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## TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PORTUGAL KEY OBJECTIVES AND ANTI-CORRUPTION FIGHT

Karina Carvalho <sup>35</sup>

I'm deeply sorry for not being able to be with you as I wish, in presence. I am currently in Oslo and I'm speaking from my Hotel room. So forgive me for the whole scenario.

So, I'll be more specific on partnerships for creating impact, because to be honest, in Portugal we don't work so much on education as we wish, although in a global level Transparency International has a work to showcase already and

I'll talk about it. We are the Portuguese chapter of Transparency International, a global coalition of civil society organizations NGOs against corruption. We are present in more than 100 countries and fortunately, we are in Portugal since 2010.

Transparency International, as a global coalition, works together as one, as a wide movement organisation against corruption, trying to boost good governance with sustainable development as well, chasing kleptocrats and corrupts all over the world. In the core of our organization, community leadership and building strategies are always in place. We approved in 2023, a new strategy called "Holding Power to Account for the Common Good" and there are two specific key objectives that I think, are aligned with today's meeting.

The first objective is the Key Objective 6 – "*Expand Civic Space for Accountability*" and we have two sets of sub goals that we work to improve: to enhance freedom and security for activists, whistle-

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blowers and journalists, something that we work together with our colleagues named for OCCRP – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, under the Anticorruption Consortium. Transparency International, as a movement, is engaged nationally and globally to increase channels for people to demand results for the common good. Therefore, we work a lot on awareness raising, encouraging the outreach for anti-corruption work.

The key objective 7 is called *“Build Community Leadership Against Corruption”*. In this specific objective, we work on advocacy goals related to a number of topics and we have a particular interest in developing the next generation of leaders, within all sectors of society that can support anti-corruption fight and good governance all over the world. On that note, I would like to share with you that we recently launched a new initiative called *“The Youth Integrity Initiative”*, approved during our Annual Membership in 2020 and we are working collaboratively to boost this initiative to all the countries where we have presence. The Youth Integrity Initiative, in particular, is the one that is pretty much aligned with UNODC initiatives such as Education for Justice and other initiatives, because we have integrity school, for example in Lithuania, in Turkey and in many other countries. We also collaborate with universities to design, implement and develop training programs or training courses on integrity and anti-corruption issues. In Portugal we organized a very small festival called *“Festival Transparente”* and this initiative aims to engage the young generation in the involvement with the anti-corruption efforts because sadly, anti-corruption as a cause still needs to be boosted within the young generation, in my view, in Portugal in particular. We have more than 1000 individual members in Portugal, but sadly most of our members are over 30 years old. We also don’t have as many women as we should.

Transparency International in Portugal works in four community-building strategies. The first one is called *“Red Golf”*. It’s a network for good governance and sustainable development in the Lusophony. It’s an informal network launched by Transparency International in 2017, that has already nine civil society organizations from Angola, Mozambique, São Tomé e Príncipe, Equatorial

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Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Brazil. We also have 12 academics and activists engaged in the network. It aims, mostly to advance commitments in human rights, anti-corruption and SDGS in all the countries that belongs to the community of Portuguese speaking countries by developing capacity-building strategies like joint advocacy campaigning, working to apply common projects, and sharing knowledge. However, our main goal is to monitor compliance within international conventions and international standards, so that we can better monitor what is happening under the community of Portuguese speaking countries.

The other initiative, Ilia will talk more about it, of course, is the GAC – Global Anti-corruption Consortium, a joint initiative between Transparency International and OCCRP – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. Under this joint initiative, we collaborate actively with journalists all over the world in very specific topics related to illicit financial flows, money laundering, asset recovery and more recently on the Russian sanction as well. In Portugal, we engaged with the CCRP as well as with others to work on the “Luanda Leaks” case and “Golden Visas”.

The collaboration of civil society and journalists is the key to boost transparency and integrity. It is a way of surpassing the length of duration of judicial cases, most of the times. Over the last years, what we saw was that every time civil society and journalists matched working in common projects the world moved a little bit faster. I think it is a positive outcome for this community-building strategy.

We are taking other opportunities. Recently in the field of development-corporation, we started two projects in Equatorial Guinea where we collaborated with local civil society organizations, even supporting them financially through the Cascade Financing System of Europe Aid. In terms of capacity building, in the sense that we have human rights and good governance observatory. We just launched a new report on human rights in Equatorial Guinea. This is a way that international organizations from the global north and south can work together and boost anti-corruption commitments, but most of all to denounce and to work as watchdogs against cor-

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ruption helping NGOs that are in very difficult environments, providing them with voice that can be heard by others. Aside the borders of these very specific countries, we work on the protection of activists and whistle-blowers under these initiatives.

The last one initiative and the reason I am in Oslo, is also a building strategy called “Clean Bids”. Our goal is to power up human rights and sustainable development through anti-bribery, working with small and medium-sized enterprises so that they can comply with the OECD anti-bribery convention. Mostly for small and medium sized businesses to understand the impact of bribery in corruption in the countries they go to undertake businesses. That happens with Portuguese companies going for example to Angola or Mozambique. It is also important to strengthen the links with the business sector, so it understands that not only corruption and bribery has an impact in human rights and sustainable development in the countries that they are going to do business with, but also affects competition and damages their reputation and of course their business.

These are the things I wanted to share with you and during the discussion I will be able to share much more. Thank you.