



Public - Private Collaboration to Combat Illicit Networks

Doris Mariani
SORO Research, Inc.
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Public-Private Collaboration

- A voluntary interaction between the public and the private sector through which both parties leverage the expertise and resources of the other in order to address an issue or opportunity with greater impact and efficiency

Case for Collaboration: Benefits

- Public-private collaboration activities generally fall into several broad categories of activities:
 - Sharing expertise
 - Exchanging information
 - Executing projects and operations

Challenges of Collaboration

- Biggest obstacle is the mindset, mainly on the government side. It takes extra energy and effort. It is either “nice to have” or “too hard” because of legitimate barriers.
- Barriers:
 - Lack of Trust
 - Legal and Regulatory Restrictions
 - Lack of Proper Institutionalization

Lack of Trust

- Information Sharing
 - Private sector is not inclined to share information about vulnerabilities with anyone, much less the government
 - They are concerned about proprietary information
 - They do not feel they get timely and actionable intelligence from the government to help protect their operations
 - Governments are wary of sharing national “secrets” with private entities
 - Inadequate mechanisms to exchange information

Laws and Regulations

- Governments are bound by rules, both within their jurisdictions and between sovereign states; illicit networks are agile and have none of these constraints
- Legal restrictions aimed at preventing preferential treatment restrict creativity with outside actors

Public-Private Collaboration Is not Institutionalized

- Done ad hoc, dependent on individuals, no formal mechanism
- An afterthought – government reaches out to private sector after they make plans, encounter issues

Case Study: Business Executives for National Security and DoD

- A multi-sectoral team of American business executives helping US DoD:
 - United States Southern Command and European Command: business models of illicit networks; logistics, operations,
 - United States Special Operations Command: threat finance
 - Department of Defense: identify weak nodes; develop better strategies, policies

The Way Forward

- Strategic approach: official policy; strategy; process; resources. Return on investment for both parties must outweigh costs.
- Designed by both parties together from the outset
- Laws should support PPC

Contact Information

Doris Mariani

SORO Research, Inc

www.soroinc.com

doris.s.mariani@gmail.com

202 660 2920