Corruption is a source of violation of Human Rights and generates poverty and under development.

SUPPORT OUR WORK:
Fighting corruption requires resources. TI-SL needs resources to effectively engage in the fight against corruption. We will be grateful for any support received: Technical, Financial, Equipment, Stationery etc.
Early this year, the Ebola Virus Disease was detected in Guinea, a neighboring country with Sierra Leone. A few months later, the disease spread to Liberia which also shares boundary with Guinea and Sierra Leone. This caused apprehension among some people in Sierra Leone and several section of the population especially the media began discussing possible steps to prevent the spread of the disease into Sierra Leone.

It is a fact that almost all ailments affecting the neighboring countries of Guinea and Liberia especially the notable Cholera, always end up finding its way into Sierra Leone.

Unfortunately, the necessary bold actions that were necessary to be put in place to prevent the spread of the disease to Sierra Leone such as the immediate tightening of the borders and other crossing points, the restriction of the movement of people across both borders with Guinea and Liberia backed by the rigorous screening of people crossing the borders for signs of the disease was not put in place. At last the Ebola Virus Disease has spread into Sierra Leone.

This has led to various efforts being made by government especially, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and non state actors to contain the disease as it is currently limited to the Kailahun District. Civil Society organizations have also formed a Civil Society Ebola Response Coalition to embark on activities geared towards curbing the spread of the disease.

It is hoped that all these efforts taken by the government of Sierra Leone and development partners will go a long way to stem the spread of the disease.
As corruption continues to become prevalent in many countries, so are numerous efforts and initiatives being taken to ensure that Transparency, Accountability, and Integrity prevails. One such measure is Asset Disclosure. Asset Disclosure is a process which necessitates the declaration of wealth in terms of monies, properties etc accrued during service in the public entity. Asset Declaration serves as a tool for detecting and preventing illicit enrichment and conflicts of interest among public officials.

In a bid to promote the effective use of state resources, a three-day Regional Conference was organized from 26th to 28th May in Dakar, Senegal by the United Nation Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), The French Embassy, The World Bank, the Open Society Initiative For West Africa (OSIWA), The United Nation Development Fund the OFNAC Office of the Fight against Fraud and Corruption (OFNAC) in Senegal, the Center of Studies and Action–Research on Governance (CERAG) and the Governance and Peace Program of USAID in Senegal.

The purpose of the Regional Conference was as follows:

1. To obtain a comprehensive overview of the legislation and practices on asset disclosure in West and Centre Africa;
2. To share technical experiences between the countries of the region, including good practices, innovations and the political, economic and legal issues of the asset disclosure;
3. To adopt a Communiqué outlining guiding principles to encourage the countries of the region to put in place adequate practices and policies in terms of collecting and verifying the To adopt a research and advocacy strategy on asset disclosure for countries in the region.
The following participants were invited to the Conference:

- Public officials in charge of asset disclosure;
- Parliamentarians who have a specific interest in the issue of asset disclosure;
- University researchers and representatives of civil society;

The target countries were the following:

Benin, Cameroun, Cape Verde, Cote D’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Sao Tome Principle, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Comoros was also associated with the conference given it current interest in asset disclosure issue.

The conference was officially opened by His Excellency Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal.

Sierra Leone was represented by Mrs. Lavina Banduah of Transparency International Sierra Leone, and Mr. Brimah Thullah of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone.

The three day discussion led to the development of a Dakar Declaration on Asset Disclosure, adopted in Dakar on 28th May 2014. (see the Dakar Declaration on Asset Disclosure on Page:- 12.)
A Two-Day Consultative Meeting was organized by TI Secretariat in Berlin, Germany on Raising Resources for TI’s work in Africa from 29th to 30th May 2014, at Hotel Onomo in Dakar, Senegal.

The meeting mainly targeted TI’s National Chapters in West and Central Africa. The purpose of the meeting was due to various and recent trends in donor support for TI’s work which has necessitated the need for internal reflections on TI’s approaches and resources for its work. Due to funding challenges faced by the Africa Department, TI also sort to increase its fundraising efforts with a focus on:

1. Seeking resources for what TI does jointly in Africa with a regional dimension and

2. Diversifying the donors that are usually approached. Participants comprised the Executive Directors/Representatives from the following chapters: Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Niger from West Africa and Cameroun from Central Africa.

A similar meeting had been held on 26th and 27th April 2014 in Kigali Rwanda.


The Event was well attended by representatives from the Diplomatic Corps in Sierra Leone, government officials: Ministers and Civil servants, Religious and Traditional Authorities, the Media Civil Society and other key stakeholders in Freetown and the 14 Districts.

The ceremony was chaired by Dr. Julius Sandy, Secretary to the Vice President and Chairman of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Steering Committee. TISL was represented at the event by the Executive Director, Mrs Lavina Banduah who is a member of the NACS Steering Committee to implement the NAC’S 2008 to 2013

The Consultant, Mr. Mohamed Abu Sesay gave an Overview of the NACS 2014-2018.

Brief statements were made by the British High Commissioner and the Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission.

The NACS 2014-2018 was officially launched by Professor Monty Jones Special Adviser to His Excellency the President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Ms. Koloneh Sankoh Acting Director Public Education and External Outreach Department.
In October 2013, the Government of Sierra Leone submitted an Expression of Interest to participate in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), an international, voluntary effort to improve government’s performance, encourage civic participation and enhance government responsiveness to people.

The Steering Committee nominated in March 2013, embarked on several activities in addition to its regular meetings to further promote the process geared towards the development of the National Action Plan.

The Steering Committee identified the following three Grand Challenges for Sierra Leone:

- Improving Public Integrity.
- More Effective Management of Public Resources.
- Improving Corporate Accountability.

The Committee further indentified the Objectives and Commitment Areas for each of the Grand Challenges.

- A Nationwide Sensitization Exercise to all 14 districts on the process as a whole.
- A District Level Consultation for citizens input into the draft National Action Plan.
- Interactive Meetings with Sierra Leoneans in the Diaspora to enable them make their input to the process and the draft National Action Plan.

Following these and other Interactive Engagements in Ireland, UK, the Philippines, Berlin, Germany among others. The draft National Action Plan was finalized and submitted.

Feedback and final Approval is awaited.

The Objectives and Commitment areas are as follow:
Objective 1: Public integrity improved vis-à-vis the promotion of more effective transparency and accountability measures for public officials

1. Develop and implement a Public Integrity Pact with 5 pilot MDAs that identifies key commitments in line with Section 8 -- Public Integrity -- of the ACC Act, 2008 to improve public trust in public service delivery and to ensure effective accountability of public officials.

   Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:

   a) Dissemination, administration and enforcement of existing integrity policies to improve public trust strengthened.

   b) 5 pilot MDAs selected to sign an integrity pact with ACC on key commitments to reduce corruption in their Institutions.

   c) Service charters for 20% MDAs (including 5 pilot MDs for integrity pacts) which clearly identifies the service provided, timeframe to expect service to be rendered and any associated costs developed and displayed with clearly visible complaints mechanisms to identify when services are not rendered according to published procedures and timeframes.

   d) Yearly assessment of integrity commitments undertaken for 5 pilot MDAs. Pass a robust and proactive Archives and Records Management Act to support the implementation of the Right to Access Information Act in a bid to improve public transparency

   Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:

   a) Public consultations on the Archives and Records Management Bill undertaken.

   b) Draft tabled in Cabinet by the Ministry of Information and Communication in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

   c) Capacity and needs assessment in records management completed.

   d) Bill submitted to Parliament by Ministry of Information and Communication.

   e) Archives and Records Management Bill passed by Parliament.

   f) Establish of an e-governance infrastructure

Objective 2: Improved management of public resources through reducing opportunities for wastage, ensuring value for money and improved transparency in budget management
3. Scale up and deepen the activities of the Performance Management and Service Delivery Directorate to improve accountability and increase civic participation in governance.

**Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:**

- a) All assessments of MDAs covered by PMSD published in a yearly volume to be made available to the public in print and online mediums.
- b) 9 pilot MDAs for implementation selected.
- c) Ensure that in the planning and budget cycle for an initial 9 piloted MDAs; yearly activity plans are prepared in conjunction with procurement plans which will be the basis of budgets submitted for consideration to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The planning cycle and fiscal cycle must be synchronized to ensure that the activity based budget by MOFED is in fact informed by proper planning vis-à-vis a robust activity and procurement plan, which should inform budget preparation.
- d) Town Hall meeting held not more than 2 months after publication to engage the public on the findings by the Performance Management and Service Delivery Directorate through a public bi-yearly assessment of the performance contracts.

4. Increase compliance with audit measures to improve transparency and accountability in public resource spending

**Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:**

- a) White Paper prepared by the Executive that addresses key mechanisms and actions that Government intends to take to implement the recommendations of the annual Audit report with the view of reviewing recommendations.
- b) Policy paper to advice the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee with regard to placing limitations on length of time their review and deliberations and the publishing of the audit report. This policy paper will be prepared by Open Government Partnership Sierra Leone National Steering Committee.
- c) At least 50% of the published Audit Report and/or PAC recommendations implemented by relevant MDAs and these actions made public during the annual performance contracting assessment process.
Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:

a) Single Treasury Account established by undertaking a census of all Government Bank accounts and findings made public.

b) Procedures and mechanisms implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in collaboration with relevant institutions will run a Single Treasury Account (STA) which will form the basis of a new Memorandum of Understanding with relevant Banks on the modus operandi of Government transactions based on STA Model.

6. Enact an Extractive Industry Revenue Act (EIRA) to promote transparency and accountability in the granting of tax incentives

Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:

a) Public consultations held on the Bill within a reasonable time frame.

b) Bill tabled in Cabinet by Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

c) Bill tabled in Parliament.

d) Bill passed by Parliament and enacted.

7. Scaling up extractive industry transparency initiatives

Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:

a) EITI Bill tabled in Cabinet by the relevant MDA (Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources or the Office of the Chief of Staff).

b) EITI Bill passed by Parliament.

c) Publish the process and outline the checks and balances carried out for allocation of licenses by the Mines and Mineral Resources Ministry and the Petroleum Directorate.

b) EITI Bill passed by Parliament.

d) Disclose environmental impact assessments prior to the award of any extractives rights.

e) Perform audits and publish reports of the Diamond Area Community Development Fund and the Community Development Fund.
Objective 3: improved corporate accountability through more transparent negotiation processes for mining activities and the utilization of open data portals to give the public access to mining contracts and other relevant documents.

8. Improve monitoring of the Local Content Policy (LCP) especially around monitoring the implementation of activities and improving linkages with MDAs in order to improve local participation and accountability in the process.

Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:

a) Setting up of an MDA linkage mechanism (revival of the implementing committee) to inform the implementation and monitoring of the local content policy to ensure more efficient sharing of information across key implementing institutions facilitated.

b) An audit of the implementation of the local Content Policy to inform the development of a Local Content Bill to be undertaken.

c) Local Content Bill tabled by Ministry of Trade and Industry in Cabinet.

d) Local Content Bill discussed and ratified by Parliament and passed into law.

9. 70% of all Mining and Agricultural lease agreements and contracts revised and made public with a view to improve transparency, accountability and public participation.

Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:

a) 70% of mining and agricultural contracts published on the yet to be established open data portal, in addition to the websites of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, National Minerals Agency and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security.

b) Publish processes and outline the checks and balances carried out for allocation of licenses by the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources and the Petroleum Directorate.

c) A yearly symposium held of private sector partners, relevant communities, Government and Civil Society Organizations to discuss the state of contract execution.

d) Public discussions held on all new Mining licenses and Agribusiness contracts before they are signed by Government with relevant documentation prepared for public dissemination by the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security.
e) Participating companies make public their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies and yearly Work Plan (online posting a minimum) to facilitate operation of the Community Development Agreement and ascertained by the Strategy and Policy Unit. Adherence monitored by the National Minerals Agency in a yearly assessment of the respective work plans of the participating Companies.

10. Implementation of the Right to Access Information Law

**Actions Required/Milestones for Completion:**

a) Regulations to implement the Right to Access Information Act developed.
b) 250 public information officers in 13 Districts within the first year of implementation trained.
c) Public sensitization campaigns launched for both Government and non-government users.
d) Public Information Commission established with Commissioner(s) identified.

11. Establish an open data portal to improve transparency in fiscal and extractive transactions.
From 26th till 28th of May 2014, officials in charge of asset disclosure from 16 countries from West and Central Africa met in Dakar (Senegal) for the Regional Conference on Asset Disclosure in order to study current policies and practices in the region. The Conference was held under the auspices of His Excellency Mister Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal.

The Conference aimed to provide an overview of different legislations on this matter, share technical experiences on collection and verification of asset declarations, adopt guidelines, as well as set out a research and advocacy strategy to enhance the current systems in place.

Even if nowadays most countries in the sub-region have adopted legislation on asset disclosure, these legislations are often unsatisfying. Indeed, it is clear, in West and Central Africa, that too few officials declare their assets and too few verifications are carried out by the institutions in charge. Moreover, there exist almost no effective sanctions for those who don’t submit their asset declaration or those who submit false information. Finally, very little control is conducted by civil society, the media, or the elected representatives on the Central Africa.

The Conference allowed for an in-depth analysis of the current situation of asset disclosure in West and Central Africa. In addition, the Conference allowed for exchanges on the latest evolutions and innovations on the subject matter. Apart from public officials in charge of asset disclosure systems, parliamentarians with a specific interest in the issue, academic researchers, members of civil society, representatives of regional organizations, and experts coming from other regions in the world also took part in the proceedings.

The Conference was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with the National Office for the Fight against Fraud and Corruption in Senegal (OFNAC), the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Centre of Studies and Action research on Governance (CERAG), the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), the Governance and Peace program of USAID in Senegal (USAID/PGP) and the French Embassy. Following exchanges on current policies and practices in terms of collection and verification of asset declarations in West and
the participants of the Regional Conference on Asset Disclosure adopted the following conclusions:

**Considering that** the Conference aimed at examining the current situation of asset disclosure systems and elaborating guidelines on asset disclosure for the West and Central Africa region;

**Conscious** of the diversity of asset disclosure systems currently established in the region managed by a variety of institutions such as Constitutional Courts, Supreme Courts, Courts of Audit, Anti-Corruption Authorities, and General Auditors;

**Recalling** international obligations and commitments at global and regional levels concerning asset disclosure;

**Recalling** in particular Article 8 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption providing that “Each State Party shall endeavour […] to establish measures and systems requiring public officials to make declarations to appropriate authorities regarding, inter alia, their outside activities, employment, investments, assets and substantial gifts or benefits from which a conflict of interest may result with respect to their functions as public officials;

**Recalling** also the Article 7 of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption that stipulates that “State Parties commit themselves to require all or designated public officials to declare their assets at the time of assumption of office, during and after their term of office in the public service.

**Recalling** also that according to Article 5 of the ECOWAS Protocol on the Fight against Corruption: “Each State Party shall take measures to establish and consolidate policies that oblige public officials to disclose assets, liabilities, and copies of their income tax returns. The disclosure rules should be extended to at least the spouses and dependent children of the public officials. Provisions should be made to ensure that the information provided shall not be misused”;

**Recalling** finally the Articles 7 of the Transparency (and Good Governance) Codes in the Management of Public Finances of the UEMOA and the CEMAC that provide that “the holders of any public authority, elected or senior officials, submit a declaration of assets at the beginning and at the end of their mandate or function. A specific law specifies the conditions and the scope of application of this principle and defines the offences and sanc-
Noting with satisfaction the “High-Level Principles on asset disclosure by public officials” that were adopted by the G20 in Mexico;

1. **Recommend** the following guidelines to strengthen the systems of asset disclosure:

   - **LEGAL FRAMEWORK:** Asset disclosure systems and their implementation should be based on comprehensive, clear and adequate legislative and regulatory provisions.

   - **DECLARANTS:** Declarants should include all civil and military high-level authorities, public officials having financial responsibilities, public officials having a decision-making power and public officials particularly exposed to corruption risks, including judges, prosecutors, parliamentarians, elected officials, local authorities, chief executives of public and para-public companies, members of anti-corruption authorities, commanders of security forces, authorizing officers, public accountants, and all managers of organisations significantly subsidized by the state.

   - **ASSETS TO DECLARE:** The assets to declare should include real estate, tangible and intangible movable property, incomes of any kind, sponsored trips, debts, gifts, life insurances, local and foreign bank account assets, shares in companies, inheritances, livestock, and unexplained variations, etc., that affected the assets of the declarant.

   - **FREQUENCY:** Asset declarations should be submitted on a regular periodic basis, including during the mandate of the public official, so the real and current situation can be monitored, as well as the substantial variations of asset.

   - **INSTITUTIONS:** The institutions in charge of the collection and the verification of asset declarations should be independent, have financial and administrative autonomy, and dispose of competent staff dedicated to the management of asset declarations.
• **SUFFICIENT AND RELIABLE RESOURCES:** The institutions in charge of asset declarations should have sufficient human and financial resources to carry out their tasks, taking into account the number of declarants. They should have access to timely, planned, reliable and adequate resources for the gradual capacity development and improvement of their activities, as well as the fulfilment of their mandate.

• **VERIFICATION:** All asset declarations should be subjected to verification to ensure the accuracy, completeness, veracity and sincerity of the received information.

• **TECHNOLOGY:** The institutions in charge of asset declarations should invest in the development and the ability to handle new technologies in order to enhance the effectiveness of their system.

• **SANCTIONS:** Asset disclosure systems should be accompanied by adequate, dissuasive and effective sanctions in case of non-compliance, delay or false declaration.

• **SENSITIZATION:** Declarants should be sensitized about their obligation to submit asset declarations and about the relevant procedures to follow.

• **ACCOUNTABILITY:** The institutions in charge of asset declarations should regularly communicate to the public about their activities.

2. **Encourage** the institutions in charge of the asset declaration to promote the principles cited above within they respective agencies, countries and networks.

**Invite** all the institutions in charge of asset disclosure to encourage their respective governments to promote the above principles in international forums on the fight against corruption.

• **Express** their appreciation and gratitude to the Senegalese authorities, notably the National Office for the Fight against Fraud and Corruption (OFNAC) for hosting the Regional Conference on Assets Disclosure for West and Central Africa with the support from UNODC, UNDP, the World Bank, CERAG, OSIWA, USAID and the French Embassy in order to reflect and agree on the principles for the institutions in charge of asset declarations.
42. ABUSE OF OFFICE  
(1) A Public officer who uses his office to improperly confer an advantage on himself of any other person commits an offence.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall on conviction be liable to a fine not less than thirty million leones or imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

43. ABUSE OF POSITION  
A public officer who knowingly abuses his position in the performance or failure to perform an act, in contravention of any law, in the discharge of his functions or duties commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not less than thirty million leones or to imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

44. PUBLIC OFFICER USING HIS OFFICE FOR ADVANTAGE  
(1) Subject to subsection (3), a public officer who makes use of his office or position for advantage for himself or another person commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not less than thirty million leones or to imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a public officer shall be presumed until the contrary is proved, to have made use of his office or position for an advantage where he has taken any decision or action in relation to any matter in which he or a relative or associate of his, has a direct or indirect interest.

(3) This section shall not apply to a public officer who –
(a) hold office in a public body as a representative of a body corporate which holds shares or interests in that public body; and
(b) acts in that capacity in the interest of that body corporate.

45. CONFLICT OF INTEREST  
(1) where a public body in which a public officer is a member, director, employee or is otherwise engaged proposes to deal with any company, partnership or other undertaking in which that public officer shall forthwith disclose, in writing to that public body, the nature of such interest.

(2) Where a public officer or a relative or associate of such public officer has a personal interest in a decision to be taken by a public body, that public officer shall not vote or take part in any proceedings or process of that public body relating to such decision.

(3) A public officer who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not less than thirty million leones or to imprisonment for not less than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment.
Transparency International Sierra Leone, formerly the National Accountability Group is a local non-profit, non-governmental anti-corruption advocacy civil society organization established as a taskforce in 2001 under Campaign for Good Governance after 7 professional Sierra Leoneans participated in the Annual Members Meeting and International Anti Corruption Conference in Prague, Czech Republic organized by Transparency International. The trip was funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Sierra Leone and the Open Society Institute (OSI) in New York and was organized and led by the then Coordinator of Campaign for Good Governance and former Executive Director of NAG, Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura.

In July 2004, TISL formerly NAG was reorganized as an independent organization with a mandate to achieve greater accountability, transparency and integrity in private and public affairs. Its work is dedicated to curb corruption by holding local and national governments and public duty bearers accountable to the people of Sierra Leone.

In September 2001, after duly serving as a local in the formation and completing a Self Assessment of TI for Full Chapter status, TISL was granted Full Accreditation by TI Secretariat as the Local Chapter in Sierra Leone. This has led to the change of name and logo in April 2011.

Core Programme Focus Areas
TISL’s core programme focus areas are as follows:

- Research and Surveys.
- Public Education, Awareness Raising and coalition building.
- Monitoring.
- Institutional capacity building
- Grant Making

Mission
“To empower the citizenry of Sierra Leone through education and participation to demand accountability, transparency and integrity from government, private sector and civil society, to curb corruption and better the lives of the people”

Vision
To have a country in which the Government, the business community, civil society and the daily lives of the people are free from corruption.

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