



Hangzhou statement in the occasion of the International Anti-corruption Day 9th December 2017

Introduction

The UN General Assembly declared 9th December as International Anti-Corruption Day, to be observed annually. The objective of this Day is to create awareness about the negative effects of corruption and the need to prevent and fight it. One of the principal international instruments available today is the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted in 2003 and ratified by 182 parties to date.

Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda calls for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Achieving Goal 16 requires strong, capable and transparent local and regional governments; more efficient in fighting corruption, and more opened to their own citizens. Goal 16 represents a great opportunity for local and regional governments to be recognized as catalysts of change as they are the best-placed level of government to involve local communities in the achievement of the global agendas.

With the aim of reaffirming this commitment, several local government networks endorsed the Paris Statement during the 2016 International Anti-corruption Day observance that took place at the Paris City Council during the Open Government Partnership Summit hosted by the Government of France.

This year, the undersigned local, regional governments and their associations would like to renew the commitment to work towards more transparent, accountable and participative cities and territories by endorsing the following joint statement on the occasion of the International Anti-corruption Day of 9th December of 2017.

Hangzhou Statement 2017

On the occasion of the 2017 International Anti-Corruption Day, the undersigned local, regional governments and their associations want to recall the vital role played by transparency, accountability and citizen engagement for efficient city management. We would like to emphasize how important it is to create and renew the trust of citizens in our role at the service of the public.

We recognize that corruption is a serious obstacle for equality, effective governance, economic growth and sustainable development. Effective anti-corruption policies and legislation are urgently required at the local, national and international levels. Corruption undermines government legitimacy, public trust and the rule of law. Whilst corruption affects all countries, it has a disproportionate impact on people in developing countries, and

its worse effects on the poorest. Preventing and fighting corruption must be made a priority in order to create the foundations for democracy, development, justice and effective governance.

Corruption at the local level has an immediate and harsher impact for governance and for public trust, than in other levels of government. As local government, we are very visible as we are close to our citizens. At the same time, local and regional governments can take advantage of this proximity to start concrete actions to prevent corruption by engaging in active policies of transparency, accountability, participation of society and citizen's oversight.

We believe that local and regional governments are key to improve the channels of communication with citizens, and to increase their engagement in the decision-making process. Many local governments are already promoting meaningful participation, by increasing monitoring of local spending and municipal performance to raise awareness of the importance of governing with the citizen.

Local and regional governments have advanced in eradicating corrupt and ineffective practices. However, more needs to be done.

We consider that these objectives cannot be achieved by individual actions alone, but need to be the product of a new multi-level governance approach where local and national governments complement their action and where constructive dialogue between the public, private sector and civil society is constant.

We commit ourselves to achieve SDG 16 and to contribute to effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. We reaffirm our commitment to achieve the 2030 Global development agenda in our cities and territories.

We call on national governments and multilateral organizations to continue to support regional and international networks of local governments to strengthen local institutional capacity of response to make sure that corruption does not happen and that nobody is left behind.

On this International Anti-corruption Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to fight corruption in all its forms and to bring transparency, accountability and participation at the center of our local and global agendas.

Hangzhou, 9th December 2017