

From words to actions

Lessons learned in the implementation of the “Guatemala Declaration for a Region Free of Corruption”

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1. Follow up efforts

- **Convene governments, civil society and donors to:**
 - Increase awareness and information
 - Open a space to exchange knowledge and initiatives
 - Coordinate efforts from a regional level
- **How to follow up?**
 - Innovating and not creating unnecessary burdens
 - Implementing but also ensuring a process
- **Follow up meetings:**
 - Guatemala and Honduras (soon Dominican Republic)

1. Follow up efforts

- **Common questionnaire** answered by governments and civil society.
- **Articulated** with Inter-American, UNCAC and other regional integration instruments (legal assistance cooperation).
- Commitment of **most of the anti-corruption agencies**: Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama.
- Donors see Declaration as a **common road map** for the region.
- Creation of a **permanent regional forum** to foster common anti-corruption agenda in Central America and Dominican Republic

2. National and regional progress

- Corruption continues to be a major challenge for the region.
 - Common progress as a region is also a pending issue.
 - Different trends among countries and uncoordinated answers.
- Improvements in some areas but full compliance is very far:

Access to information	Political financing
Creation of state anti-corruption bodies.	Whistleblowers protection
Electronic Public contracting	Investigation and sanction bodies.

3. Obstacles

A. The process:

- Low level of awareness about the Declaration in state agencies, civil society and other stakeholders.
- Lack of involvement from some anti-corruption authorities.
- Absence of Regional Integration body.

B. The Declaration:

- No legal sanctions for lack of compliance: create incentives, appeal to social sanction and media exposition.

C. At structural level

- Weakness of some anti-corruption agencies.
- Lack of trust of citizens on public institutions.

4. Lessons learned

A. The tool:

- It's **flexible**: space for innovation by using political will.
- Should be develop through a participatory and practical process to increase **ownership**.
- Should be articulated to previous international agreements
- **Sub-regional nature** allows faster actions and coordination efforts.
- It's a valid and **common road map** with specific mid-term deadlines.
- **Added value** should be clear: regional forum.

4. Lessons learned

B. The process:

- If possible, involve government authorities at different level.
- Articulate follow up efforts to existent anti-corruption efforts.
- Ensure wide dissemination in spite of critics.
- Invite donors –it's not an expensive tool.

C. At structural level:

- Need to strengthen mechanisms within the regional integration process to ensure implementation of anti-corruption commitments.

www.transparency.org/recrea



The screenshot displays the Transparency International website interface. At the top left is the TI logo and the tagline "the global coalition against corruption". To the right, it says "CORRUPTION RUINS LIVES. TAKE ACTION." with a small image of three faces. Below this is a navigation menu with links for "news room", "global priorities", "regional pages", "policy and research", "tools", "publications", and "support us". A secondary menu lists regions: "africa and the middle east", "americas", "asia pacific", and "europe and central asia". The main content area is titled "regional pages" and "recrea", with a "print this page" icon. A sidebar on the left contains a list of links: "recrea", "¿quiénes somos?", "declaración presidencial", "integridad en centroamérica", "información por país", "otros recursos y actividades", and "volver a tilac". Below this is a "send page to a friend" button and a "search regional pages" input field. A "page editor" box shows the name "Andrés Hernández" and the date "last modified: 18/09/2008". The main text area features a green header "Seguimiento a la Declaración Presidencial" and a paragraph of text: "El 2 de Julio de 2008 tuvo lugar en Honduras la segunda reunión de seguimiento a la 'Declaración de Guatemala Por Una Región Libre de Corrupción'. Firmada por los presidentes de Centroamérica y la República Dominicana en la XI Conferencia Internacional Anticorrupción que se celebró en noviembre de 2006 en Guatemala, la Declaración contempla compromisos para mostrar resultados reales en la lucha contra la corrupción para el 2010 en todos los países de Centroamérica y la República Dominicana." This is followed by another paragraph: "En la segunda reunión de seguimiento, los representantes de los Estados de Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica y Panamá y los capítulos nacionales de TI en la región, acordaron hacer dos veces por año una evaluación sobre el estado de implementación de los compromisos asumidos, usando un cuestionario común de seguimiento orientado a identificar logros alcanzados y objetivos por realizar. La primera fase de la evaluación culminará en noviembre de 2008." Below this is a link: "Transparency International celebra compromiso de monitorear acciones hacia una región libre de corrupción." and a final green header "Más sobre la Declaración Presidencial". On the right side, there is a map of Central America and a "Haga clic aquí para volver a las páginas de TI AC" link with the TI AC logo.