

PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH TI'S 2010 CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX (CPI 2010)

GHANA INTEGRITY INITIATIVE (GII), LOCAL CHAPTER OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (TI)

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VENUE: COCONUT GROOVE REGENT HOTEL, ACCRA

1. INTRODUCTION

Distinguished members of the Media, Invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am happy to welcome you all to this Press Conference to launch the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2010. The CPI is a composite of at least three credible corruption-related assessments and/or surveys in any country. In some countries, the CPI is derived from as many as 13 reports, while in others the minimum three reports are used. The assessments and surveys reflect the perceptions of business people, academics and risk analysts, both resident and non-resident, in the countries that are included in the poll. The CPI is, therefore, a snapshot of perceptions of corruption in a given country from a number of sources.

With the definition of corruption as the abuse of public office for private gain, the CPI focuses mainly on corruption in the public sector, among public office holders and politicians. The surveys used in compiling the CPI, therefore, ask questions that relate to the misuse of public power for private benefit, with a focus - for example - on bribe taking by public officials in public procurement or embezzlement of public funds.

2. CORRUPTION: STILL A GLOBAL PROBLEM

Transparency International's 2010 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), which was released a few minutes ago in Berlin, Germany and launched simultaneously in several of TI's national chapters, states that "With governments committing huge sums to tackle the world's most pressing problems, from the instability of financial markets to climate change and poverty, corruption remains an obstacle to achieving much needed progress". The 2010 CPI shows that nearly three quarters of the 178 countries in the index score below five, on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 10 (perceived to have low levels of corruption), indicating a serious corruption problem.

According to TI's Board chair, Huguette Labelle, "These results signal that significantly greater efforts must go into strengthening governance across the globe. With the livelihoods of so many at stake, governments' commitments to anti-corruption, transparency and accountability must speak through their actions. Good governance is an essential part of the solution to the global policy challenges governments face today." A President who is not personally corrupt but fails to act against corrupt officials, for whatever reasons, can be perceived as being corrupt. Inaction is a threat to the fight against corruption.

Governments, therefore, need to integrate anti-corruption measures in all spheres, from the responses to the financial crisis and climate change to commitments by the international community to eradicate poverty. This is why the TI movement advocates stricter implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption, the only global initiative that provides a framework for putting an end to corruption. There are also regional conventions, such as the OECD and African Union conventions that need compliance as well as national anti-corruption laws that need enforcement.

It is unacceptable to allow corruption to continue because too many poor and vulnerable people continue to suffer its consequences around the world. The TI movement calls for more enforcement of existing rules and laws to ensure that there is nowhere to hide for the corrupt or their money.

3. CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2010: THE GLOBAL PICTURE

In the 2010 CPI, Denmark, New Zealand and Singapore tie for first place with scores of 9.3. These countries have always dominated the top for the past four years. Finland, Sweden, Canada, The Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and Norway follow in that order although there have been minor shifts in scores of these countries in the last four years as shown in the appendix to this statement.

Some of the advanced countries have declined in their performance, notably the countries that were most affected by the financial crisis which was precipitated by transparency and integrity deficits. There is a general absence of OECD states among those improving, which demonstrates that all nations need to bolster their good governance mechanisms.

TI's assessment of 36 industrialised countries party to the OECD anti-bribery convention, which forbids bribery of foreign officials, reveals that as many as 20 show little or no enforcement of the rules, sending the wrong signal about their commitment to curb corrupt

practices. Still, this is no justification for the high levels of corruption in the poor and underdeveloped countries. We are just admitting that corrupt international flows continue to be considerable but corruption also continues to plague fledgling states, hampering their efforts to build and strengthen institutions, protect human rights and improve livelihoods.

The results of this year's CPI show clearly that corruption is a global problem that must be addressed in global policy reforms. We welcome the Group of 20's strong commitments to transparency and integrity ahead of their November summit in Seoul. TI calls on the G20 to mandate greater government oversight and public transparency in all measures they take to reduce systemic risks and opportunities for corruption and fraud in both the public and private sectors of their economies.

Unstable governments, often with a legacy of conflict, continue to dominate the bottom rungs of the CPI. Afghanistan and Myanmar share second to last place with a score of 1.4, with Somalia coming in last with a score of 1.1.

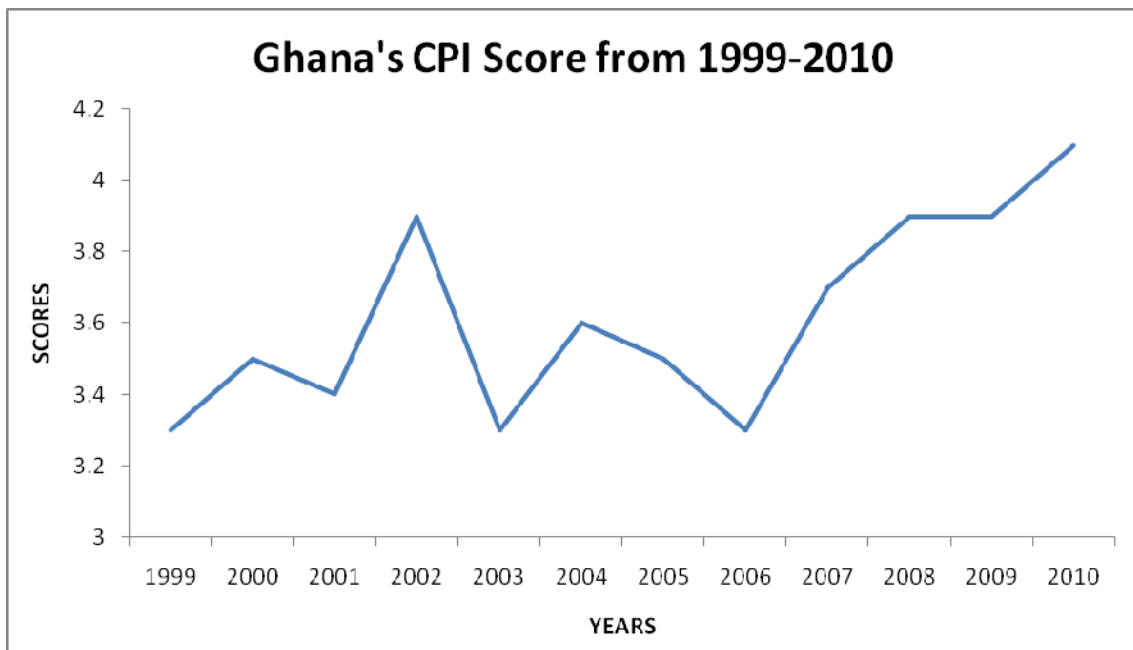
4. CORRUPTION: AN AFRICAN PROBLEM?

Since the inception of the CPI no African country has scored 6 or above. Africa's good performers Botswana, Mauritius, Cape Verde, Seychelles, South Africa and Namibia continue to improve on their scores although with fluctuating scores. For 2010, Africa's best performer, Botswana, scored 5.8 but ranked 33 globally while Mauritius, the second best performer, scored 5.4 with a rank of 39 globally. Cape Verde and Seychelles scored 5.1 and 4.8, respectively, an improvement on their 2009 scores. However, South Africa and Namibia with scores of 4.5 and 4.4 scored lower this year than last year. Ghana's English-speaking neighbour, Nigeria, has performed worse than it did in the last two years, scoring 2.4 in 2010 as against 2.7 and 2.5 in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Sadly, African countries tend to dominate the bottom of the index with Angola (1.9), Equatorial Guinea (1.9), Burundi (1.8), Chad (1.7), Sudan (1.6) and Somalia (1.1) scoring less than 2.0 alongside other conflict-ridden countries globally, such as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar. The situation for these countries was no better in earlier years. In fact, some have performed worse than previously.

5. GHANA: ANY COURSE TO WORRY?

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Ghana is ranked 62 alongside Romania on the list of 178 countries included in the 2010 index, with a score of 4.1 out of the maximum possible score of 10. This represents an improvement over Ghana's 2009 ranking of 69 with a score of 3.9. This year's score is the highest since Ghana was included in the CPI. You would recall that Ghana scored 3.3 in 1999 when it was first captured by the index, experienced some improvements but declined to this score in 2003 and 2006. However, since then, it has made some gains, scoring 3.7 in 2007 and 3.9 in both 2008 and 2009.



Despite these apparent improvements, there is no cause to celebrate as we still score below the 50% pass mark. This clearly indicates that we should not rest on our oars. Ghana has not still caught up with any of the leading African countries since the inception of the CPI, such as Botswana, Mauritius and Cape Verde.

Thus, rather than being complacent, this score should continue to remind us that we are far from winning the fight against corruption, which also frustrates our fight against poverty, disease, ignorance, crime and insecurity. There are gains but corruption still remains an enormous drain on Ghana's limited resources which can better be used for education, health and infrastructure. Action on allegations of corruption and even determined cases in Europe and the USA, for which Ghanaian public officials were implicated, often gets stalled.

High profile cases **such as the Mabey and Johnson and the Daimler Chrysler cases continue to linger in the minds** of Ghanaians. These cases are similar to the BAE Systems case in the United Kingdom and the Siemens case in Germany, which have not been adequately addressed by the appropriate authorities and/or are still ongoing. Ghana's Parliament has unfortunately not found it necessary to summon the Attorney-General to brief it on these cases, which brought losses to the country but allegedly benefited some individuals. Where is the promise of transparent and accountable governance?

Alleged land grabbing by members of all arms of government is a topical issue. GII calls for more transparency not only on the sale of government lands but on disposals of all government assets, both in the past and currently, including "Ghana @ 50" houses and cars. We ask the Lands Commission and other relevant government agencies to clarify the issues by setting the records straight as to how these lands and other assets were allocated, purchased and changed ownership so that the public can discern fact from misinformation. It is imperative for government to provide evidence of payments by all the beneficiaries.

Our message is clear: across the globe, transparency and accountability are critical to restoring trust and turning back the tide of corruption. Without them, global policy solutions to many global crises are at risk. This equally applies to our motherland, Ghana: the call is for transparency, accountability and integrity in public service.

The Right to Information Bill can no longer be held back. President Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia has given us the example. The call is also for compliance and enforcement of laws and international conventions. There is no need to enact laws, there is no need to sign on to international conventions, if we do not intend to and/or are not capable of enforcing them. The political leadership has a key role to play and we look up to His Excellency, President John Evans Atta-Mills and his government to honour their promises to Ghanaians.

7. LAUNCH OF REPORT

On this note, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Transparency International and the Board and Staff of the GII, I now declare the Corruption Perception Index, 2010, duly launched.

We thank you for coming and would be grateful if you have some comments, questions and suggestions.

Thank you for your attention!

*For full details of the TI CPI 2010, visit
<http://www.transparency.org/surveys/index.html#CPI>

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APPENDIX 1

SOURCES OF DATA USED FOR GHANA IN CPI 2010

The 2010 CPI on Ghana is based on data from seven of the 13 surveys used in compiling the CPI for the year. The data were collected for the period between 2009 and September 2010 and, therefore, are very current. The sources of the data used and the institutions that collected such data on Ghana are as follows:

1. The Country Policy and Institutional Assessment Ratings by the AfDB for 2009.
2. The Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI 2009) published by the Bertelsmann Foundation
3. The Country Risk Service and Country Forecast 2010 published by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)
4. The Global Risk Service Report (GRS 2010) published by IHS Global Insight.
5. The Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA 2009) carried out by the World Bank
6. The Global Competitiveness Report (GCR 2009) published by the World Economic Forum
7. The Global Competitiveness Report (GCR 2009) by the World Economic Forum

APPENDIX 1

GOOD PERFORMERS

| Serial No. | Country | Rank 2010 | CPI 2010 | CPI 2009 | CPI 2008 | CPI 2007 |
|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | Denmark | 1 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| 2 | New Zealand | 1 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| 3 | Singapore | 1 | 9.3 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| 4 | Finland | 4 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 9.0 | 9.4 |
| 5 | Sweden | 4 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.3 |
| 6 | Canada | 6 | 8.9 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| 7 | Netherlands | 7 | 8.8 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 9.0 |
| 8 | Austria | 8 | 8.7 | 7.9 | 8.7 | 8.1 |
| 9 | Switzerland | 8 | 8.7 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 9.0 |
| 10 | Norway | 10 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 7.9 | 8.7 |

| | Country | Rank 2010 | CPI 2010 | CPI 2009 | CPI 2008 | CPI 2007 |
|----|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | Botswana | 33 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 5.4 |
| 2 | Mauritius | 39 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 4.7 |
| 3 | Cape Verde | 45 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 4.9 |
| 4 | Seychelles | 49 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.5 |
| 5 | South Africa | 54 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 5.1 |
| 6 | Namibia | 56 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| 7 | Ghana | 62 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.7 |
| 8 | Rwanda | 66 | 4.0 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.3 |
| 9 | Lesotho | 78 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| 10 | Malawi | 85 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.3 |

BAD PERFORMERS

| | Country | Rank 2010 | CPI 2010 | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------|----------|-----|-----|-----|
| 17 | Senegal | 105 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.6 |
| 28 | Nigeria | 134 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.2 |
| 40 | Guinea | 164 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.9 |
| 42 | Angola | 168 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| 42 | Equatorial Guinea | 168 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.9 |
| 44 | Burundi | 170 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.5 |
| 45 | Chad | 171 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| 46 | Sudan | 172 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| 47 | Somalia | 178 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.4 |