Combating Corruption: Where are we today?

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Anti-Corruption Conventions

- Reflect consensus on key issues and actions
- UN Convention Against Corruption adopted by GA
- 2 years of negotiations
- Signing begins in Mexico in December 2003
- Follows other regional and international anti-corruption conventions: OAS, OECD, EU, CoE, AU
Anti-Corruption Conferences

- Brings together leaders, activists and practitioners to share ideas and information
- International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC)
- Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity (GF)
- Other international and national events
Lessons Learned

- Prior to 1990s: corruption largely tolerated
- 1990s: awareness raising and strategizing
  - gathering data
  - national integrity strategies
- Now: implementing specific measures
  - political mobilization
  - “home grown” programmes
Lessons Learned (continued)

- "Infrastructural" dimension:
  - Legal and administrative measures
  - Public institutions

- "Cultural" dimension:
  - Critical mass of leaders
  - Commitment to change social attitudes
Corruption worse on the Poor

- Impoverishes economies
- Undermines the rule of law
- Breaks down social order and trust
- Diverts resources from basic public infrastructure
- Denies access to needed public services
Age of Globalization

- **Interpenetration of economies can permit:**
  - Continuous transactions
  - Rapid diffusion of economic benefits (or costs)

- **Interconnection of societies can permit:**
  - Linkages of networks, criminal and other
  - Rapid diffusion of social problems (or solutions)
Implementing UN Convention

- Use opportunities in a globalizing world
- A comprehensive set of standards for all:
  - Strengthening regulatory regimes
  - Creating or reinforcing institutions
  - Mobilizing and training personnel
  - Promoting cooperation for asset recovery
Conclusion: Role of the UN

- Continuing partnerships with governments, private sector, civil society
  - Fostering international discussions
  - Conducting policy analysis and research
  - Carrying out technical cooperation

- Apply Convention principles to the Secretariat: Organizational Integrity Initiative