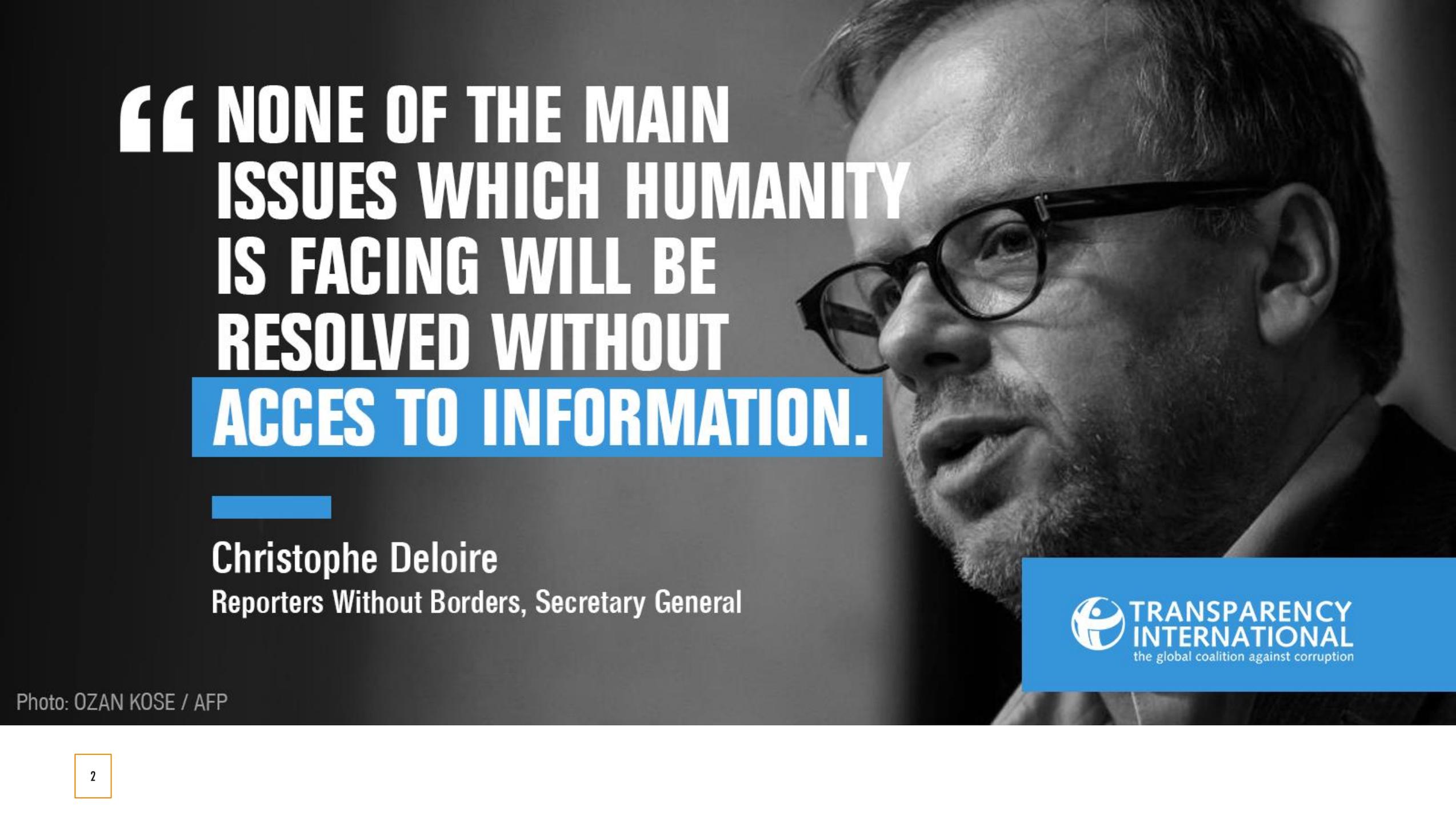


# Media Against CORRUPTION

Prof.Dr.Aung Tun Thet  
9/21/2020



A black and white portrait of Christophe Deloire, a man with glasses and a beard, looking slightly to the left. The image is partially obscured by text and a blue bar.

**“ NONE OF THE MAIN  
ISSUES WHICH HUMANITY  
IS FACING WILL BE  
RESOLVED WITHOUT  
ACCES TO INFORMATION.”**

**Christophe Deloire**  
Reporters Without Borders, Secretary General

 **TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
the global coalition against corruption

Photo: OZAN KOSE / AFP

# ROOTS OF CORRUPTION

- **Grounded in:**
- ***Social and cultural history***
- ***Political and economic development***
- ***Bureaucratic traditions and policies***

# CORRUPTION

- **Flourish** when **institutions** *weak* and **economic policies** *distort marketplace*
- Distort **economic** and **social development**
- Engendering **wrong choices**
- Encouraging competition in **bribery** rather than in **quality** and **price** of goods and services

# ANTI-CORRUPTION

- **Reduce:**
- ***Monopoly power*** (e.g. by ***market-oriented reforms***)
- ***Discretionary power*** (e.g. by ***administrative reforms***)
- **Enhance accountability** (e.g., through watchdog agencies)



# ANTI-CORRUPTION

- **System of checks and balances**
- **Manage conflicts of interest** in public sector
- **Comprehensive** view of reform

# ANTI-CORRUPTION

- **Government processes** (*leadership codes, organizational change*)
- **Civil society participation** (*democratic process, private sector, media*)

# ANTI-CORRUPTION

- **Complementary** schema
- Focusing on **knowledge** and **data** as **prerequisite**
- Successful anti-corruption programs (**AC**) dependent on knowledge and information (**KI**) plus leadership (**LE**) plus collective action (**AC**)
- **(AC) = (KI) + (LE) + (AC)**



# MEDIA

- **Force against corruption**
- **Tangible and intangible**



# TANGLIBLE

- Readily **identifiable**
- **Visible outcome** attributed to particular news story or series of stories

# TANGLIBLE

- *Launching of investigation by authorities*
- *Scrapping of law or policy*
- *Impeachment or forced resignation of crooked politician*

# TANGLIBLE

- *Firing of official*
- *Launching of judicial proceedings*
- *Issuing of public recommendations by watch-dog body*

# INTANGIBLE

- Broader **social climate** of enhanced **political pluralism**
- Enlivened **public debate**
- Heightened sense of **accountability** among politicians, public bodies and institutions
- By-product of **hard-hitting, independent** news media

# EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDIA

- Most **spectacular** when **corrupt** bureaucrats or public office-holders **impeached, prosecuted** or **forced to resign** after misdeeds exposed to public light

# EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDIA

- **Less spectacular but equally important ways**
- **Public bodies launch formal investigations** into allegations of corruption
- Disseminate findings of public **anti-corruption bodies**
- Reinforcing **legitimacy**
- **Reducing ease** with which interested parties who hold power meddle



# EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDIA



- Expose **flaws** and **corruption** within various bodies of the state
- Resulting public pressure lead to **reform**
- Long-term effectiveness and potential to act as **counterweight** against corruption strengthened



# EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDIA

- Arouse **ire** of public
- Hard-hitting journalism expose **flaws** in policy, laws or regulation
- Create **pressure** for reform

# PRIVATE VERSUS PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF MEDIA

- **Privatization** of state-owned news media seen as mean of strengthening **autonomy**
- **Privatization** may not always produce desired results
- Small entrenched business elite **close ties** to power-holders
- Publicly owned media sometimes **aggressively** assert independence

# ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAMME

- *Critical element effective media*
- **Dual role:**
  1. *Raise public awareness about causes, consequences and remedies*
  2. *Investigate and report incidences of corruption aiding other oversight (and prosecutorial) bodies*



# EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDIA

- Depend on **access to information** and **freedom of expression**
- **Professional** and **ethical cadre** of **investigative journalists**



# EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDIA

- *Private versus public ownership*
- Improved **protection** of journalists



# EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDIA

- Tangible and intangible ways in which journalism serve as **impediment** to corruption
- **Strengthened** to enhance role in **curbing corruption**

**“ FIGHTING CORRUPTION IS  
NOT AN END IN ITSELF.  
BUT A FIGHT FOR SOCIAL  
JUSTICE, PEACE AND  
SECURITY**

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**Huguette Labelle,**  
Chair of the IACC council.



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