

## Building Multidisciplinary Frameworks to Combat Corruption

7<sup>th</sup> Regional Anti-Corruption Conference of the  
ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific  
Hosted by the Government of India

New Delhi, India, 28-29 September 2011

### Closing Remarks

Shri V. Narayanasamy, Honourable Minister of State (Prime  
Minister's Office and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions)

Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Secretary (Personnel) Smt Alka Sirohi,  
distinguished guests and delegates.

It is my privilege to be present at the conference again today. I would like to thank the delegates for having given their precious time and efforts in making this conference a great success. I specially thank all those members and staff from the ADB/OECD and Government of India who worked relentlessly in the smooth process of this conference. I am very impressed by the fact that delegates from 28 member countries spread across the Asia Pacific Regions, the experts, policy makers and practitioners from across the globe have put in their thoughts and views during the last two days.

I hope that the conference provided a very useful platform for the delegate countries to share their best practices, problems and difficulties with the other members of the Initiative. I am sure that the participation has been enriching and rewarding. I am certain that the member countries would pick up threads from the learning here and test them in real time situations in their respective countries.

I find that there were four areas within the main theme of Building Multidisciplinary Framework for combating corruption, which this conference provided a platform to deliberate. The first one relates to strengthening the frameworks for international co-operation in multijurisdictional Corruption Investigation. I am sure that the conference deliberated on a number of aspects and particularly focused on issues of detail at the ground level which are the biggest hindrances in ensuring co-ordination between investigating agencies across jurisdictions. I am sure that the informal interchange of information between the investigating agencies will be a big step to build the level confidence and trust before initiating the formal process of sharing of evidence. As most of the jurisdictions in the region are parties to UNCAC, I feel that the dissimilarities in the extradition laws and the system of mutual legal assistance or interpretations do not pose that serious problem as it was a few years back. The problems in translation of huge volumes of documents are significant, and I am sure that the conference also deliberated on sharing of evidence, issues relating to double jeopardy and global settlement.

The second area, I find the conference had discussed, was on 'Public Procurement Issues'. There are implementation problems of the laws and rules in existence. Whether a legislation would serve the purpose or not, is an area which may require a detailed look. The potential risk of a statutory backing to address the problems in handling 'public procurement' leading to rigidity and tendency to decision making could be a factor weighing against a legislation. Therefore, any public procurement law should provide for necessary flexibility to address the needs of different sectors and types of projects. There is a need to also strengthen the existing systems of procedures and administrative measures to ensure effective and purposeful implementation of public procurement

7<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference - New Delhi, India

– 2 –

in the immediate future. Certain specific problems and the possible special measures should be considered in respect of corruption in 'high risk areas'. In India Government has decided to enact a Public Procurement Act soon.

The presence of private sector and the civil society in the conference has been very encouraging. The civil society's concern that there is a need to involve them in policy decisions and in many jurisdictions needs to be addressed. The Private Sector has an effective role to play in their own competitive interests in the business. There is a need to take concerted and coordinated steps to criminalize private sector bribery as private to private bribery can be a very serious factor in undermining fair and reasonable competition, and may result in pricing which may become unaffordable.

India, as one of the member countries to the Initiative, is committed to continue its relentless fight against global corruption and ensure their best in furthering the international co-operation. I hope that the members would agree that such commitment is essential in fighting corruption at all levels.

I conclude by thanking every one of the delegates and experts for their useful contribution. I am sure you had a wonderful time during your stay in India.

Thank you.