

Citizens Against Corruption: Report from the Front Line by Pierre Landell-Mills

Citizens Against Corruption: Report From The Front Line tells the story of how groups of courageous and dedicated citizens across the globe are taking direct action to root out corruption. Based on extensive practical experience through the work over more than a decade supported by The Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF), this book shows how ordinary people are no longer prepared to accept the predatory activities of dishonest officials and are successfully challenging their scams.

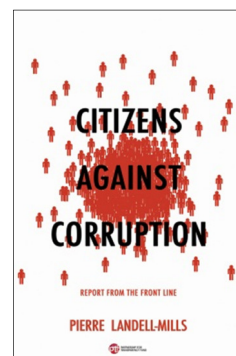


Author Landell-Mills, co-founder and first president of PTF, states: “This book draws on over 200 case studies that describe impressive initiatives undertaken over the past decade by 130 civil society organizations (CSOs) in 53 countries which engage directly with public agencies to stop the bribery and extortion that damages peoples’ lives and obstructs social and economic progress.”

He adds, “This book challenges the notion that, at best, civil society can only have a marginal impact on reducing corruption. Quite the opposite; it argues that CSOs have demonstrated again and again that their impact can be game-changing.”

Examples from some of the poorest countries in the world show how a single CSO initiative can save several million dollars. Several million such initiatives can transform the way government does business, making public agencies accountable to those they serve. The message is clear: aid donors need to radically rethink their assistance for governance reform, tilting it dramatically in favour of supporting CSOs.

The book is in four parts. Part 1 analyses the role citizens can play in fighting corruption and promoting good governance and briefly tells the story of the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF). Part 2 presents four country studies (India, Mongolia, Philippines, and Uganda—each with its unique history and distinctive circumstances), to illustrate activities undertaken by civil society organizations (CSOs) to root out corruption. These describe the tools and approaches that CSOs are using successfully to build pressure on corrupt public agencies to become transparent and accountable. Part 3 addresses key themes—strengthening the rule of law, putting in place effective national anti-corruption strategies and institutions, making public buying and selling honest, promoting grass roots monitoring of public expenditures and the provision of public services, mounting media campaigns to expose and defeat corruption, and empowering ordinary citizens to keep watch on what actually happens at the point of delivery of public services. Part 4 summarizes what has been learnt and explores the potential, as well as the risks and limitations of the civic activism in a world where greed and dishonesty is the norm—talking to power. Finally, the book explores the opportunities and dangers faced by aid donors in supporting local CSOs and charts a way forward.



About the Author

Pierre Landell-Mills is a development economist with a long standing interest in political economy and governance issues. He was the founder and first president of Partnership for Transparency Fund (2000 – 10) and was a Visiting Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Bath (2001-2006). He worked for 10 years in Africa before joining the World Bank in 1973. He was the lead author of the 1983 World Development Report on *Managing Development* and the 1989 World Bank report on *Sub-Sahara Africa: From Crisis to Sustainable Development*.

Endorsements

"This book offers rich insights into the world of thousands of anti-corruption activists who have worked tirelessly to expose corruption.... Landell-Mills has given a face to these individuals, while documenting the critical shift in the relationship between citizens and governments toward an understanding that they can work together constructively to enhance government effectiveness. At the World Bank Institute we are pleased to see such an important and substantial contribution to the literature which bolsters the work of our mutual partners around the globe, including the Affiliated Networks for Social Accountability." —**Sanjay Pradhan**, Vice President, World Bank Institute.

"Pierre Landell-Mills presents a fascinating account of the story of a pioneer organization, PTF and its global fight against corruption. It is amazing to see how much PTF, its projects and volunteers, have contributed in its short 12 years of existence to the advancement of a culture of transparency around the world."—**Anabel Cruz**, Founder of ICD and former Chair of CIVICUS, World Alliance of Citizen Participation.

"This book tells the story of a remarkable endeavor, simple in conception yet brilliant in execution. PTF's success has been the marrying of high quality expertise with the energy and guts of young activists who are determined to stop the corruption that undermines the development of their countries and damages the lives of ordinary citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable. This experiment has shown that small grants can have a huge impact."—**Peter Eigen**, Founder and Chair of the Council of Advisers of Transparency International.

"Pierre Landell-Mills brings his extraordinary international development experience and insights of just how civil society organizations work in very poor countries to this 'must read' book. The daily human rights abuses, humiliations and indignities that are imposed by corrupt officials on millions of very poor people across Asia and Africa must be stopped - this book provides detailed brilliant illustrations on just how to do this."—**Frank Vogl**, author *Waging War on Corruption-Inside the Movement Fighting the Abuse of Power* (2012)

"This book offers a rich account of the 'cancer of corruption' and how it undermines development. And what makes it compelling is the myriad accounts of how citizens groups can and have tackled the problems head-on, forcing accountability where it was absent before. These well-told stories are an inspiration to citizens around the world who ask: "yes, we are submerging in corruption, but what can I do about it?" "—**John Clark**, author of *Worlds Apart: Civil Society and the Battle for Ethical Globalization* (2003), and *Democratizing Development* (1991).

"This book provides a unique insight into citizens campaigning against corruption— from low income villagers to students and national level activists who have been remarkably successful in contexts as different as Mongolia, India and Latvia in challenging the abuses of power which undermine everyday life. Their stories are remarkable. Landell-Mills makes a powerful case that these initiatives may collectively be the future mainspring for addressing corruption worldwide." — **Laurence Cockcroft**, author of *Global Corruption* (2012) and co-founder and former chair of Transparency International UK.