

2021 OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum

Global Compact Network India Session: Collective Action to fight healthcare corruption post COVID”

A Report

Collective action to fight healthcare corruption post-COVID

Moderator



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Managing Partner, Legasis Partners &
Founder Director, Legasis Services



Ms. Sarah Steingruber
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Mr. Neville Gandhi
Vice President-Compliance,
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Prof. Christian Hauser
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Dr. Narendra Malhotra
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Ms. Ashley Ann Demming
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Dr. Shiv Tripathi
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Knowledge Partner: Global Compact Network India

25th March, 2021 | 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM (IST)

Executive Summary

Global Compact India (GCNI) was confirmed as a Knowledge Partner for the 2021 OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum, a virtual forum, which invited governments, business leaders, policy makers, anti-corruption experts and practitioners, civil society representatives and academics to focus on restoring trust and integrity in and beyond the current crisis, in building a more resilient and more ethical future.

The Forum explored the new integrity risks, challenges and opportunities that have arisen in the COVID-19 context, as well as identify innovative solutions required to govern and conduct business with integrity, including with respect to responsible business conduct (RBC) standards, and tackle corruption in times of crisis.

GCNI organized a panel discussion in a Knowledge Partner Session on Anti-Corruption 'Collective Action in the healthcare sector post-COVID' at the OECD Forum on 25th March 2021.

The session invited experts from India, Germany, Switzerland, and the USA for an insightful discussion on challenges, risks, and solutions for tackling healthcare corruption. The speakers shared their experiences and deliberated on the best practices in Collective action that must be adopted to overcome the crisis of healthcare corruption, during and post-COVID.

Introduction

The healthcare sector has one of the most vulnerable value-chains for high corruption risk exposure during and after the pandemic. The extent and type of corrupt practices are numerous, including - high-rate procurement, misusing emergency provisions, under-spending of allocated resources, and many similar issues. The challenges are likely to increase in near future, with vaccine procurement and distribution.

In view of the situation, this panel will focus on:

1. Reviewing and examining the existing corruption challenges in healthcare and pharmaceuticals sector; as experienced during COVID-19.
2. Role of collective action in minimizing corruption risks in healthcare value-chains.
3. Technology related innovations for fighting emergency response corruption in healthcare.
4. Regional issues in dealing with healthcare sector corruption.

Through this session, Global Compact Network India, which has a decadal experience in creating successful collective action to fight corruption; aimed to bring critical issues related to corruption in healthcare post-COVID-19.

Programme and speakers

The session was conducted virtually on the Zoom platform. It was an interactive session where the audience was engaged through online polls on experience and participation in collective actions.

The panelists shared their experiences, success stories, challenges and best practices on anticorruption collective action in healthcare in an organic discussion. The participants provided concrete examples of collective actions in course, especially the ones that are closely related to COVID-19 affected healthcare sector.

The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Suhas Tuljapurkar, Managing Partner, Legasis Partners & Founder Director, Legasis Services. The panelists for the session were:

- i. Ms. Sarah Steingruber, Independent Global Health Consultant, Steingruber Consulting
- ii. Mr. Neville Gandhi, Vice President-Compliance, Siemens India
- iii. Prof. Christian Hauser, Professor, SIFE, University of Applied Sciences HTW Chur, and
- iv. Dr. Narendra Malhotra, Managing Director, Global Rainbow Healthcare

A special address on the ongoing Anti – Corruption Collection Action initiative of UN Global Compact under the aegis of the Siemens Integrity Initiative was given by Ms. Ashley Ann Demming, Manager – Anti-Corruption, United Nations Global Compact.

Dr. Somnath Singh, Programme Manager, Global Compact Network India opened the session with a brief summary of GCNI's forays into Anti-corruption initiatives in the last decade. Dr. Shiv Tripathi, Professor and Dean (Training), IIHMR University, concluded the session by summarizing key takeaways and outline the way forward.

The session was recorded and is available online at Global Compact Network India's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqmYzlla7zk&t=2s>

Recommendations

- Public trust in healthcare systems is an essential component of ethical behavior and it needs to be established through accountability and integrity post-covid.
- Investment in retrospective auditing of procedures to identify wrongdoing and hold those individuals/ organizations to account.
- Recognizing and rewarding those, who are not corrupt and provide philanthropic services to society, will go a long way in fostering anti-corruption.
- The supply side of corruption also needs to be monitored apart from the demand side of it, for minimizing corruption.
- Corruption is contextual and evolutionary in nature, therefore finding solutions and deciding the model of anti-corruption cannot be universal and needs to be dynamic and

customized to the local contexts.

- Issues of healthcare infrastructure, systemic resource limitations along with increased transparency around public funding and procurement needs to be addressed and a stronger civic voice around them can be generated by civil society and media.