
AI translation · View original & related papers at
chinaxiv.org/items/chinaxiv-201810.00120

Transparency International Think Tank: Working Philosophy, Operational Mechanism, and Development Trends Postprint

Authors: Gao Chunling, Gao Chunling

Date: 2018-10-19T00:00:00+00:00

Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] This study conducts an in-depth analysis of the working philosophy, operational mechanisms, and development dynamics of Transparency International, a world-leading anti-corruption think tank in Germany, aiming to provide references and insights for China's current vigorous promotion of new-type think tank construction and stringent anti-corruption endeavors.

[Method/Process] The research employs historical research methodology and case analysis methodology, combined with literature and website investigations. Simultaneously, it draws upon internationally authoritative think tank ranking reports to examine the working philosophy, development dynamics, and social contributions of Transparency International in Germany.

[Results/Conclusion] Transparency International is a renowned anti-corruption think tank in Western Europe and globally, leading the rankings in global think tank categories such as transparency and good governance think tanks and best independent think tanks. This achievement is attributable to its core values, operational mechanisms, and top-level design philosophy that it has consistently upheld for years, encompassing high quality, independence, transparency, accountability, and integrity.

Full Text

The Working Philosophy, Operational Mechanism, and Development Dynamics of Transparency International

School of Management, Liaoning Normal University, Dalian 116029

Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the working philosophy, operational mechanism, and developmental trajectory of Transparency International, the world's leading anti-corruption think tank, aiming to offer valuable insights for China's ongoing efforts to build new types of think tanks and combat corruption vigorously. **[Method/Process]** Employing historical research and case analysis methods, this study combines literature review with website-based investigation. It also draws upon authoritative global think tank ranking reports to examine Transparency International's working philosophy, developmental dynamics, and social contributions. **[Result/Conclusion]** Transparency International stands as a renowned anti-corruption think tank in Western Europe and globally, consistently ranking at the top in categories such as Transparency and Good Governance Think Tanks and Best Independent Think Tanks worldwide. This success stems from its long-standing adherence to core values of high quality, independence, transparency, accountability, and integrity, as well as its robust operational mechanisms and top-level design philosophy.

Keywords: Transparency International; think tank; core values; operational mechanism

1 Background

Corruption represents one of the most pressing social concerns worldwide. Its ramifications extend far beyond economics into the political sphere, making it both an economic and political problem. Yet defining "corruption"—identifying which behaviors and phenomena constitute corrupt acts—remains a global challenge. As American political scientist Michael Johnston notes, no issue in anti-corruption discourse has been as long-debated as the definition of corruption, nor has any issue so frequently taken priority in significant discussions [1]. Economists Andrei Shleifer and Robert Vishny define corruption as government officials selling public power for personal gain [2], while Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang describes it as state functionaries improperly using public power to obtain personal benefits—the alienation of power [3]. Currently, key concepts associated with corruption include: power, violation of norms, pursuit of private gain, degradation, public decision-making, public interest, moral decay, alienation, public officials, ruling parties, state organs, abuse, and adverse impacts.

This persistent focus on defining corruption, set against the backdrop of ongoing tensions between justice and private power abuse, reflects that corruption is not merely a regional concern but a global priority. In this context, Transparency International has maintained vigilant attention to worldwide corruption issues, promoting anti-corruption movements through a highly transparent, accountable, and check-and-balance think tank operational system. Today, Transparency International has become the most authoritative, comprehensive, and accurate international non-governmental organization studying corruption,

driving continuous efforts to foster clean political and ecological environments worldwide.

2.1 Overview of Transparency International

Founded in 1993 by a group of passionate individuals committed to stopping corruption, Transparency International is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization dedicated to promoting global anti-corruption movements [4]. Ten founders signed the Transparency International Charter of Foundation in The Hague, Netherlands, on February 9, 1993, which was formally registered with the Berlin Charlottenburg Association on June 15, 1993 [5]. Since its inception, Transparency International has worked with governments, businesses, and citizens—from rural villages in India to the corridors of power in Brussels—to give voice to victims and witnesses of corruption and to stop the abuse of power, bribery, and secret dealings. The Corruption Perceptions Index, one of Transparency International’s most famous research outputs, measures corruption levels worldwide [6]. Table 1 provides an overview of the organization.

Table 1 Overview of Transparency International

Institutional Vision | To drive the global anti-corruption movement and build a world without corruption |

Institutional Mission | To stop corruption and promote transparency, accountability, and integrity across all sectors of society |

Core Values | Transparency, accountability, integrity, solidarity, courage, justice, and democracy [7] |

Global Presence | Chapters in over 100 countries worldwide, with an international secretariat in Berlin, working with partners from government, business, and civil society to take effective measures against corruption |

Institutional Characteristics | A non-partisan, independent operational system that does not allow donors to participate in organizational decision-making, with transparent and verifiable funding sources and expenditures |

In 2015, Transparency International formulated its five-year anti-corruption strategy, “Strategy 2020,” establishing the goal of “joining forces against corruption” for the next five years. The 2020 strategy focuses on three strategic priorities: (1) people and partners; (2) prevention, enforcement, and justice; and (3) a strong anti-corruption movement [8], as illustrated in Figure 1 [Figure 1: see original paper].

2.2 Transparency International’s Interpretation of Key Terms

Transparency International provides its own interpretations and definitions of corruption, types of corruption, transparency, and related concepts.

2.2.1 Corruption and Its Types

Transparency International defines corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain [9]. Based on the scale of corruption and the sectors where it occurs, Transparency International categorizes corruption into three types: grand corruption, petty corruption, and political corruption, as detailed in Table 2 [10].

Table 2 Types of Corruption

Grand Corruption | Acts of corruption committed by high-level government officials that distort national policies or central functions, enabling leaders to benefit at the expense of public interest |

Petty Corruption | Everyday abuse of power by lower- and mid-level officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens (e.g., in hospitals, schools, police stations, or other departments) |

Political Corruption | Abuse of power by political decision-makers in resource allocation and financing to manipulate policies, institutions, and procedural rules to maintain their power, status, and wealth |

Additionally, Transparency International identifies numerous other forms of corruption, including: tax base erosion and profit shifting, hidden beneficial ownership, bribery, collusive corruption, nepotism, conflicts of interest in business, embezzlement, extortion, facilitation payments, fraud, illicit financial outflows, interest group lobbying, money laundering, nominees, offshore financial centers, sponsorship, political donations, corruption involving politically exposed persons, revolving door practices, shell companies, incitement, state capture, tax evasion/avoidance, tax havens, transfer pricing, and more [11].

The detrimental impacts of corruption on society are multifaceted. At its worst, corruption causes loss of life. Beyond that, it deprives people of freedom, health, or wealth. Broadly speaking, the costs of corruption fall into four categories: (1) political—corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law; (2) economic—corruption depletes national wealth; (3) social—corruption erodes social fabric; and (4) environmental—corruption contributes to environmental degradation [12].

2.2.2 Transparency

Throughout its long-term anti-corruption campaign, Transparency International has consistently adhered to three guiding principles: building partnerships, taking gradual steps, and maintaining a non-confrontational approach to combat corruption and promote transparency and accountability across all sectors of society.

Transparency International defines transparency as the practice of revealing rules, plans, processes, and actions, clarifying the why, how, what, and how much. High transparency ensures that officials, civil servants, managers, board

members, and businesspeople act visibly and accountably, explaining their relevant actions. This enables the public to hold them accountable, representing the most reliable method for preventing corruption and helping build trust between the public and the institutions they depend upon.

Transparency International actively works to enhance transparency and accountability across numerous domains, including sports, oil and gas, forestry resources, whistleblowing, international conventions, judicial systems, politics and government, education, private sector, climate change, multi-governmental agencies, information disclosure, defense and security, government procurement, water resources, health, humanitarian aid, poverty and development, and more [13].

3.1 Organizational Structure

Transparency International's anti-corruption movement is jointly driven by a global network of chapters, an international secretariat, a board of directors, individual members, advisory councils, and other volunteers, all governed and guided by the Transparency International Charter [14]. The supreme decision-making body is the Annual Membership Meeting, which authorizes national chapters and individual members to discuss key issues, formulate resolutions, and elect the central management body—the Board of Directors—as shown in Figure 2 [Figure 2: see original paper].

3.1.1 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is elected by the Annual Membership Meeting and is responsible for setting strategy, policy, and overseeing the think tank's operations. Board members serve three-year terms and must adhere to Transparency International's Code of Conduct (including compliance with umbrella statements and conflict of interest policies) [15]. Board committees primarily include the Membership Accreditation Committee, Ethics Committee, Anti-Corruption Awards Committee, Risk and Audit Committee, Finance Committee, Corporate Governance Committee, and Trends and Vision Committee. These committees provide recommendations to the Board on particularly important issues in global operations [16].

3.1.2 Secretariat

The Secretariat, headquartered in Berlin, plays a crucial central and leading role in driving and supporting anti-corruption actions. The Secretary-General manages departments including Network, Chapters and Programs, Advocacy and Research, External Relations, and Administrative Services, with each functional division having distinct responsibilities. The Deputy Secretary-General oversees corporate governance and special initiatives, as illustrated in Figure 3 [Figure 3: see original paper].

The Secretariat supports chapter activities worldwide, coordinates regional work through knowledge sharing, advocacy, and coalition building, and provides international support to chapters facing national pressure or intimidation [17]. The Secretariat also collaborates with chapters to develop research outputs, tools, methodologies, and policy recommendations. As a knowledge hub, the Secretariat offers unique insights into corruption dynamics and provides new approaches to addressing corruption. Additionally, the Secretariat works to increase financial and human resources to enable chapters to combat corruption more effectively.

3.1.3 Advisory Council

The Advisory Council comprises individuals with extensive experience at Transparency International from diverse geographical and cultural backgrounds and with varied professional expertise. Appointed by the Board of Directors, the Council provides advisory support for the organization's anti-corruption work [18].

3.1.4 Individual Members

Individual members provide diverse international experience and specialized knowledge for Transparency International's anti-corruption movement. In addition to national chapters, individual members are voting members at the Annual Membership Meeting [19].

In essence, national chapters and individual members constitute key components of the Transparency International movement. Policies on national chapter accreditation and individual member appointment aim to effectively protect Transparency International's integrity, cohesion, and reputation while strengthening and supporting chapters' anti-corruption efforts. Under the leadership of the Board, the Secretariat and Membership Accreditation Committee ensure transparent and collaborative review processes to guarantee that chapters and individual members continue to uphold the core values and behavioral rules of Transparency International's anti-corruption movement [20].

3.2 Accountability System

Transparency International consistently promotes accountability, integrity, and transparency, aiming to serve as a model for good governance, ethical practice, and improved transparency. Accountability is both an integral component of Transparency International's work and a long-term goal of its anti-corruption movement. Accountability is reflected in its management systems, rules and regulations, organizational structure, and policies on national chapter accreditation and individual member appointment [21]. Ethics and complaints [22]—including ethical guidelines, codes of conduct, and fundamental principles—are frequently referenced in Transparency International's operations, demonstrating the deep integration of accountability at the ethical and operational levels.

Funding and finance involve donor lists, donation policies, and financial statements that clearly specify income and expenditures. Monitoring and evaluation primarily concern impact monitoring and external assessments of Transparency International' s anti-corruption actions, as shown in Figure 4 [Figure 4: see original paper].

Transparency International' s management practices, codes of conduct, and compliance frameworks clearly define the division of responsibilities and operational systems, laying a solid theoretical foundation for the think tank' s gradual development and growth.

Since its establishment in 2008, Transparency International has been a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) steering committee, dedicated to developing a common donor reporting standard to track aid funding flows and uses. Additionally, Transparency International is a member of the International NGO Accountability Charter. Since 2008, the International Secretariat has used International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) to provide open, detailed income and expenditure information. Beyond publishing financial statements, the Secretariat also releases external evaluations, implementation plans, and operational budgets [23], earnestly fulfilling its accountability commitments.

3.3 Funding and Finance

Secure funding is essential for think tank operations, and Transparency International is no exception. Donations and other income enable Transparency International to effectively undertake anti-corruption work and combat corruption. A secure and diversified funding base ensures that Transparency International can undertake important anti-corruption work, maintain independence, protect its reputation, and operate effectively.

Transparency International' s donors primarily include government agencies, multilateral institutions, foundations, the private sector, and individuals. Additionally, funding sources include membership fees, publication revenues, and event income. Donations are unrestricted and not tied to specific projects. Typically, national chapters and the Secretariat raise funds independently. The Resource Development Department is primarily responsible for coordinating the Secretariat' s fundraising activities [24].

Given its anti-corruption mission, Transparency International places particular emphasis on reviewing funding sources. Accepting funds that contradict its historical mission would damage Transparency International' s anti-corruption reputation. Therefore, Transparency International' s donation policy explicitly states that it accepts funds (monetary or in-kind) from any donor on the condition that such funding does not compromise Transparency International' s independence, integrity, or social reputation. The policy also requires that donations exceeding €1,000 be listed by national chapters and the Secretariat in annual reports and on official websites. The Secretariat also enumerates

donors contributing over €1,000 in its financial statements. Transparency International's principle of independence requires that donors themselves accept public scrutiny; donors involved in corruption cannot expect protection from Transparency International. Furthermore, Transparency International requires corporate donors to sign an integrity pledge before accepting their contributions [25].

The Transparency International Secretariat regularly discloses all ongoing projects, which include grant agreements with donors [26]. The Secretariat's budget lists funding sources and specific amounts as a means of enhancing institutional income and expenditure transparency. Based on the 2016, 2017, and 2018 budget tables, government agencies have consistently been the primary donors, contributing 70% of total income in 2018, 57.8% in 2017, and as much as 82% in 2016. The three-year financial statements also indicate a year-by-year declining trend in donated funds, as shown in Table 3 .

Table 3 Operating Budget of TI-Secretariat (Unit: Thousands of Euros)

2018 [28]	2017 [27]	2016 [27]
Government and multilateral agencies: 18,321	Government: 12,397	Government agencies: 2,437
Foundations: 4,328	Other income sources: 2,482	Foundations: 1,377
Other income sources: 11,878		Other income sources: 3,692
Total: 22,312	Total: 21,461	Total: 18,012

4.1 Research Strength and Performance

Transparency is a crucial characteristic of think tank operations, signifying independence and neutrality. In the 2017 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report [29], Transparency International demonstrated remarkable research strength and development potential, ranking 1st globally in Transparency and Good Governance Think Tanks and Best Independent Think Tanks, 2nd in Think Tanks with the Best Quality Assurance and Integrity Policies and Procedures, 2nd in Best Use of Social Networks, 4th in Best Advocacy Campaign, 5th in Best Use of Internet, and 8th in Best External Relations/Public Engagement Programs. This paper systematically compiles all ranked categories for Transparency International in the 2017 report to effectively reveal its influence and research capacity globally and in Western Europe. It also compares rankings with the 2015 [30] and 2016 [31] reports to illustrate changes, listing the top three think tanks in each category for 2017, as shown in Table 4 .

Table 4 Transparency International' s Rankings in the 2017 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report

Category	Change from 2016	Change from 2015	Top 3 Think Tanks
Top Think Tanks World-wide			1. Brookings Institution (USA) 2. French Institute of International Relations 3. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (USA)
Top Think Tanks in Western Europe			1. French Institute of International Relations 2. Bruegel (Belgium) 3. Chatham House (UK)
Transparency and Good Governance			1. Transparency International (Germany) 2. Freedom House (USA) 3. Oxford Good Governance Committee (UK)
Best Independent Think Tanks			1. Transparency International (Germany) 2. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (USA) 3. Adam Smith Institute (UK)
Best Quality Assurance & Integrity Policies			1. RAND Corporation 2. Transparency International (Germany) 3. Brookings Institution (USA)

4.2.1 Major Anti-Corruption Publications

Transparency International's research themes span poverty and development, international conventions, defense and security, water resources, multi-governmental agencies, oil and gas, health, information disclosure, forestry resources, politics and government, government procurement, humanitarian aid, sports, judicial systems, education, whistleblowing, and more. The organization provides case studies for in-depth revelation and analysis of corruption across these domains. In each area, Transparency International identifies problems and proposes solutions while introducing current projects and activities. Additionally, Transparency International has published numerous theoretical and practical guidance documents on anti-corruption work. Table 5 lists some of Transparency International's anti-corruption domains and corresponding major publications [13].

Table 5 Transparency International's Anti-Corruption Domains and Major Publications

Domain	Major Publications
1. Poverty and Development	<i>The Anti-Corruption Catalyst: Realising the MDGs by 2015</i>
2. International Conventions	<i>Exporting Corruption: 2014 Progress Report on Enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention Civil Society Anti-Corruption Guide: UNCAC and the Private Sector Guide to Using UNCAC to Advance Anti-Corruption Work</i>
3. Defense and Security	<i>Reducing Corruption in Operations: A Guide for International Organizations Global Standards for Defense Governance</i>
4. Water Resources	<i>Water Integrity Convention: Implementation Guide for Government Officials Global Corruption Report 2008: Corruption in the Water Sector</i>
5. Multi-Governmental Agencies	<i>Lobbying Proposals for Open Government Partnership National Action Plans Proposals on Beneficial Ownership Transparency for Open Government Partnership National Action Plans</i>
6. Oil and Gas	<i>Promoting Revenue Transparency: 2011 Report on Oil and Gas Companies Promoting Revenue Transparency: 2008 Report on Revenue Transparency in Oil and Gas</i>
7. Health	<i>Real Lives, Real Stories: Asia-Pacific Region Citizens and Corruption: People's Voices from Around the World</i>
8. Information Disclosure	<i>Women, Land and Corruption: Resources for Practitioners and Policymakers G20 Brief: Open Data and Corruption (2017)</i>

Domain	Major Publications
9. Forestry Resources	<i>Global Corruption Report: Climate Change</i> <i>Corruption in the Forestry Sector: A Handbook</i>
10. Politics and Government	<i>Money, Politics, Power: Corruption Risks in Europe</i>
11. Government Procurement	<i>Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement: A Practical Guide</i> <i>Global Corruption Report 2005: Corruption in Construction and Post-Conflict Reconstruction</i>
13. Sports	<i>Global Corruption Report: Sport</i>
15. Education	<i>Global Corruption Report 2007: Corruption and Judicial Systems</i> <i>Global Corruption Report: Education</i>
16. Whistleblowing	<i>Best Practice Guide to Whistleblowing Legislation</i> <i>The Business Case for Speaking Up: How Internal Reporting Mechanisms Strengthen the Private Sector</i> <i>Whistleblowing in Europe: Legal Protections for Whistleblowers in the EU</i>
17. Private Sector	<i>Transparency in Corporate Reporting: Assessing the World's Largest Companies (2014)</i> <i>Transparency in Corporate Reporting: Assessing Emerging Market Multinationals</i> <i>Assurance Framework for Corporate Anti-Bribery Programs</i>
18. Climate Change	<i>Global Corruption Report: Climate Change</i>

4.2.2 Corruption Perceptions Index

Transparency International's flagship publication, the *Corruption Perceptions Index* (CPI), has served as the primary barometer of public sector corruption globally since its inception in 1995. The CPI measures corruption levels in public sectors worldwide based on expert opinions, assigning scores from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The index effectively reveals annual corruption levels across countries through its rankings [32].

In the 2017 CPI, which assessed 180 countries, more than two-thirds scored below 50, indicating that over 6 billion people live in countries with significant corruption. New Zealand and Denmark topped the rankings with scores of 89 and 88, respectively, while Syria, South Sudan, and Somalia scored lowest at 14, 12, and 9 points. Western Europe performed best with an average score of 66, while Sub-Saharan Africa (average 32) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (average 34) performed worst [33]. Singapore ranked 6th, the highest among Asian countries. As shown in Figure 5 [Figure 5: see original paper], darker colors indicate more severe corruption, while lighter colors represent more integrity and transparency in public sector governance.

Table 6 lists the top 20 countries/regions in the 2017 global CPI, along with

China and Russia' s rankings since 2012, offering insight into anti-corruption trends over the past six years. China' s 2017 CPI score was 41, ranking 77th. Although China' s anti-corruption efforts have achieved certain results with a gradually increasing CPI trend, corruption remains a serious and concerning issue. Russia' s CPI score was 29, ranking 135th globally, indicating that its anti-corruption work also faces an arduous journey ahead.

Table 6 CPI Rankings for Selected Countries Worldwide

Rank	Country/Region	2017					
		Score	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
1	New Zealand	89	90	91	91	91	90
2	Denmark	88	90	91	92	91	90
6	Singapore	84	84	85	84	86	87
13	Hong Kong, China	77	77	77	74	75	77
28	United States	75	74	76	74	73	73
77	China	41	40	37	36	40	39
135	Russia	29	29	29	27	28	28

4.2.3 Global Corruption Barometer

Since 2003, the *Global Corruption Barometer* (GCB) has surveyed people' s lived experiences with corruption worldwide. Thousands of citizens globally are asked about their perceptions of or personal experiences with corruption, including whether they have encountered corruption, whether they believe corruption is increasing in their country, and whether government agencies are effectively addressing corruption. These questions form the core of the GCB, which has become the world' s only important public opinion platform dedicated to corruption [34]. During 2015-2017, Transparency International published one GCB and five regional public opinion surveys, tracking citizens' corruption experiences and revealing regional corruption trends [35].

4.3 Social Contributions and Exchanges

Since its founding in 1993, Transparency International has celebrated 25 years of operation, achieving fruitful results and making tremendous contributions to global anti-corruption efforts: (1) developing comprehensive national corruption assessment indicators—the CPI and GCB—continuously used by scholars, journalists, and economists worldwide; (2) helping the OECD end tax deductibility for bribery income, written into the *OECD Anti-Bribery Convention*; (3) actively participating in drafting the *UN Convention Against Corruption*, which

provides a stronger, more global legislative framework for combating corruption; and (4) co-developing a universal anti-bribery standard—the *Business Anti-Bribery Principles*—to create clean, ethical business environments [36].

Furthermore, Transparency International has established the Transparency International School of Integrity, organizes the International Anti-Corruption Conference series, and leverages social media effectively to promote anti-corruption exchange and practice.

4.3.1 Transparency International School of Integrity

The Transparency International School of Integrity is a premier training institution for future leaders in anti-corruption and accountability. Established in partnership with Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius, the school targets senior university students, master’s candidates, and young professionals under 35 who aspire to learn how to combat corruption and achieve greater transparency in their countries. Through a rigorous selection process, admitted students undergo intensive seven-day training from anti-corruption and accountability professionals, earning 6 ECTS credits upon completion.

The school provides participants with the latest developments in anti-corruption and accountability, offering practical opportunities to test and implement their ideas. It aims to create an equitable learning environment that integrates theory and practice, helping young leaders develop better skills for disseminating anti-corruption messages. Lectures, seminars, training sessions, and field visits offer a unique blend of global and local skills, while requiring students to address relevant topics and propose novel, untested solutions. Since 2010, the school has hosted over 900 youth leaders from 110 countries, building a substantial alumni network [37].

4.3.2 International Anti-Corruption Conference Series

Founded in 1983, the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) serves as the premier global forum for civil society, academia, government, international organizations, and the private sector to combat corruption. With 1,000–2,000 participants, the conference is typically held biennially in different world regions. Managed by the IACC Council, a non-profit unincorporated body, Transparency International has served as the IACC series secretariat since 1997, playing a significant role in organizing the conference and promoting global anti-corruption exchange and cooperation [38].

4.3.3 Leveraging Social Media

Think tanks serve to provide policy recommendations and shape public opinion. Only by closely integrating research with communication can think tanks expand their influence [39]. In the digital age, using multiple communication channels and media platforms to disseminate research has become a new paradigm for

Transparency International's development and communication. In 2017, Transparency International ranked 2nd globally among think tanks making best use of social networks.

Transparency International maintains active social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, RSS, Flickr, YouTube, and LinkedIn, using these platforms to effectively combat corruption. Social media also provides channels for real-time communication between the public and Transparency International, enabling citizens to promptly understand anti-corruption domains and dynamics while providing avenues to speak out against corruption.

The 2017 CPI revealed that most countries have made little or no progress in ending corruption, while journalists and anti-corruption activists in corrupt countries risk their lives daily to speak out. Transparency International's anti-corruption experience in over 100 countries demonstrates that activists and news media play vital roles in combating corruption. Therefore, Transparency International calls on the international community to: (1) encourage freedom of expression, protect press independence, allow political dissent, and create open, participatory civil society in anti-corruption efforts; (2) minimize media regulation, including traditional and new media, ensuring journalists can work without oppression or violence; (3) promote implementation of freedom of information laws by civil society and governments; (4) leverage momentum from UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to advocate for anti-corruption reforms at national and global levels; and (5) proactively disclose public interest information as open data, including government budgets, corporate ownership, procurement, and party finances, enabling journalists, civil society, and communities to identify corruption patterns more effectively [40]. These actions represent crucial steps in the global fight against corruption.

China's anti-corruption work has always been an arduous, long-term task with a grave and complex situation. On March 20, 2018, China enacted the *Supervision Law of the People's Republic of China*, a significant measure deepening national supervision system reform. The law demonstrates the Party Central Committee's determination for "no forbidden zones, complete coverage, and zero tolerance" in anti-corruption efforts, establishing long-term mechanisms for strengthened supervision and accountability and creating systems where officials "dare not, cannot, and will not engage in corruption." This undoubtedly brings hope to China's anti-corruption efforts.

Nevertheless, we must maintain clear-headed perspectives. Beyond legal constraints, anti-corruption work should take more practical actions to serve the people, effectively participating in anti-corruption movements from livelihood protection, food safety, healthcare, environmental protection, and government governance perspectives. We must leverage public supervision mechanisms and the power of public opinion, protect journalists' personal safety and freedom of anti-corruption speech, ensure independence of anti-corruption news reporting, and learn from global anti-corruption experiences.

Transparency International's decades of anti-corruption work have yielded a series of methods: information disclosure, accountability, asset recovery, auditing, automatic exchange of financial information, codes of conduct, compliance, anti-corruption conventions, corporate anti-corruption governance, country reporting, sanctions, information disclosure, enhanced due diligence, ethical norms, corruption governance, integrity building, know-your-customer, judicial mutual assistance, national integrity system establishment, supervision, integrity conventions, political will, legislation/rule of law, transparency enhancement, and whistleblowing [41]. The Chinese government should vigorously implement the *Supervision Law* at the strategic level while drawing on Transparency International's methodologies to severely punish corruption at the tactical level. Only then can China's *Supervision Law* effectively function within our public sector supervision and livelihood supervision systems.

References

- [1] MICHAEL J. The search for definitions: the vitality of politics and the issue of corruption[J]. *International Social Science Journal*, 1996(48): 321-335.
- [2] ANDREI S, ROBERT W V. Corruption[J]. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1993, 108(2).
- [3] 李克强. 反腐败与领导班子思想作风建设 [J]. *共产党人*, 1994(1): 32-34.
- [4] Transparency International. Organisation[EB/OL]. [2018-07-13]. <https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/>
- [5] Transparency International. Faqs on Transparency International[EB/OL]. [2018-07-13]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/organisation/faqs_on_transparency_international/9.
- [6] Transparency International. About Transparency International[EB/OL]. [2018-07-13]. <https://www.transparency.org/about>.
- [7] Transparency International. Mission, vision, values[EB/OL]. [2018-07-13]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/organisation/mission_vision_and_values/0.
- [8] Transparency International. Strategy2020[EB/OL]. [2018-07-13]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/organisation/strategy_2020/1.
- [9] Transparency International. What is corruption[EB/OL]. [2018-07-15]. <https://www.transparency.org/what-is-corruption>.
- [10] Transparency International. What is corruption[EB/OL]. [2018-07-15]. <https://www.transparency.org/what-is-corruption#define>.
- [11] Transparency International. Glossary[EB/OL]. [2018-07-15]. <https://www.transparency.org/glossary>.
- [12] Transparency International. Faqs on corruption[EB/OL]. [2018-07-15]. http://www.transparency.org/whoweare/organisation/faqs_on_corruption.
- [13] Transparency International. Topic[EB/OL]. [2018-07-15]. <https://www.transparency.org/topic>.
- [14] Transparency International. Governance[EB/OL]. [2018-07-18]. <https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/>

- [15] Transparency International. Code of conduct[EB/OL]. [2018-07-18]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/organisation/code_of_conduct_for_the_board_of_directors/5.
- [16] Transparency International. Board committees and task forces[EB/OL]. [2018-07-18]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/organisation/board_committees_and_task_forces/5.
- [17] Transparency International. Secretariat[EB/OL]. [2018-07-18]. <https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/c>
- [18] Transparency International. Advisory council[EB/OL]. [2018-07-18]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/organisation/advisory_council/0.
- [19] Transparency International. Individual members[EB/OL]. [2018-07-18]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/organisation/individual_members/0.
- [20] Transparency International. National chapter accreditation and individual member appointment policy[EB/OL]. [2018-07-18]. <https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/accountability/n>
- [21] Transparency International. Accountability[EB/OL]. [2018-07-20]. <https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/accountability>.
- [22] Transparency International. Ethics[EB/OL]. [2018-07-20]. <https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/accou>
- [23] Transparency International. IATI[EB/OL]. [2018-07-20]. <https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/accoun>
- [24] Transparency International. Funding and financials[EB/OL]. [2018-07-20]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/accountability/funding_and_financials/2.
- [25] Transparency International. Transparency international donations policy[EB/OL]. [2018-07-20]. https://www.transparency.org/files/content/ouraccountability/19_10_2014_Trans
- [26] Transparency International. TI-S 2017 operating budget[EB/OL]. [2018-07-22]. https://www.transparency.org/files/content/ouraccountability/TI-S_Project_Grants_2017.pdf.
- [27] Transparency International. TI-S 2016 operating budget[EB/OL]. [2018-07-22]. https://www.transparency.org/files/content/ouraccountability/TI-S_2016_budget.pdf.
- [28] Transparency International. TI-S 2018 operating budget[EB/OL]. [2018-07-22]. https://www.transparency.org/files/content/ouraccountability/TI-S_2018_budget.pdf.
- [29] MCGANN J. 2017 global go to think tank index report[EB/OL]. [2018-07-22]. https://repository.upenn.edu/think_tanks/13/.
- [30] MCGANN J. 2015 global go to think tank index report[EB/OL]. [2018-07-22]. https://repository.upenn.edu/think_tanks/10/.
- [31] MCGANN J. 2016 global go to think tank index report[EB/OL]. [2018-07-22]. https://repository.upenn.edu/think_tanks/12/.
- [32] Transparency International. CPI[EB/OL]. [2018-07-26]. www.transparency.org/research/cpi.
- [33] Transparency International. Corruption perceptions index 2017[EB/OL]. [2018-07-26]. https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2017.

- [34] Transparency International. GCB[EB/OL]. [2018-07-26]. <https://www.transparency.org/research/gcb>.
- [35] Transparency International. Publication[EB/OL]. [2018-07-26]. <https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/>
- [36] Transparency International. Faqs on Transparency International[EB/OL]. [2018-07-28]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/organisation/faqs_on_transparency_international.
- [37] Transparency International. About school[EB/OL]. [2018-07-28]. <https://transparencyschool.org/about-school/>.
- [38] Transparency International. IACC series[EB/OL]. [2018-07-28]. https://www.transparency.org/whoweare/accountability/international_anti_corruption_conference_iacc_ser
- [39] 赵剑英. 促进智库发展提高传播能力 [EB/OL]. [2018-07-31]. <http://www.scio.gov.cn/zhzc/10/Document/1468693>
- [40] Transparency International. Corruption perceptions index 2017[R]. 2018: 2.
- [41] Transparency International. Anti-corruption solutions[EB/OL]. [2018-07-31]. <https://www.transparency.org/glossary>.

Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

Source: ChinaXiv –Machine translation. Verify with original.