ways to build integrity and reduce corruption risk in their establishments
- A developing body of knowledge of good practice in tackling corruption in defence
- The creation and development of a forum for African defence practitioners to discuss and share their defence sector anti-corruption experience and practice
- Greater awareness of ways to use civil society in building defence integrity
- A structure and a basic set of content to act as the foundation for courses at national defence academies in building integrity in defence establishments
- A network of officials who can share knowledge and experience and act as a critical mass of expertise on this topic across Africa
- A set of early thoughts for international development banks on assessing corruption risk in defence establishments; which will help to refine country assistance strategies
- A report documenting the workshops and the principal topics discussed, that can be used to open the subject up for more discussion in other countries
BACKGROUND ON TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL’S DEFENCE WORK

Transparency International: Transparency International (TI), a non-government organisation that focuses on constructive approaches to combating corruption. Founded in 1993 by ex-World Bank executives, frustrated at the Bank’s inability to address corruption, it now has Chapters in 100 countries. TI (UK) leads globally on defence for the movement.

The defense Programme, was initiated in 2004, mainly funded by DFID, and is staffed by anti-corruption experts together with development economists, former senior military officers and experts in procurement.

Major Anti-corruption Areas of Activity

Building Awareness in Defence Ministries and Governments; Awareness building in ministries and governments emphasises that corruption can be tackled constructively. Assistance to countries such as Latvia, Colombia and Poland confirms the effectiveness of independent oversight as one tool to reduce corruption, enhance operational capability and improve value for money.

Defence Companies; TI (UK) has catalyzed the major European and American companies to prepare and implement an anti-corruption, compliance and anti-bribery code of conduct. Lord Robertson, the former Secretary general of NATO, is the Chairman of the key meetings. Significant success was announced in 2008 by ASD (the European defence manufacturers association) with the publication of a common code. Work is now underway to extend this to a global agreement.

NATO; There is significant ongoing collaboration with NATO. TI initiated and led workshops in the UK and Geneva, with outcomes endorsed in 2007 by the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council. Work underway includes development of a five day course on ‘Building Integrity and Reducing Corruption Risk’ Module for OS5 level and above; trialed at the UKDA, NATO School Oberammergau and in December 2008 at the Peace Support Operations Training Centre Sarajevo. An Integrity Self-Assessment Tool for Governments is also underway, already recently trialed in Bosnia, the Ukraine and Norway. Anti-corruption courses for 2009 include venues in Afghanistan, the Ukraine, and Bosnia.

Engagement with Development agencies; There is a significant overlap between the defence benefits of tackling defence corruption and the benefits to development and growth of the nation more broadly. There is regular engagement with major development bodies such as the World Bank and DFID.

International Arms Trade Treaty; We support the work to create this treaty and are pushing for anti-corruption measures to be an explicit part of it.

Tool Development; A range of tools have been developed to assist Governments and civil society; these include all sector awareness round tables, and oversight tools for procurement and asset disposal.