

***Making Democracy Work for the Poor***  
***Linking political accountability to equitable development***

### **Project Summary**

Corruption that enables disproportionate access to political and development decision-making by private interests leads to unequal societies. Increasingly TI's work is responding to the concerns of citizens, particularly underprivileged citizens, faced with broken promises of political representatives.

The project uses the democratic accountability framework to leverage equal public participation and oversight over the entire cycle of political and administrative decision-making. **By committing political representatives or parties to Development Integrity Pacts (DIP), citizens have an anti-corruption tool that allows them to hold their government to account.**

TI can facilitate the dialogue between citizens on the creation of effective DIPs. The dialogue around the formulation of pacts allow citizens to **shape political promises**, demand **information on political funding**, require representatives to ensure equal participation in developing policy options and provide for regular interfaces with the political and administrative leadership during government tenure. Pacts allow multiple NIS actors to be involved and constructive partnerships to emerge. TI can cooperate with development organizations in **building the capacity of marginalized citizens to participate and oversee public decision-making.**

Starting at a sub-national level DIPs provide a learning space for citizens to practice their political rights. DIPs particularly **enable marginalized citizens to negotiate for participation in all stages of public decision-making relevant to their priorities.** They close the accountability loop, **converting promises into policies, budgets and services and generate public trust in the integrity of decision-making processes.**

Depending on national contexts the process and content of DIPs may vary, and can include local, sectoral or transition related demands. DIPs will benefit all citizens including those political representatives that are willing to be held accountable.

### **Background of TI's work**

Transparency International (TI) has pioneered tools that promote transparency in political campaign financing and increase democratic accountability. Many TI Chapters have experience addressing the **marginalization of citizens caused by the corruption of political and administrative processes.** Chapters increased political accountability through election pledges, voter education and public awareness campaigns. Chapters have also created public demand for the accountability of governance institutions. In cooperation with state and non-state actors, at national and local level, National Chapters in a number of countries have catalyzed political and administrative reforms aimed at transparency and citizen participation. As part of TI's global priority on poverty, TI increasingly addresses corruption that impacts on the development rights of citizens.

### **Problem being addressed**

Public trust and participation in democracy is undermined when governments represent private not public interests. In these countries corruption, rather than government performance, has become a significant factor in acquiring and exercising political power. Resulting inequalities and the failure to meet MDGs, undermine good governance and lead to social conflicts within countries and the region. Existing local government efforts to provide spaces for participation have been undermined by the resistance of administrations. In the absence of informed, inclusive and institutionalised participation, existing efforts of participation have remained pro-forma and have failed to effectively represent the interests of marginalized citizens. In coalition with civil society efforts, the project will support marginalized citizens in using their political rights to negotiate the content of development commitments. By supporting their informed and institutionalized inclusion in decision-making processes, DIPs demonstrate the power and relevance of democratic participation. DIPs convert political equality and participation into the realization of socio-economic rights.

## **Objectives/Purpose**

- Political performance as demonstrated through accountability on development promises plays an increasing role in deciding elections.
- Increased and effective accountability of political leaders to marginalized citizens between elections.
- Increased direct development benefits to marginalized citizens participating in democratic processes

## **Outcomes**

- Political representatives use DIPs to increase their credibility and compete on the basis of higher accountability standards.
- Marginalized groups use DIPs to assert their development rights and priorities.
- Civil Society uses DIPs for obtaining & monitoring national level development commitments.

## **Outputs**

- In each country, DIPs are formulated at local levels listing measurable & time-bound development commitments of political representatives.
- In each country DIPs at national level seek to address political party accountability.
- Political representatives and parties recognize the advantage of DIPs for re-election and for securing citizen and civil society support in overseeing the executive.
- Inclusive citizen participation in decision-making that converts promises into policies, budgets and services.
- The process of creating DIPs engenders stronger cooperation on shared objectives between different civil society actors.
- Increased awareness and adaptations of DIPs within the region

## **Key Activities**

- Undertake participatory risk-mapping of corruption in the conversion of political promises on development to policies, budgets and implementation or use data from existing or planned TI research, NIS, ALAC, sector risk-mapping, CRINIS to create an advocacy case for more effective citizen participation in the decision-making chain
- Facilitate pacts based on local and national contexts, opportunities and capacities.
- Build citizen capacity to negotiate and use development and participation commitments.
- Cooperate with civil society to ensure convergence, exchanges and impact.
- Cooperate with local governments to establish higher standards of accountability.
- Work with media, publicizing progress and creating demand for pacts.
- Undertake regional advocacy work.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Chapters, along with civil society and media, will monitor key indicators. They will focus on the effectiveness of DIPs in reflecting the concerns of citizens, creating dialogue, ensuring equal participation and successfully enforcing political accountability. Flanking direct interactions, a website will be created to monitor pacts and indicators proposed by citizens and political representatives. The website will serve as a public platform for citizens concerns, record feedback to political representatives and provide guidance for replication.

**Innovation:** DIPs integrate marginalized citizens into the democratic process, by demonstrating its immediate benefit to their livelihood and development concerns. DIPs strengthen the voice and choice of citizens. DIPs build on efforts to increase government responsiveness and seek to strengthen the complete accountability cycle, from political promises to their execution, with citizen participation at each stage.

**Sustainability:** Pacts build on the interests of political representatives to get elected, and of citizens to have their interests represented. By disseminating the process and results of DIPs through media, political representatives will be encouraged to offer DIPs. Chapters will support civil society in adapting DIPs to their development efforts.