Towards collective action on corruption in Nigeria:
Linking evidence and practice in support of change

Thursday 28 July 2022
Abuja, Nigeria | and online via Zoom
(All timings in WAT)

Corruption is often driven by complex social dynamics and informal rules, as the social consequences of failing to adhere to collective expectations can have a powerful influence on individual behaviour. For anti-corruption efforts to function more effectively, it is vital to understand how corruption becomes sustained as a collective practice and to identify the social drivers that determine what actions are acceptable to or disapproved of by citizens.

The limitations of top-down approaches to anti-corruption in Nigeria are increasingly being counteracted by awareness and uptake of social norms or behavioural change interventions, which seek to adapt beliefs and expectations at the community level. Such efforts are a pivotal factor in moving towards a whole-of-system approach to anti-corruption, but both policymakers and practitioners have a responsibility to ensure that behavioural interventions are guided by a strong evidence base which enables sensitivity around complex local dynamics, fragmented identities and underlying practical considerations.

This conference will examine the impact and drivers of corruption in Nigeria; the effectiveness of anti-corruption interventions, particularly those in the behavioural change space; and the value of the available evidence base of citizens’ expectations, understandings and experiences of corruption, and how these relate to social norms. It will also launch and discuss the latest research outputs from the Chatham House Africa Programme's work on Nigeria under its Social Norms and Accountable Governance (SNAG) project, supported by the MacArthur Foundation.

Thursday 28 July 2022

08:30 – 09:00  Registration

09:00 – 09:30  Opening and keynote address

  Abdulrasheed Bawa, Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

  Chair: Dr Alex Vines OBE, Managing Director, Ethics, Risk and Resilience; Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

09:30 – 11:00  Session 1: Implementing holistic anti-corruption efforts

  A multi-disciplinary approach to fighting corruption
  Professor Olatunde Babawale, Provost, Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria (ACAN)

  Highlighting the impact of trendsetters and integrity leaders
  Odeh Friday, Country Director, Accountability Lab Nigeria
Targeting anti-corruption education for young people
Zainab Haruna, Programme Director, Step Up Nigeria

Edutainment and the impact of multimedia
Umni Yakubu, Creative Director, Griot Studios

Chair: Dr Leena Koni Hoffmann, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

11:00 – 11:30  Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00  Session 2: Understanding multifaceted contextual factors of corruption

The socio-economic context of corruption and policy innovations to address it
Dr Osasuyi Dirisu, Deputy Director, Policy Innovation Centre

The impact of corruption on issues of gender
Chioma Agwuegbo, Executive Director, TechHer Nigeria

The role of religion in shaping beliefs and expectations of corruption
Bashir Mundi, Department of Religion, University of Georgia

Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, Roman Catholic Diocese of Sokoto

Diagnosing and addressing corruption within the education sector
Azuka Ogugua, Deputy Director of Public Enlightenment, Independent Corrupt Practices & Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)

Chair: Oladayo Olaide, Deputy Director, Nigeria Office, MacArthur Foundation

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 14:20  Keynote address: Combatting electoral corruption

14:20 – 15:50  Session 3: Report launch – Citizens’ participation in elections and vote-selling behaviour in Nigeria

Authors
Dr Leena Koni Hoffmann, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

Dr Raj Navanit Patel, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Politics and Economics, University of Pennsylvania

Discussants
Samson Itodo, Founder, Yiaga Africa

Ndi Kato, Executive Director, Dinidari Africa

Chair: Dr Freedom Onuoha, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Nigeria

15:50 – 16:00  Closing remarks

This conference is supported by the MacArthur Foundation