

Transnational Civil Society Movements

The State of Anticorruption Efforts

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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BPI	Bribe Payers' Index
CPI	Corruption Perceptions Index
CSO	civil society organization
IACC	International Anti-Corruption Conference
IAP	International Association of Prosecutors
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
IICG	International Initiative on Corruption and Governance
NGO	non-governmental organization
R&D	research and development
TI	Transparency International

Summary/Résumé/Resumen

Summary

Over the past several years there has been increasingly heated debate on issues of global concern, such as corruption. Corruption as a local and national problem has jumped out of these arenas and permeated the international arena as a result of transnational civil society actors. Global civil society organizations (CSOs) provide much of the impetus for the debate on corruption. A growing body of literature focusing on the emergence and mechanisms employed by transnational CSOs is emerging and provides a veritable mine of how they formulate alternative world views.

The paper reviews the anticorruption efforts pursued by transnational CSOs, what these organizations are, their structures and how they are evolving. It seeks to capture the activities and functions of the movement and the kind of methods they employ to achieve their goals. The paper identifies the following areas of tension: (i) issues of legitimacy and representation among transnational CSOs; (ii) the grey areas in the notion of global civil society; (iii) the North-South divide; (iv) the composition and membership of transnational civil society movements; (v) the movements' increasing use of new technology; and (vi) fallibility as an emerging concern of civil society. From these tensions arises an agenda for further research and advocacy, which includes (i) rethinking civil society, state and market boundaries, especially in the promotion of global transnational movements; (ii) legitimization of global civil society; (iii) internal assessments; (iv) problem of transnationalization; and (v) "downstreaming" of transnational movements.

The paper concludes that anticorruption movements appear to be adequate in terms of programmes, strategies and techniques. What remains to be established is the capacity of these movements to create long-term impact of reducing country-level corruption. However, civil society groups adopt different paths in their campaigns against corruption. They appear effective in forging broad alliances and coalitions with state and market institutions, thereby diluting conventional civil society boundaries.

This offers a new challenge since corruption is an issue that trespasses on different boundaries and arenas. To mount a serious anticorruption campaign thus compels social actors to go beyond the conventions of civil society, state and market boundaries. The boundaries do not just imply physical and organizational parameters, but also and, more importantly, the adjustment of approaches and strategies.

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Résumé

De plus en plus depuis quelques années, des sujets de préoccupation mondiale, tels que la corruption, donnent lieu à un débat passionné. Des acteurs de la société civile transnationale ont fait de la corruption un problème non plus seulement local et national mais aussi international. Le débat sur la corruption doit beaucoup de son dynamisme à des organisations de la société civile (OSC) mondiale. La littérature, de plus en plus abondante, consacrée à

l'émergence d'OSC transnationales et à leurs modes d'action, constitue une véritable mine de renseignements sur l'autre vision du monde qu'elles proposent.

Les auteurs s'intéressent aux efforts anticorruption déployés par les OSC transnationales, à la nature de ces organisations, à leurs structures et à la façon dont elles évoluent. Ils cherchent à définir les activités et fonctions du mouvement et le type de méthodes qu'elles emploient pour atteindre leurs objectifs. Ils recensent les domaines de tension suivants: (i) les questions de légitimité et de représentation entre les OSC transnationales; (ii) les zones floues que comporte la notion de société civile mondiale; (iii) la fracture Nord-Sud; (iv) la composition et les membres des mouvements de la société civile transnationale; (v) leur recours croissant aux nouvelles technologies; et (vi) la faillibilité comme préoccupation naissante de la société civile. De ces tensions se dégage un programme de recherche et de sensibilisation auquel figurent notamment: (i) la nécessité de repenser les frontières entre la société civile, l'Etat et le marché, en particulier dans la promotion des mouvements transnationaux mondiaux; (ii) la légitimation de la société civile mondiale; (iii) les évaluations internes; (iv) le problème du transnationalisme; et (v) les activités en aval des mouvements transnationaux.

Les auteurs concluent que les mouvements anticorruption semblent avoir des stratégies, des techniques et des programmes satisfaisants. Ce qu'il reste à établir, c'est la capacité de ces mouvements à faire reculer durablement la corruption au niveau national. Cependant, les groupes de la société civile suivent des voies différentes dans leurs campagnes contre la corruption. Elles se révèlent efficaces pour conclure de vastes alliances et coalitions avec les institutions de l'Etat et du marché et à estomper ainsi les frontières classiques qui délimitent la société civile.

Avec la corruption, qui franchit diverses frontières et gagne des domaines différents, elles sont confrontées à un nouveau défi. L'organisation d'une bonne campagne anticorruption oblige les acteurs sociaux à dépasser les conventions de la société civile, les frontières de l'Etat et du marché. Ces frontières ne supposent pas seulement l'existence de paramètres physiques et organisationnels, mais aussi et surtout une adaptation des approches et des stratégies.

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Resumen

En los últimos años se ha suscitado un candente debate sobre cuestiones de interés mundial, como la corrupción. La corrupción como problema local o nacional ha abandonado tales ámbitos y trascendido al escenario internacional como resultado de la tarea que han desempeñado diversos actores transnacionales de la sociedad civil. Las organizaciones internacionales de la sociedad civil (OSC) proporcionaron un gran impulso al debate sobre la corrupción. Cada vez es mayor el número de estudios que analizan el surgimiento de OSC transnacionales y los mecanismos que éstas emplean, material que constituye una verdadera mina de información sobre la forma en que estas organizaciones formulan visiones alternativas sobre el mundo.

En este documento se examinan los esfuerzos anticorrupción que llevan adelante las OSC transnacionales; se analiza lo qué son estas organizaciones, sus estructuras y cómo están

evolucionando. Se pretende dar a conocer las actividades y funciones de estos movimientos y el tipo de métodos que emplean para alcanzar sus metas. En este documento se identifican las siguientes áreas de tensión: (i) problemas de legitimidad y representación entre las OSC transnacionales, (ii) las zonas grises presentes en la noción de sociedad civil mundial, (iii) la división norte-sur, (iv) la composición y membresía de los movimientos internacionales de la sociedad civil, (v) el creciente uso de la tecnología por parte de los movimientos y (vi) la falibilidad como preocupación emergente de la sociedad civil. De estas tensiones surge una gama de temas que requieren mayor investigación y promoción, a saber: (i) la reconsideración de los límites entre la sociedad civil, el Estado y el mercado, en particular en cuanto a la promoción de los movimientos transnacionales, (ii) la legitimación de la sociedad civil mundial, (iii) evaluaciones internas, (iv) el problema de la transnacionalización y (v) la relación entre los movimientos transnacionales y el ámbito nacional.

En el trabajo se concluye que los movimientos contra la corrupción parecen resultar adecuados en cuanto a programas, estrategias y técnicas. Lo que queda por resolver es la capacidad de estos movimientos para tener una repercusión a largo plazo que contribuya a reducir la corrupción a nivel nacional. Sin embargo, los grupos de la sociedad civil siguen diferentes rutas en su lucha contra la corrupción. Parecen resultar eficaces en la conformación de amplias alianzas y coaliciones con las instituciones del Estado y del mercado, diluyendo de esta forma los límites convencionales de la sociedad civil.

Esta situación brinda un nuevo desafío, ya que la corrupción es un problema que traspasa límites y escenarios de diferente índole. La consolidación de una campaña anticorrupción sería obliga pues a los actores sociales a trascender las convenciones de los límites entre la sociedad civil, el Estado y el mercado. Los límites no implican meros parámetros físicos y organizativos sino también, y de mayor importancia, el ajuste de enfoques y estrategias.

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