11. Uluslararası Etik Zirvesi

8 Ekim 2024 Tarihinde Hilton İstanbul Bosphorus Otel'de Gerçekleştirilecek

Yapay Zekâ, Teknoloji ve Etik

Abdi İpekçi ve Etik

Güçlü Etik Kültüre Sahip Olmak, Kuruluşu Daha Güçlü Kılar

İş Etiği ve Uyum Politikalarının Ticari Hayattaki Yeri ve Önemi AI, Teknoji ve Etik:

Geleceği Şekillendirirken Değerlerimize Sahip Çıkmak



5th International Collective Action Conference in Basel, Switzerland

Putting business integrity on the global agenda

Yazar: Liza Young

The fifth International Collective Action Conference, held in Basel, Switzerland, at the end of June 2024, was themed "Putting business integrity on the global agenda." It built on the success of four previous Basel-based conferences and two regional Forums held in South Africa and the Philippines in 2023. This year, around 200 Collective Action practitioners from all public and private sectors, civil society, international organisations, and academia attended the conference. The 2024 edition had a stronger representation of the private sector – 30 percent of overall participants – showcasing its eagerness to join the fight against corruption.



eter Maurer, President of the Board of the Basel Institute, gave an inspirational speech, setting the scene during the opening ceremony as he recalled the special context in which the conference took place. He emphasised that, with the recent in-

ternational upheavals, there is no time like the present to put Collective Active on the global agenda: "Despite threats to the rules-based order [...], traditional institutions such as the United Nations and OECD have not disappeared. They are, in fact, making notable efforts to adapt to new realities

by bringing best practices to the fore and promoting innovative solutions. Of these, Collective Action and other forms of multi-stakeholder cooperation are proving to be some of the most promising."

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The conference then led to inspiring panel sessions on a diverse range of topics. Discussions highlighted the strong willingness of each sector to take its fair share of responsibility and play its role in the common fight against corruption.

In the panel session on regulatory and normative approaches, representatives of the public sector and international organisations agreed that governments play a central role in promoting Collective Action as a norm, and going beyond en-

forcing standards and sanctioning violations to incentivising and guiding companies on how to establish anti-corruption and integrity compliance processes.

In the session on the evolution and variety of Collective Action initiatives, panellists confirmed that such multi-stakeholder initiatives have great potential, while challenges remain to translate these collaborative efforts into tangible actions, increase visibility and attract new stakeholders.

The private sector panel signalled that anti-corruption or integrity compliance is an ongoing process and that compliance policies must take into account that SMEs especially are faced with resource and capacity constraints. Key in making compliance effective is education and training within companies and along the supply chain.

Development finance institutions and investors also had the opportunity to share their experiences. Apart from conducting thorough due diligence before engaging with any entities seeking funding, DFIs can transform the power they hold into business integrity capacity building for their clients.



Building a Collective Action community of practice

In 2022, the Basel Institute launched the Collective Action Mentoring Programme to support non-profit organisations in the development of their Collective Action initiatives through the creation of dedicated spaces for practitioners to exchange and learn from one another. From providing one-on-one tailored mentoring to organising regular group meetings, the pro-

gramme has evolved and caters to the unique needs of the different mentees.

By doing so, the programme has fostered a dynamic and global Collective Action community of practice that engages in regular peer learning activities and shares opportunities worldwide.

During a panel session titled "Building a Collective Action community of practice", four out of 14 members of the Ba-

sel Institute's mentoring programme shared their experiences in fostering a community and the benefits they see in leveraging the power of a group. The speakers reflected on the variety of initiatives and the broad geographical scope of the Collective Action community of practice, highlighted the benefits of being part of such a network, including overcoming challenges collectively, and discussed how to foster a more structured community moving forward.

Impressions from the panel discussion include:



Noah Arshinoff, Director, Canadian Centre of Excellence for Anti-Corruption: "The biggest challenge that we faced was the feeling of isolation in Canada. So, we started working abroad to try floating down the river with others rather than swimming upstream alone."





Oscar Caipo Ricci, President of the Board of Directors, Empresarios por la Integridad (Entrepreneurs for Integrity): "We are not alone, it is clear – there are many good people doing good things – ever since we started working in Collective Action, we have connected with a great community."



Joe Chingani, Chairperson of the Multi-Stakeholder Group, CoST Infrastructure Transparency Initiative Malawi: "The mentoring programme has been like a torch in the dark for us."



Ken Graversen, founder and board member, Fight against Facilitation Payments Initiative (FAFPI): "True community feeling gives us the energy to become ambassadors for business integrity."

The panel session allowed Collective Action practitioners to explore ways to collaborate more effectively. It received positive feedback from the audience, extending the discussion beyond the mentoring programme. Indeed, the feeling of being alone, as anti-corruption fighters, and especially as Collective Action practitioners, was one of the common challenges most prominently highlighted. The community of practice that is forming among the mentees offers practitioners the opportunity to be part of a network and share knowledge and best practices to act as Collective Action facilitators (setting up a sustainable governance structure, tailoring funding models, communicating impact).



The Gretta Fenner Outstanding Achievement in Collective Action and Inspirational Newcomer Awards

One special highlight of the conference was the ceremony for the International Collective Action Awards. Launched in 2022, these Awards recognise and celebrate leading organisations in Collective Action. In 2023, two regional awards were presented at the Southern Africa and Asia-Pacific Collective Action Forums.

This year, following the tragic passing of the Basel Institute's Managing Director and Collective Action champion Gretta Fenner in April 2024, the Outstanding Achievement Award has been renamed after her. As Gemma Aiolfi, who led the Basel Institute's Compliance and Collective Action work for many years, mentioned in her moving tribute: "[Gretta] embraced the concept [of Collective Action] because it resonated with her. [...] She supported and advocated for its inclusion in the OECD Anti-Bribery Recommendation, as well as in ot-

her guidance and policy documents, such as in National Anti-Corruption Strategies."

- The Gretta Fenner Outstanding Achievement in Collective Action Award went to the <u>Agribusiness Anti-Corruption Collective Action in Brazil</u>, which aims to enhance integrity within Brazil's agribusiness sector and its supply chain.
- Organisations and initiatives awarded in this category have made significant contributions towards fairer market conditions and corruption prevention through their engagement in Collective Action.
- In the category of Inspirational Newcomer, the award went to the <u>Transparency 100% Movement of the UN Global Compact Network Brazil</u>. This initiative encourages companies in Brazil to go beyond legal requirements and commit to five ambitious transparency goals for 2023.



Join and engage with the Collective Action community of practice!

If you are interested in joining forces, there are many ways to do so.



• B20 Collective Action Hub.

The Basel Institute is host to the B20 Collective Action Hub database, which gathers information about over 300 initiatives worldwide. You can explore the database and see what is happening in your country or in your sector of activity! An up-to-date library and comprehensive information about Collective Action tools are also available on the B20 Hub.

Helpdesk

You can also ask the Basel Institute's team a question about any aspect of anti-corruption Collective Action and get free advice within 10 days. Ask away!

• Follow-up webinar on 19 September: taking it further

If you haven't had the chance to participate in the June conference, the Basel Institute is hosting a webinar on 19 September 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. as a follow-up to the conference. This event will also serve as a platform to introduce hands-on Collective Action tools

for anti-corruption practitioners from all sectors, including the launch of Basel Institute's first e-learning course on Collective Action. Register here.

• Still unsure where to start?

If you're still unsure where or how to start your initiative, feel free to reach out today to Basel Institute's Collective Action Associate, Liza Young (liza.young@baselgovernance.org) for tailored advice, support, and technical assistance

