

6th Regional Integrity Week – Alliance for Integrity

GENDER AND GOVERNANCE PERSPECTIVE: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL IMPACT

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Wednesday 27 October 2021, 12h00 GMT -5/14h00 GMT -3

Summary

In this side event of the Sixth Regional Integrity Week in Latin America, panelists and speakers had the opportunity to dialogue and discuss the gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue within governance. This side event took place in 3 stages, first a presentation on the historical legacy and processes that have been generated around gender mainstreaming. Subsequently, a panel discussion was held to deepen the perspective of supreme audit institutions on the gender debate. Finally, there was a presentation on the perspective of internal audit systems. During the event, it was possible to see the various needs for the inclusion of this issue as a transversal axis in governance systems and the strengthening of due diligence systems within the company.

Main challenges

- Corruption has a gender-differentiated impact. There are areas where this is more noticeable, such as education and health.
- Currently, there are differentiated forms of corruption, such as sextortion, which generates greater insecurity for women and affected groups.
- Discrimination and differentiation does not end simply with the distinction between men and women, it goes beyond this and also affects diverse groups discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.
- Need to broaden the focus of research to include gender equality within the concept of integrity and to place greater emphasis on institutional and integrity-building reforms beyond a strictly criminalisation and compliance-based approach.
- There is an important synergy in considering gender equality as a key element in combating corruption: considering that there is a gender-differentiated impact in certain contexts and women's participation in different roles in various sectors breaks a status quo that includes "systems and institutionalised corruption.
- Integrity and gender equality, as joint elements in the fight against corruption, have been considered in some organisations in the region in recent years, but still in a very limited way.

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Best practices shared

- Both the pursuit of gender equality and the fight against corruption are accelerators for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Gender equality policy in conjunction with anti-corruption policies can be mutually reinforcing and empowering.
- Implement non-discrimination issues from the top and, if possible, create areas or working groups to address this issue.
- Work with other entities on gender and non-discrimination issues in order to share experiences and practices that serve to foster a gender-sensitive culture of integrity.
- Within senior management groups where there are more women, it has been shown that corruption rates are lower.

Future recommendations

- Advance research and dissemination of information through data collection and quantitative and qualitative research.
- Stop assuming equivalence between gender and sex and adopt an intersectionality analysis.
- Criminalise and sanction gender-differentiated corruption offences, starting within codes of ethics and codes of conduct.
- Increase the number of women in senior management and decision-making positions.
- Work can and should continue to generate mechanisms for participation and improvement of systems for non-discrimination as it brings potential benefits.