



Efforts of International and Regional Organizations to Develop Anti-Corruption Legislation: Steps Towards a Sustainable Future

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Abstract:

This study aims to analyze the role of international and regional organizations in the development of anti-corruption legislation, with a focus on enhancing cooperation between countries and organizations to create a sustainable legal environment. The study discusses the importance of transparency and accountability as fundamental pillars in combating corruption, as well as how international and regional cooperation influences the modernization of legislation to keep pace with legal and economic changes. Additionally, it highlights the challenges that hinder organizations in developing effective anti-corruption legislation, as well as the opportunities that support this development.

The findings reveal that international and regional organizations play a pivotal role in improving legal systems by providing technical and training support and fostering cooperation between countries to exchange expertise in the legal and judicial fields. These organizations have also contributed to expanding the scope of international anti-corruption legislation, which has assisted many countries in improving their national laws.

Keywords: International organizations; Regional organizations; Anti-corruption; Development; Sustainability.

Efforts des organisations internationales et régionales pour élaborer une législation anticorruption : vers un avenir durable

Résumé:

Cette étude vise à analyser le rôle des organisations Internationales et régionales dans le développement des législations de lutte contre la corruption, en mettant l'accent sur le renforcement de la coopération entre les États et les organisations afin de créer un environnement juridique durable. Elle examine l'importance de la transparence et de la responsabilité comme piliers fondamentaux de la lutte contre la corruption, ainsi que l'influence de la coopération internationale et régionale sur la modernisation des législations pour s'adapter aux évolutions juridiques et économiques. De plus, l'étude met en lumière les défis qui entravent l'action des organisations dans l'élaboration de législations efficaces de lutte contre la corruption, ainsi que les opportunités qui favorisent ce développement.

Les résultats révèlent que les organisations Internationales et régionales jouent un rôle essentiel dans l'amélioration des systèmes juridiques, notamment en fournissant un appui technique et une formation, et en encourageant la coopération entre les pays pour l'échange d'expertises dans les domaines juridique et judiciaire. Ces organisations ont également contribué à élargir la portée des législations Internationales de lutte contre la corruption, aidant ainsi de nombreux États à améliorer leurs lois nationales.

Mots-clés : *Organisations internationales ; Organisations régionales ; Lutte contre la corruption ; Développement ; Durabilité.*



Introduction

Corruption is one of the most significant challenges threatening both sustainable development and the achievement of justice in many countries. It undermines legal, economic, and social institutions, hindering the development of societies and limiting the ability of governments to provide basic services to their citizens. Amidst these complex challenges, the necessity of international and regional cooperation has become a cornerstone in combating this transnational phenomenon. In this context, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption stands out as one of the key legal instruments aimed at enhancing coordination between countries and international and regional organizations to develop legal systems that combat corruption, thereby enhancing the efficiency and impact of legal and regulatory measures in addressing this issue. Furthermore, this cooperation plays a crucial role in strengthening legal frameworks that combat corruption, fostering both national and international efforts.

Article 5 of the Convention emphasizes the necessity of strengthening cooperation between countries and international and regional organizations. Paragraph 4 highlights the importance of continuous coordination in the development of legislation and procedures related to combating corruption. Within this framework, several key elements contribute to achieving this goal, notably international and regional cooperation, which forms a core pillar in updating legal systems and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise between countries. It also requires the regular updating of legislation to keep pace

with rapid legal and economic transformations, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures.

Additionally, transparency and accountability are essential principles that should be integrated into legal systems for combating corruption, as they help build trust between governments and citizens and foster a stable legal environment that contributes to reducing corruption and achieving justice. Through these collective efforts, international and regional organizations can play a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future, one in which governments exhibit greater transparency and integrity, and where respect for the law and protection of fundamental rights are reinforced.

The Importance of the Study:

This study holds significant importance as it focuses on the role of international and regional organizations in the development of anti-corruption legislation. This article presents how a sustainable future can be achieved by strengthening these legal systems. The fight against corruption extends beyond the existing legal and legislative measures; it seeks to establish sustainable legal foundations capable of addressing future challenges to ensure a just, stable, and healthy legal environment. The article examines how international and regional cooperation, along with interactions between countries and various organizations, can enhance legislation related to anti-corruption, contributing to the establishment of a transparent and honest sustainable future.



The Problematic of the Study:

In light of the above, the following Problematic can be posed:

Have international and regional organizations succeeded in developing anti-corruption legislations that effectively contribute to building a sustainable future?

The Objectives of the Study:

This study aims to achieve several objectives, which are outlined as follows:

- 1) Analyzing the role of international and regional organizations in enhancing the development of anti-corruption legislation, focusing on their contribution to building a sustainable future grounded in justice and equality.
- 2) Identifying and discussing the challenges hindering the development of legal systems for anti-corruption, and proposing practical solutions to overcome them.
- 3) Presenting opportunities for the enhancement of legal systems to combat corruption, contributing to the establishment of a sustainable, corruption-free future.
- 4) Analyzing core principles such as transparency, accountability, and integrity in constructing legal systems that ensure true sustainability in combating corruption, thus promoting a sustainable future for societies and countries.

The methodology followed:

In order to address the central problem, it is essential to adopt a descriptive approach to explore the theoretical aspects related to international and regional organizations

and their role in developing anti-corruption legislation, with a focus on how these efforts can contribute to achieving a sustainable future. Additionally, an analytical approach will be employed to examine the challenges hindering the development of legal systems for anti-corruption, how to address them, and the opportunities available to international and regional organizations to enhance these systems.

The plan of the study:

To study this topic, we adopted a dual plan, with the first section dedicated to the theoretical foundation of international and regional organizations that contribute to the development of legal systems related to combating corruption. The second section focuses on reviewing the approach of international and regional organizations in developing these systems, highlighting the challenges hindering the development process, as well as identifying the available opportunities to improve legal systems. The goal is to ensure the establishment of a sustainable future free of corruption, through the justice, equality, and sustainable development achieved by these systems. We will elaborate on the content of these sections as follows:

1. The Theoretical Foundation of International and Regional Organizations Contributing to the Development of Anti-Corruption Legislation

Corruption has become a global phenomenon that transcends national boundaries, evolving from a national and regional concern into an international issue. The World Bank defines corruption as “the misuse of public office for private gain” or “the abuse of official power to obtain



personal benefits.” According to international law, a public office is a position of trust that requires actions to be guided by the public interest, forms of misuse include bribery, commissions, embezzlement, favoritism and nepotism in public appointments, tax evasion, inflated invoices, customs fraud, and the disclosure of confidential information related to contracts and transactions.¹

Consequently, there is an urgent need to develop effective policies to confront this destructive phenomenon through serious regional and international cooperation—one that extends beyond governments to include international organizations and civil society institutions, particularly non-governmental organizations. Such cooperation must target all forms of corrupt practices, regardless of the positions or status of their perpetrators.

In this context, international organizations working in the field of anti-corruption can be categorized based on membership into global international organizations that include all countries (A), and regional international organizations focusing on specific continents or regions, such as Africa, the Arab world, Europe, Asia, and America (B). The most prominent of these organizations will be presented as follows:

1.1. Global International Organizations:

Global international organizations are those that, according to their charters, allow any country to join their membership as long as it meets the conditions required by

Mahmoud Najib Hosni, **Crimes of Financial Offenses**, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, Cairo, 1992, pp. 134-136.

the organization's charter and complies with the necessary objective and procedural criteria for membership. Examples include the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It is important to note that there are no truly global organizations in the precise sense; even the United Nations does not have all the countries of the world as members². These organizations operate on a global scale, and among them are:

1.1.1. United Nations(UN):

The United Nations (UN) is one of the leading international organizations that contributes to the development of anti-corruption legislation globally, through the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which serves as the main framework for international cooperation in fighting corruption. Adopted in 2003, the convention includes all UN member states, thereby strengthening international cooperation in addressing this global phenomenon³.

The convention aims to promote transparency, accountability, and the prevention of corruption in government institutions, businesses, and the private sector by adopting effective monitoring policies and procedures. Through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), it also provides technical support to countries in developing national laws related to corruption. The UN

² Abdel Salam Saleh Arafa; **International and Regional Organizations**, 8th edition, Dar Al-Jamhiriya Publishing, Libya, 1999, p. 35.

³ The United Nations Convention against Corruption was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly during its 58th session in 2003 through resolution 58/4. It came into force on October 31, 2003, and was opened for signature at the Political Signing Conference in Mérida, Mexico, during the period from December 9-11, 2003, in accordance with resolution 57/169.



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places particular emphasis on enhancing cooperation between countries and international and regional organizations. Article 5 of the convention, especially paragraph 4, stresses the importance of continuous coordination in the development of legislation and procedures related to combating corruption and supporting countries in establishing robust legal systems capable of addressing administrative and financial corruption through effective national laws, developing mechanisms for monitoring government performance, and ensuring justice in the public sectors. Additionally, the UN encourages the promotion of transparency in government administrations and the development of auditing and accountability mechanisms that ensure the protection of public funds from waste and theft, thereby strengthening the capacity of countries to implement effective legal measures to reduce corruption⁴.

Moreover, the UN offers training programs and workshops to support countries in facing the challenges of administrative and financial corruption, helping build the capacity of governments to effectively combat corruption and foster a culture of integrity in the public sector.

1.1.2. Transparency International:

⁴ Article 5, Paragraph 4 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna, p. 09, 2004. Accessed on: 10-12-2024 at 14:00. See the link:

https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/Publications/Convention/08-50024_A.pdf

Transparency International is a global non-governmental organization that aims to combat corruption and promote transparency in government and the private sector. The organization publishes annual reports on corruption indicators in countries, relying on a set of mechanisms to fight corruption, including the reference book, the National Integrity System, the Global Corruption Report, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), and the Bribe Payers Index⁵, Transparency International plays a significant role in developing legal systems for combating corruption through a series of key initiatives. The organization works to influence the formulation of national legislation by urging governments to implement stricter and more effective laws to combat corruption.

The organization also promotes transparency and accountability in the management of public resources by publishing reports such as the "Global Corruption Index," which helps reduce opportunities for corruption. Additionally, it contributes to training judicial and administrative officials on effectively applying relevant laws and provides technical advice on improving legal systems. Moreover, Transparency International is a global movement with a single vision: a world free from corruption, encompassing governments, businesses, civil society, and everyday life. It encourages collaboration between various stakeholders, and through these integrated efforts to combat corruption, the vision becomes a reality⁶. Transparency

⁵ Bazzaz Halima, "**Mechanisms of Transparency International to Combat Corruption,**" National Conference: The Phenomenon and Mechanisms of Combating Corruption in Algeria, AL Amir Abdelkader University for Islamic Studies - Constantine, April 11, 2021, p. 11.

⁶ transparency international, corruption perceptions index 2024, Berlin, Germany (pp 1-21), February 2025, p.02.



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International contributes to building a more resilient legal environment against corruption, thereby strengthening the rule of law and enhancing institutional reform efforts globally.

1.1.3 - The World Bank:

The World Bank is an international financial institution founded in 1944 with the aim of supporting economic and social development in developing countries. Over the years, the World Bank's focus on combating corruption has grown, recognizing it as a major barrier to sustainable development. Through providing financing and technical advice, the World Bank strengthens the role of governments in developing effective policies and legislation to combat corruption. It also contributes to building institutional capacities and providing training for government employees to improve transparency and accountability in the management of public resources. Additionally, the World Bank supports initiatives that promote good governance and encourages the adoption of effective monitoring systems to combat corruption in various countries.⁷

1.1.4 - The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):

The OECD is an international organization founded in 1961 with the goal of promoting economic cooperation and

⁷ The World Bank, Governance and Anti-Corruption Ways to Enhance the World Bank's Impact, Independent Evaluation Group Knowledge & Evaluation Capacity Development, July, Washington, D.C. 2006, p.7

sustainable development among its member states. Since its establishment, the organization has become a key player in addressing governance issues, including combating corruption. The OECD Convention is considered the first international treaty aimed at criminalizing international corruption by including binding legal provisions for the member states. It also establishes effective measures to prevent the offering of bribes to foreign public officials in international business transactions⁸. The OECD focuses its efforts on supporting countries in developing legislation and legal reforms to combat corruption through providing technical guidance, policy analysis, and facilitating the exchange of experiences among member countries. The organization also helps enhance transparency and accountability within government institutions, encourages improvements in monitoring and accountability systems, and supports the implementation of anti-corruption agreements such as the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials. Through these initiatives, the OECD contributes to strengthening the rule of law and achieving sustainable development in its member states.

1.2. Regional Organizations:

Regional organizations are those whose membership is limited to a specific number of countries based on certain criteria. These organizations are connected by a particular

⁸ Mouri Sofiane, "**The Role of the Convention of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in the Fight Against Corruption in International Business Transactions,**" *Academic Review of Legal Research*, Abderrahmane Mira University of Béjaia, Volume 8, Issue 1, Pages 443-456, 28-05-2017, p. 443.



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bond (geographical, political, ethnic, or religious), such as the Organization of American States, the Arab League, the African Union, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation⁹. These regional organizations work to enhance cooperation among countries in combating corruption and improving legal systems by refining legislation and judicial mechanisms to fight corruption in their respective regions, as well as providing technical support and training. Among them are the following organizations:

1.2.1 - The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC):

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation is the second largest international organization after the United Nations, with 57 member states spread across four continents. The organization represents the collective voice of the Islamic world and seeks to protect its interests and express them by supporting international peace and harmony and enhancing relations between different peoples of the world. The organization was established following a decision made at the historic summit held in Rabat, Morocco, on the 12th of Rajab, 1389 AH (September 25, 1969 CE), in response to the crime of burning the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. The Charter of the OIC was adopted at the third session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in 1972, where the Charter outlined the organization's goals and core principles, which include enhancing solidarity and cooperation among member states. Since its establishment,

⁹ Fattouch Sabrina, "**Mechanisms of International Organizations to Combat Corruption in Arab Countries: A Case Study of Transparency International**," PhD Thesis in Political Science and International Relations, Faculty of Law, University of Biskra, Algeria, p. 28.

the organization has witnessed significant growth in membership, increasing from 30 countries to 57 today¹⁰.

Recently, the "**Makkah Convention**" was signed during the second ministerial meeting of anti-corruption law enforcement agencies in OIC member states, held in Doha with the participation of 56 countries and several regional and international organizations. The agreement aims to establish a legal framework that facilitates cooperation between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities in member states¹¹, with a particular focus on enhancing communication mechanisms, exchanging information, accelerating investigations, and gathering evidence to support criminal justice. The agreement also aims to ensure accountability for those responsible for corruption¹², thereby strengthening joint efforts to combat corruption and reflecting the member states' commitment to achieving transparency and integrity in various fields.

1.2.2 - The Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET):

The Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) is a regional network established on July 30, 2008.

¹⁰Organization of Islamic Cooperation, "**History of the Organization**," available at the link: https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p_id=56&p_ref=26&lan=ar. Accessed on: 30/03/2025, at 10:30.

¹¹ Article 2 of the Makkah Convention for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws, signed under the Report No. (OIC/CLE-2/2024/MIN/FINAL.REPORT) issued by the Second Ministerial Meeting of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies in the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Doha, Qatar, November 27, 2024.p.5.

¹² Articles 5 and 6 of the Makkah Convention for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Cooperation in the Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws, *ibid*, p 6-7.



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The network operates with the support of the regional project "Combating Corruption and Enhancing Integrity in Arab Countries" under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which hosts its regional support unit. It also collaborates with other organizations, such as the League of Arab States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), aiming to enhance cooperation among Arab countries in the areas of anti-corruption, integrity, and transparency. The network seeks to provide a platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices among member states, as well as organizing workshops and training seminars aimed at building capacity in the field of anti-corruption¹³.

Additionally, the network focuses on supporting the development of anti-corruption legislation and policies, providing specialized technical consultations to member states to ensure that their legislation aligns with international standards, including the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. Through these activities, the network significantly contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of legal and legislative frameworks for combating corruption in the Arab region.

The primary objectives of the network are to promote transparency and integrity in both the public and private sectors, as well as to foster cooperation between governmental and non-governmental institutions in Arab

¹³ The Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network, **constitutive declaration, charter**, this publication has been prepared and published with the support of UNDP's Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (pages: 1-49), 2009.p1-4.

countries. The network also contributes to improving the effectiveness of accountability and oversight mechanisms, thereby strengthening the ability of member states to reduce corruption and achieve sustainable development. Through its ongoing efforts in developing legislation and establishing sound legal principles, the network plays a central role in creating a more transparent and honest legal environment, contributing to good governance in the Arab region.¹⁴

1.2.3- The African Union (AU):

The African Union is a continental organization comprising 55 African countries, aimed at enhancing political and economic cooperation among the countries of the continent. It was established in 2002, succeeding the previous organization (the Organization of African Unity). The African Union works through the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption to enhance cooperation among member states in the fight against corruption by developing national legislation and strengthening governments' capacity to combat corruption. It also provides technical support and training for judicial and administrative personnel in the member states¹⁵.

Article 2 of the African Union Convention aims to strengthen cooperation among the parties in combating corruption and related crimes by establishing effective

¹⁴ The Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network, *ibid*, p1.

¹⁵ Article 1, African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, adopted by the member states of the African Union at the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Conference held in Maputo, Mozambique, on July 11, 2003, and entered into force on August 5, 2006.p3 Available at the following link:

<https://raqabah.org/wp-content/plugins/download-attachments/includes/download.php?id=3424>



mechanisms to prevent and address corruption in both the public and private sectors. The convention also seeks to coordinate policies and legislation among member states to ensure the effectiveness of the measures taken and to promote social and economic development by removing barriers to the enjoyment of fundamental rights. Additionally, it aims to promote transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs, contributing to the achievement of good governance and sustainable development across the African continent¹⁶.

1.2.4- The European Union (EU) :

The European Union is a political and economic bloc comprising 27 European countries, aiming to enhance cooperation in areas such as economics, politics, human rights, and good governance. The European Union provides strong support to both member and non-member states in combating corruption through the development of legislative policies and the implementation of reform programs aimed at improving transparency in government and the public sector. The EU focuses on updating legislation to combat money laundering and improving oversight of government procurement. Recently, in May 2023, the European Commission proposed a directive, which was then adopted by the Parliament in February 2024, including many recommendations from Transparency International. However, the Council issued a weak stance in June 2024. The new directive proposal is considered a significant step in combating corruption across the bloc, as it

¹⁶ Article 2 of the African Union Convention, *ibid*, p5.

seeks to harmonize legislation among member states and strengthen preventive measures through a unified legal framework. It also aims to improve transparency and integrity through tools such as the disclosure of assets by public officials and the management of conflicts of interest, contributing to enhanced accountability and corruption prevention. However, the directive faces significant challenges due to the weak stance from the Council of the EU, as some members seek to ease certain conditions and introduce flexibility in the application of laws. Therefore, the success of this directive depends on consensus among EU institutions to ensure its effectiveness in combating corruption and promoting good governance in the region¹⁷.

1.2.5-The Organization of American States (OAS) Anti-Corruption:

The Convention was officially established in 1948 with the signing of its charter in Bogotá, Colombia, which entered into force in 1951. The charter has been amended through several protocols, including the Buenos Aires Protocol (1967), the Cartagena Protocol (1985), and the Managua Protocol (1993). Today, the organization includes 35 independent countries from the Americas, as well as 70 countries granted permanent observer status, including the European Union.

The main objectives of the OAS Anti-Corruption Convention are for each state party to enhance and develop mechanisms to prevent, detect, and punish corruption and to eradicate it. The convention also aims to promote and facilitate cooperation between the parties to ensure the

¹⁷ Pia Engelbrecht-Bogdanov, **Future of fighting corruption in the EU stands on knife's edge**, Transparency International EU, 19 February 2025, p 1-4.



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effectiveness of measures and actions aimed at preventing corruption in public service and specifically related activities, including crimes such as bribery of foreign public officials in economic and commercial transactions and crimes of illicit enrichment¹⁸. The organization works to improve anti-corruption legislation in the Americas, providing technical support and training to countries in anti-corruption efforts and fostering cooperation among governments to enhance accountability and transparency.

2. The Approach of International and Regional Organizations in Developing Anti-Corruption Legislation to Achieve Sustainability

The development of legal systems to combat corruption is a central goal pursued by international organizations, as it is the only path to achieving political, economic, and social stability, as well as sustainable development across all sectors. International organizations focus their efforts on improving legal frameworks for combating corruption and ensuring sustainability by addressing the multiple challenges they face. Among the most significant of these challenges are: the large disparities in legal systems between countries, institutional weaknesses, lack of political will, and the absence of effective coordination between countries and international organizations (A).

Furthermore, they also focus on utilizing all available opportunities to develop legal frameworks to combat corruption, including enhancing international legislation, expanding the scope of agreements, developing cross-border

¹⁸ Essam Abdel Fattah Matar, **Administrative Corruption**, Dar Al-Jama'a Al-Jadida, Egypt, 2011, p. 63.

judicial and legal cooperation, and promoting awareness and institutional capacity building to achieve effective sustainability in combating corruption (B).

2.1. Addressing the Challenges Encountered in Developing Anti-Corruption Legislation:

There are numerous challenges that complicate the efforts of international and regional organizations in developing anti-corruption legislation. We will attempt to clarify these challenges as follows:

2.1.1 -Disparities in Legal Systems Between Countries:

The significant differences in legal systems between countries are among the most prominent challenges hindering effective coordination in combating corruption. While some countries rely on advanced legal systems that support integrity and transparency, others may face difficulties in implementing appropriate anti-corruption laws due to weak legal frameworks or a lack of resources. The application of anti-corruption laws varies from one country to another, depending on factors such as legal culture, political stability, and the effectiveness of judicial bodies. For instance, in Western European countries, strict anti-corruption legislation is in place, whereas some developing countries may lack appropriate laws, or there may be flaws in law enforcement due to corruption itself or weak oversight in the enforcement process. As a result, in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index reports, Western European countries and the European



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Union tend to score the highest, in contrast to African nations¹⁹.

In this context, international organizations such as the United Nations and Transparency International play a crucial role in strengthening legal capacity in countries with weak legal systems. They achieve this by training countries to adopt best legal practices developed in countries with advanced systems and by harmonizing anti-corruption legal procedures globally through training programs and workshops. Furthermore, international organizations can provide technical and financial support to develop legal systems in countries that need to strengthen their anti-corruption legislation and related institutions²⁰.

To address this challenge, efforts by international organizations, such as the United Nations, can be highlighted. For instance, the UN's assistance to countries in modifying their legal systems within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which is the most comprehensive international legal instrument for combating corruption, has been instrumental. As of 2023, 189 countries have signed the convention. Many African countries, such as Tanzania and Kenya, faced significant challenges in implementing anti-corruption laws due to weak legal institutions. However, through the African Anti-Corruption Programme organized by the United Nations, many judges and government officials in these countries have received training, improving the

¹⁹Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index 2021(pp 1-22), Transparency International, International Secretariat, Germany, Alt- Moabit96, 10559 Berlin, Germany, p6.

²⁰ Transparency International, Ibid, p.2-6.

performance of judicial systems in prosecuting corruption, this demonstrates the important role international organizations play in improving local legal systems by providing training and resources²¹.

2.1.2 -Institutional Weaknesses and Lack of Political Will:

Many countries face a significant challenge in having weak legal institutions that lack independence or the ability to enforce laws effectively. In some cases, chronic corruption practices may exist within the institutions themselves, undermining efforts to combat corruption. Additionally, in some countries, the absence of political will can hinder the implementation of any legal changes related to anti-corruption, especially if political elites are involved in corrupt activities.

The failure of many countries to activate the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), despite having signed it, reflects the lack of strong political will to implement effective anti-corruption policies. To overcome this challenge, international organizations can exert continuous diplomatic pressure on countries to adopt effective anti-corruption policies and work to ensure the implementation of international agreements such as the UNCAC by emphasizing that corruption not only affects local policies but also impacts a country's reputation in the international community. Furthermore, international organizations can urge countries to take serious action and

²¹ African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption, report of the 5th african anti-corruption dialogue, theme: regional economic communities: critical actors in the implementation of the african union convention on preventing and combating corruption, (pp 1-12), 9-11 november 2021, p.1-6.



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provide technical support to develop anti-corruption mechanisms at both the legislative and administrative levels.

After the 2011 revolution and with increasing international pressure on Egypt to combat corruption, international organizations, particularly Transparency International, played a crucial role in highlighting corruption within the Egyptian government. They published annual reports evaluating the role of state institutions in combating corruption. As a result, the Egyptian government worked on updating some anti-corruption legislation and established the Anti-Corruption Authority.

Before 2014, Egypt did not have a unified anti-corruption strategy. However, after the constitutional amendment in 2014, Article 218 was included, mandating the state to combat corruption²². This amendment supported the anti-corruption bodies and led to the launch of the first National Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2014-2018, which achieved significant progress, such as improving government performance, enhancing transparency and integrity, building citizens' trust in state institutions, and strengthening local and international cooperation.

In 2018, the second National Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2019-2022 was launched at the conclusion of the Africa

²² Article 218 of the 2014 amendment to the Egyptian Constitution states: "The state is committed to combating corruption, and the law shall define the competent oversight bodies and agencies for this purpose. These bodies and agencies are required to coordinate with each other in combating corruption and promoting values of integrity and transparency, ensuring the proper performance of public duties and the preservation of public funds. They shall develop and monitor the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy in collaboration with other relevant bodies and agencies, in accordance with the provisions of the law."

Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh, coinciding with International Anti-Corruption Day. The second strategy focused on strengthening values of transparency and integrity, identifying and assessing corruption risks in Egypt, and working on prevention by setting goals and implementing actions. It also aimed at supporting the capacity and independence of anti-corruption bodies and emphasized the promotion of a societal culture that rejects corruption through local and international cooperation, aligning with Egypt's Vision 2030. This was part of the implementation of international and regional agreements related to anti-corruption, particularly the UN, Arab, and African conventions²³.

2.1.3- Challenges in Coordination Between Countries and International Organizations

Coordination between countries and international organizations is one of the primary challenges in combating corruption. Countries may have internal political priorities that differ from the international interests promoted by international organizations. Furthermore, some countries may resist opening corruption files or cooperating with external bodies in investigations, especially if the individuals involved in corruption have close ties to the government. This is particularly evident in many developing countries that fear external interference in their sovereign affairs and, consequently, may refuse to cooperate with international organizations in anti-corruption investigations.

²³ National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2019-2022, National / Sub-Coordinating Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption, Egypt, 2018, pp. 31-37.



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To address this challenge, international organizations such as the United Nations and Interpol have worked to improve coordination mechanisms among member states and enhance cooperation between national governments and international organizations. This includes activating mutual judicial cooperation mechanisms, exchanging information, and improving the coordination of cross-border investigations. Such effective coordination will contribute to strengthening cooperation between countries, enabling them to combat corruption more effectively.

2.2. Exploiting Available Opportunities to Develop Anti-Corruption Legislation :

Despite the challenges previously discussed, there are numerous opportunities that can be leveraged to develop legal systems for combating corruption at both the national and international levels. By strengthening international legislation, enhancing cross-border judicial cooperation, and expanding awareness programs and institutional capacity building, significant progress can be made in the fight against corruption. International organizations such as the United Nations, Transparency International, and other entities provide a variety of tools that contribute to addressing these issues. This will be further elaborated below:

2.2.1 –Strengthening International Legislation and Expanding the Scope of Agreements

International agreements, such as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), are among the most important mechanisms enabling international organizations to enhance cooperation between countries in

the fight against corruption. This convention provides a unified legal framework for member states to develop their domestic laws and strengthen international coordination in anti-corruption efforts, contributing to the harmonization of global efforts to combat corruption.

International organizations can work to expand the scope of these agreements to include more countries, thereby activating nations' commitment to implementing transparency and accountability standards in the public sector. By providing technical and financial support, international organizations can assist countries in amending their local legislation to align with international anti-corruption standards, thus improving the effectiveness of legal policy implementation.

In this context, the United Arab Emirates adopted several legal reforms under its commitment to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), including an amendment to the Anti-Money Laundering Law (2018) to comply with UNCAC standards²⁴.

The Transparency International branch in Mongolia played a significant role in ensuring greater transparency in political financing and reducing the dominance of a few individuals in political parties by guiding the introduction of new political party legislation in December 2023²⁵. Similarly, the Kosovo Assembly adopted a new electoral law reflecting some of Transparency International's recommendations regarding the integrity of candidates, preferential voting

²⁴ Federal Decree-Law No. (26) of 2021 amending certain provisions of Federal Decree-Law No. (20) of 2018 concerning the countering of money laundering crimes, combating the financing of terrorism, and the financing of unlawful organizations.

²⁵ Transparency international, **annual report 2023**, Berlin, Germany (p p 1-66), July 2024, p.11.



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rules, and the independence of the electoral oversight body²⁶.

The organization has also significantly contributed to strengthening the European Union's anti-corruption framework, which will have implications far beyond Europe's borders, affecting other countries operating within the Union. Transparency International called for improvements to the EU proposal on anti-corruption directives, and the European Parliament adopted several political recommendations proposed by the organization, focusing on the rights of corruption victims, non-judicial decisions, and the rights of permanent NGOs. If some of these political changes are retained in the final version of the directive, they will set legal precedents, significantly increase the commitments of law enforcement agencies, governments, and corporations to prevent and prosecute major corruption, and provide them with opportunities to do so²⁷.

With the support of Transparency International's Secretariat, the organization's branches have significantly enhanced whistleblower protection at the national level in Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain, with our recommendations incorporated into new laws and policies.

In Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, and Slovenia, the organization's branches contributed to the effective implementation of these laws. To support ongoing advocacy efforts, Transparency International evaluated whistleblower

²⁶ Transparency international, **annual report 2023**, Ibid, p.28.

²⁷ Transparency international, **annual report 2023**, Ibid, p.36.

protection legislation in 20 European Union countries and made recommendations for legislative changes. The organization also utilizes the knowledge and expertise gained through its ALAC program to share best practices and advocate for improvements in laws, reporting mechanisms, and support services for corruption victims²⁸.

2.2.2 -Developing Cross-Border Judicial and Legal Cooperation

A significant opportunity lies in enhancing cross-border judicial and legal cooperation between countries through international organizations. These organizations can play a crucial role in facilitating the pursuit of corrupt individuals across borders, whether they are individuals or nations. By strengthening cooperation among international judicial systems, legal proceedings related to corruption can be expedited, such as the recovery of embezzled funds abroad. Through the development of investigation and judicial cooperation mechanisms, corrupt individuals can be brought to justice, regardless of where they hide their assets or their involvement in illegal activities.

The United Nations' Cross-Border Cooperation Against Corruption project, launched in 2010, aims to improve coordination among member states in combating corruption. Through the judicial cooperation program between countries, Brazil cooperated with U.S. authorities to investigate the Petrobras scandal, which helped uncover a network of corruption at the highest levels. Evidence and investigations were exchanged across borders, serving as a prime example of the role international organizations play in

²⁸ Transparency international, **annual report 2023**, Ibid, p. 39,40.



facilitating cooperation between countries in cross-border investigations.

In 2004, Nigeria also cooperated with the World Bank and Transparency International to recover embezzled funds from the late Nigerian President Sani Abacha. This collaboration contributed to the recovery of over \$3 billion in embezzled funds.

In Algeria, as part of efforts to enhance anti-corruption capacities, the Sub-Directorate of the Anti-Corruption Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) organized training workshops from June 28 to 30, 2022. These workshops involved participants from the judicial police of the Central Office for the Suppression of Corruption, and were held at the Higher Judicial School in "Keliaa". The workshops, led by experts in anti-corruption, focused on the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, along with discussions on practical case studies of transnational corruption cases²⁹.

2.2.3- Awareness and Institutional Capacity Building for Effective Sustainability in Combating Corruption

International organizations play a significant role in developing training programs aimed at improving the capacities of national institutions in the field of anti-corruption. These programs focus on training judicial and administrative staff on how to handle complex corruption cases, improve financial and administrative oversight, and

²⁹ Central Directorate for Combating Corruption, Capacity Building Workshops, organized by the Sub-Directorate of the Anti-Corruption Division of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Higher Judicial School - Keliaa, Algeria, from June 28 to 30, 2022.

implement effective mechanisms to detect and prevent corruption within public institutions. This type of training helps build trust between citizens and governments and contributes to the sustainability of institutional effectiveness in combating corruption.

International organizations can also enhance institutional sustainability in anti-corruption efforts by expanding their programs to include continuous training for judicial and administrative personnel in developing countries. Training improves workers' understanding of the latest legal and administrative methods, strengthens the effectiveness of anti-corruption institutions, and contributes to the sustainability of integrity and accountability at all administrative levels.

One of the key factors contributing to institutional sustainability is leveraging technological advancements. The use of information technology tools, such as e-government systems, artificial intelligence, and big data, significantly enhances transparency and monitoring. For example, these technologies can improve governments' ability to track public financial transactions and document administrative procedures thoroughly, reducing opportunities for manipulation and corruption³⁰.

Examples of international organizations supporting institutional capacity building for sustainable anti-corruption efforts include:

³⁰ United Nations Development Programme, **New Technologies for Sustainable Development: Perspectives on integrity, trust and anti-corruption**, UNDP 2021(pp 1-64). One United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.p.5,6.

<https://www.undp.org/publications/new-technologies-sustainable-development-perspectives-integrity-trust-and-anti-corruption>



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- Ghana benefited from training programs provided by Transparency International, where judges and government officials were trained on anti-corruption strategies and financial auditing methods, helping to improve the sustainability of institutional transparency.
- Egypt received support from the World Bank to implement training programs aimed at developing skills in transparency and accountability in public administration, as well as using technology to enhance oversight, which contributed to strengthening the sustainability of transparency practices.
- Romania received support from the European Union and the World Bank to enhance the capabilities of oversight bodies by adopting transparent accounting systems and using technological tools to monitor corruption in the public sector.

The institutional sustainability of anti-corruption efforts relies on continuous cooperation between countries and international organizations. Through this collaboration, knowledge and research on the ongoing challenges in combating corruption are shared³¹, contributing to the development of effective and permanent oversight systems. The benefits extend beyond just training personnel; they also include improving monitoring and accountability mechanisms using innovative electronic tools. This integration helps build more transparent and effective legal systems, facilitating data analysis and evidence-based

³¹ United Nations Development Programme, Ibid, p.7.

decision-making, and reducing institutional gaps that could be exploited for corruption. This synergy between technology and training contributes to building a sustainable culture of integrity within society, enhancing citizens' trust in public institutions. It also strengthens social justice and fosters sustainable development by providing an inclusive environment that supports transparency and continuous oversight.

Conclusion:

At the end of the study, we conclude that international organizations play a central role in the development of anti-corruption legislation at both the international and regional levels,

through their continuous efforts. They strive to overcome the challenges that countries face in implementing effective laws to combat corruption, such as significant disparities between legal systems, weak institutions, and the lack of political will. Despite these challenges, there are numerous opportunities that can be leveraged to enhance sustainability in anti-corruption efforts, including improving coordination between countries, strengthening international legislation, and developing cross-border judicial cooperation.

Through their role in uniting global efforts, international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, Transparency International, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the African Union, and the European Union have provided technical and financial support to countries, which has helped improve the legal framework for combating corruption. Additionally, capacity-building



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programs have enhanced local competencies in anti-corruption, contributing to the creation of a more transparent and sustainable legal environment. **Through this study, we arrived at the following results:**

- 1) International organizations play a key role in facilitating cooperation between countries to develop anti-corruption legislation by providing technical and training support, as well as offering recommendations in their reports to improve legal frameworks both at the national and international levels.
- 2) Cooperation between regional and international organizations enhances the ability to exchange knowledge and best practices, contributing to the adoption of stricter and more effective policies and legislation that strengthen transparency and accountability in both government and private institutions.
- 3) Collaboration between governments, international organizations, and civil society is essential for combating corruption and contributes to the development of legislative and judicial mechanisms.
- 4) International organizations have successfully provided effective solutions for improving anti-corruption legislation and have made progress in countries with weak legal frameworks, such as Kenya and Tanzania.
- 5) International organizations have contributed to expanding the scope of international anti-corruption legislation through their recommendations in annual corruption index reports for various countries, as well

as through the enhancement of agreements like the UNCAC, which has helped countries develop local laws that align with international standards.

The findings indicate that international organizations have succeeded in providing effective solutions for improving legal systems for combating corruption, while emphasizing the continued need for the development of legislation and increased cooperation between countries. In light of these findings, the **following recommendations** can be made:

- 1) Continue enhancing coordination between international and regional organizations to develop joint anti-corruption policies and strengthen cooperation among member countries.
- 2) Support countries in implementing international anti-corruption agreements such as the UNCAC and ensure the commitment to applying transparency and accountability standards.
- 3) Continue supporting developing countries in improving anti-corruption legislation and achieving good governance by intensifying training programs and workshops to improve the capacities of judicial and administrative institutions, and applying modern technologies such as artificial intelligence to enhance governmental oversight.
- 4) Encourage the exchange of experiences and best practices between countries to develop stricter and more effective anti-corruption policies.
- 5) Continue strengthening judicial and legal cooperation between countries to facilitate the prosecution of cross-border corruption and the recovery of stolen



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assets, in addition to raising public awareness about the importance of anti-corruption efforts.

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