

Paraguay President Commits to Anti-corruption Program

Culmination of year-long process with World Bank

This article originally appeared in Today, the daily E-Magazine for World Bank staff.

December 18, 2000—Paraguay's President Gonzalez Macchi recently committed publicly to implement his country's first anti-corruption program in his country. In a keynote address at a World Bank workshop on December 5, he said, "The first step to fight corruption is to recognize that there is corruption."

Macchi endorsed the Action Plan formulated by a Steering Committee over a period of one year by joining the President of the Supreme Court and the President of the Congress in signing the commitment to adopt the Action Plan in front of a 300-strong audience comprising ministers, civil society, donors, and the media.

The Steering Committee was headed by the Ministry of Presidency and composed of the Ministers of Interior, Customs and Finance, Political Assessor of the President, Controller of the Republic, Supreme Court, political parties, media, NGOs, youth, church, campesinos, workers, and the private sector.

The event, which was widely reported in the Paraguayan press, shows the President holding up the T-shirt "For a more dignified country—A Challenge—Anti-Corruption." The local press and TV carried lengthy features on the program, the action plan, and the President's speech.

The workshop, organized by the World Bank



The signing of Paraguay's first anti-corruption program is widely reported in the media



Paraguay's President Gonzalez Macchi joins the President of the Supreme Court and the President of the Congress in signing the commitment to adopt the Action Plan on anti-corruption



A 300-strong audience of ministers, civil society, donors, and the media attending the workshop organized by WBI, World Bank country office, and USAID

Institute in collaboration with the Country Office and USAID, was the culmination of the work of the Steering Committee, which was formed in May 1999 to develop a comprehensive anti-corruption program. This followed a request by the President to the Bank to conduct survey diagnostics on corruption and design an effective anti-corruption action plan for public sector reform.

The Steering Committee enabled the main government and civil society actors to agree on the problems and vulnerabilities in the public sector as well as bottlenecks for business development, which were highlighted in the results of the diagnostic surveys. The three surveys conducted in 1999—a national household survey, a private sector survey, and a public official's survey—identified priority areas for reform among the Judiciary, Procurement, and Customs. Sub committees developed policy proposals based on pilot programs in these three areas. The resulting Steering Committee's Action Plan focused on institutional reform in the areas of customs, judiciary, and procurement and has allocated responsibilities and deadlines for each action.

The transparent process, the political commitment for reform, the technical capacity to execute reforms and the civil society's participation has given credibility to the Action Plan and also empowered the stakeholders to monitor progress. Donor participation in the process has ensured support for the action program.

Useful links: For more information on the Bank and anti-corruption, go to www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance. [Click here](#) for more on the Bank's work in Paraguay.

Bank's World Today *thanks WBI's Maria Gonzalez de Asis for contributing this article.*



President Macchi holds up T-shirt: "For a more dignified country—A Challenge—Anti-Corruption"

WBI

Promoting knowledge and
learning for a better world



[Search](#) | [Index](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Help](#) | [WB Home](#)

© 2001 The World Bank Group, All Rights Reserved. Terms and Conditions