

# 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Integrity Week – Alliance for Integrity

## Business Integrity as Climate Action: Opportunities and Challenges for Latin America

#IntegridadyODS #AllianceforIntegrity

Thursday, 28 October 2021, 12h00 GMT -5/14h00 GMT -3

### Summary

In the framework of the Sixth Regional Integrity Week in Latin America, the panellists and speakers of this side event had the opportunity to discuss business integrity from a holistic perspective, with an emphasis on climate action. During the session, the following main topics were addressed: the role of compliance programmes in recycling; clean water and sanitation; and the value of business integrity in corporate reporting.

### Speakers

- Fernanda Nan - Marcello Basani
- Ariadne Souza - Kevin Poll
- Carlos Mendieta - Betina Azugna
- Daniela Patiño

### Main challenges

- There is a need to implement better risk control mechanisms, since an environmental work can be carried out to hide a case of money laundering, which will most likely result in the payment of bribes to omit the environmental impact report, thus causing damage to the environment.
- There is a need to implement mitigation and remediation policies, to take responsibility and prevent further damage to other companies that also want to operate in the same environment.
- Human rights must be respected, as well as the rights of animals and nature itself.
- Compliance programmes can be useful to control not only corruption but should also have an emphasis on environmental protection.
- The fight against corruption must also be translated into the fight against climate change.
- Poor waste management can affect the environment and can lead to greenhouse gases.
- There is a need to develop infrastructure for collection, recycling, and composting.
- To meet the Sustainable Development Goals on water, sanitation and resources, the government should increase its investment fivefold. However, the problem is that a significant percentage of this investment is lost due to corruption. There is a great cost of corruption
- Evidence of investments by the state must be generated and greater transparency and accountability must be promoted.

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#### Best practices shared

- The case of the company "PetStar", which makes a mechanical recycling process and promotes the link between integrity and solid waste. The company seeks to formalise the recycling sector so that workers who generate income through waste collection, who are in vulnerable situations, can be part of a circular economy that takes into account mitigating the negative consequences for the social sector and minorities.
- Compliance creates added value for companies to handle due diligence. There is a German supply chain law that requires due diligence in human rights and environmental rights processes. In addition, a new law is expected at EU level.
- Sustainability reports account for both economic and financial issues, and also serve to compare companies not only in the same industry but also in different industries.
- Good practice in environmental reporting is promoted. It is necessary to be aware of the real impact that each individual has on the environment and to be able to manage it, because if it is not measured it cannot be improved.

#### Future recommendations

- The message is for society in general and invites us all to be volunteers, every day, from our homes and from our cities, disposing correctly of the waste we generate, thus helping to keep the oceans healthy by working together and recycling.
- Businesses must be responsible, ethical, and embrace the universal principles of the United Nations.
- The Alliance for Integrity tool should be used to identify areas of opportunity and generate an action plan together.
- To take care of the oceans, recycling is part of the solution but not all of it, the circular economy must be climate responsible and with a human rights perspective focused on integrity.
- Collection infrastructures must be increased; waste must be recovered; processed under a circular economy logic; reused, recycled or composted.
- It is necessary to join efforts to propose a systemic process of change towards integrity and to guarantee the sustainability of good practices.
- It would be good to build bridges between anti-corruption agencies and agencies that protect the environment, to seek joint articulations.
- When monitoring compliance programmes, one should not only look at anti-corruption policies, but also analyse the environmental and sustainability impact. It is necessary to take a holistic view.