

FROM: Group 14, Athgo International Third Annual Forum at World Bank Group Headquarters
SUBJECT: Miracles of Development: Good Governance and Capacity Building

Action-Forcing Event:

The aftermath of critical political, economic, and natural catastrophes often include widespread damage to physical and social infrastructures. Such failures catalyze aid initiatives from a variety of governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations. Without creating a transparent, innovative method to combat corruption, significant percentages of aid will continue to be wasted, inhibiting the institutionalization of good governance and economic development.

Background/Analysis:

Across the global community corruption ranks as a major institutional and governmental issue that needs to be addressed. Consensus among economists and policymakers suggests that corruption impedes the effective implementation of donated aid for sustainable development initiatives in many countries. Our organization promotes full integration among all affected parties noted above in a comprehensive oversight committee while promoting a major factor of local participation through available and accessible technology and media. Such integration legitimizes the anticorruption attempt while providing multiple, transparent communication channels that hold agents of all parties accountable to one another and most importantly to the people who should be receiving the aid.

Recommendations:

- 1) Combine cooperating groups, their agents and unaffiliated locals into a committee to foster trust and to facilitate more effective reporting of corrupt practices.
- 2) Publicize aid figures, implementation goals and timetables, and the corresponding list of those recipients officially contracted to implement each phase of the initiative through word-of-mouth and all available modes of media. Updates on transactions could be publicized weekly.
- 3) Encourage local resident feedback through a strategic advertising campaign that promotes an accessible outlet for personal testimonies on the successes and failures of the partnership between donor and recipient groups. This is manifest through various, available modes including newspaper coverage, television, radio, a dedicated phone hotline, cell phone texts, user-friendly/simplified Internet website, postal mail, an on-site representative and monthly community meetings. Any physical or electronic publication of these testimonies would be reported through all available media in all local dialects of the indigenous language for transparency and legitimacy among all groups.
- 4) Organize the committee under a title distinct from those of any/all participating groups and do so in the predominant local language to legitimize the cooperative nature of this venture.
- 5) To increase accountability, the committee must notify donor groups, recipient groups, locals and relevant government agencies of any corrupt practices perpetrated by agents within or tangential to the organizations. Appropriate legal actions follow from relevant group executives.
- 6) Recipient groups with a record of preventing and reporting corruption will be added to an international, electronically accessible list of credible aid-implementation recipient groups and recommended for future contracts, should the need arise. Unaffiliated whistleblowers are to be privately commended, recommended for monetary rewards and grouped in a sub-committee spearheading local public awareness events and collective security for other whistleblowers.*

Group's Role:

We envision our group to be a global civil society organization that would initially advocate for the above changes among donor institutions and organizations. It is not our mission to carry out the above duties independently; rather, we believe that these changes should be institutionalized in their respective organizations so that the culture of oversight may permeate the aid community to stress the idea that corruption is not acceptable.

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***Addendum:** Those comfortable with public exposure could be recommended to lead a sub-committee on promoting a culture of zero-tolerance, facilitating a network of the just both for idea sharing, support, and collective security. If they are endangered (because of the status of the agent about which they report) such sub-committee meetings could specifically be re-located to “safe zones.” These could spearhead public rallies, petitions, and awareness campaigns on the drawbacks and non-tolerance of corruption. Committees could vote to earmark a limited (though adequate) proportion of aid funding for whistleblower security, or at least provide start-up funds for the public awareness campaigns designed by the whistleblowers’ sub-committees.