PERFORMANCE OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL IN COMBATING CORRUPTION: WHAT EFFECTIVENESS?

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Abstract:

Corruption is a serious societal phenomenon that has prompted numerous national and international efforts to combat it. Internationally, Transparency International has emerged as a coalition dedicated to fighting corruption. This organization has made extensive efforts to devise effective strategies against corruption, utilizing various mechanisms, particularly through the development of corruption perception indices, their interpretation, and the preparation of international reports on the state of corruption and its mitigation efforts.

However, Transparency International's efforts have not proven sufficient or effective in addressing the escalating problem of corruption, despite ongoing and earnest endeavors. This necessitates a critical review of its strategies, whether through diversification or adaptation, to enhance its effectiveness in combating corruption.

Keywords: Corruption, Transparency International, Corruption Perception Indices, Integrity Indices.

INTRODUCTION:

Corruption is a serious phenomenon prevalent across all societies—ancient and modern, advanced and underdeveloped, capitalist and socialist, and beyond. Consequently, efforts have long been made to combat this phenomenon, which has become one of the foremost goals of contemporary states and a prominent feature of underdeveloped countries.

As a societal issue, corruption knows no borders, with virtually no country completely free from it and none achieving a 100% integrity rate. Hence, strategies to combat corruption have diversified across societies, while manifestations of corruption and international community approaches to combating these issues have also varied.

Numerous national and international efforts have been allocated to combat corruption, including legislation criminalizing corrupt practices, establishment of specialized bodies and institutions for monitoring, oversight, and punishment, as well as awareness campaigns about the risks, detection, and mitigation of corruption at both national and international levels. Some of these efforts have proven effective in reducing corruption rates in certain countries, while in others, corruption remains widespread and even exacerbated.

In this context, we highlight the role of Transparency International in the fight against corruption. This organization was specifically founded to achieve a defined goal: striving towards a globally corruption-free society. To achieve this objective, Transparency International has employed numerous strategies and exerted considerable efforts, such as compiling annual corruption perception indices across different countries, interpreting these indices to create a global ranking of countries by corruption prevalence, and more. Thus, the roles of this organization have been the focus of aspirations for many individuals and members of the international community alike.

Therefore, the problem statement we can formulate in this field is encapsulated in the following question: To what extent has Transparency International fulfilled expectations related to its role in combating corruption globally?

This problem statement can be addressed by examining the following aspects:

- Firstly, the conceptual framework of Transparency International's performance in combating corruption.
- Secondly, the role of Transparency International in combating corruption.
- Thirdly, the performance of Transparency International in combating corruption.
- Fourthly, assessing the role of the international community in combating corruption.

- **First: Conceptual Framework of Transparency International's Performance in Combating Corruption:**

To understand Transparency International's performance in combating corruption, it is essential to define the conceptual framework of our study, focusing on the concepts of Transparency International and corruption, as these are the factors under scrutiny in this research.

This axis will be divided into the following two points:

01 - Concept of Transparency International:

Transparency International is an alliance against corruption that gained significant media attention after publishing an international ranking of corrupt countries[1]. Here, we will delve into the establishment, definition, and characteristics of Transparency International:

a)   Establishment of Transparency International:

Transparency International was launched under the motto "Global Coalition Against Corruption." It was established in 1995 with its headquarters in Berlin. The idea of founding Transparency International originated from **Mr. Peter Eigen**, who was then serving as a director at the World Bank. Eigen sought to highlight the risks associated with corruption, especially in developing countries. However, **Eigen** encountered numerous challenges from Western countries that were keen on establishing influence in those nations. These donor countries attempted to promote the idea that corruption was a part of African culture, under the principle of non-intervention, thereby avoiding interference in the internal affairs of these developing countries. Consequently, due to the widespread corruption in these developing nations, donor countries refrained from tracking the funds and solely funded development projects. Based on this premise, substantial amounts were paid to donor countries for the ruling elite without imposing restrictive conditions. This led to the spread and encouragement of corruption within the World Bank. As a result of all of this, Eigen resigned from the World Bank in 1993 and decided to establish Transparency International, which expanded in 1995 by adding the Argentine citizen authorities, and developed in 1997 when branches were established in 38 countries. In 2002, Transparency International transformed into the largest international non-governmental organization, with 100 branches spread across various countries worldwide[2]. Today, it stands as one of the most prominent non-governmental organizations globally specializing in combating a specific phenomenon (corruption) and striving to mitigate it across different countries worldwide.

b)   Definition of Transparency International:

Transparency International is a non-governmental organization tasked with increasing governmental accountability and restricting corruption at both local and international levels[3]. It represents a global movement aimed at confronting and combating corruption. The organization is recognized as a

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[1]SufianNakmari, Philosophical and Organizational Framework of Administrative and Financial Corruption, intervention within the activities of the National Forum on: Corporate Governance as a Mechanism to Reduce Administrative and Financial Corruption, Laboratory of Banking Finance and Business Administration, Faculty of Economic, Commercial and Management Sciences, Mohamed Kheder University, Biskra, Algeria, May 26-27, 2012, p. 11: May 26-27, 2012, p. 11.

[2]Samar Ahmed Muhammad Al-Damanhouri, Corruption crimes and ways to combat them and their impact on tax revenues as a source of taxation for the state, Master's thesis, specialization: Tax Disputes, Faculty of Graduate Studies, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine, 2017, pp. 123-124.

[3]WaziaNajjar, "Institutional and Criminal Response to Corruption in Algerian Legislation: A Comparative Study", PhD thesis, Specialization: Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences: Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences, Faculty of Law, Montouri University, Constantine, Algeria, 2013-2014, p. 117.

prominent international civil society organization in the fight against corruption, dedicating its efforts to combating all forms of corruption, whether domestic or international[4]. It envisions a world free from corruption in government, business, civil society, and daily life[5].

The organization's **governance structure** includes a central Board of Directors, elected annually and comprising members from 16 countries across the globe. Additionally, there is an **Advisory Council** consisting of prominent individuals on a global scale who provide advice and contribute to the development of its programs. **The General Secretariat** supports the organization's branches worldwide and coordinates their activities. Moreover, there is a Research Center composed of academics and practitioners in the field of anti-corruption, tasked with conducting research on government integrity, administrative and financial corruption indicators, and monitoring governments' responses and actions towards legislative initiatives proposed by the organization to combat corruption in those countries[6].

c)   Characteristics of Transparency International:

Transparency International is thus characterized as a global movement distinguished by the following traits bestowed upon and described by its advocates:

- Advocacy for public good and social reform: Corruption distorts and undermines development, leading to increased human rights violations.

- Democracy: Corruption undermines democracy, which is characteristic of many developing countries undergoing transitional stages in democracy.

- Ethical: Corruption undermines societal integrity.

- Practical: Corruption distorts market operations and deprives individuals of benefits and rights that should rightfully reach them[7].

02 - Concept of Corruption:

Firstly, it's important to note that there is no universally agreed-upon definition of corruption yet. Some view it through an ethical and social lens, while others perceive it politically or legally...etc. Generally, the main perspectives on corruption can be summarized as follows:

a)   Ethical Perspective of Corruption:

This perspective defines corruption as an **unethical** phenomenon fundamentally deviating from **societal** ethical and behavioral standards[8]. Based on this, corruption is defined by various definitions, including:

- Any act considered corrupt by society, causing the actor to feel guilty while committing it.[9]

- Misuse of entrusted power for personal gain.[10]

- A serious phenomenon among human behaviors that disturbs societies.[11]

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[4]SofianeMouri, Anti-Corruption Mechanisms in the International Economy, Ph.D. thesis, Specialization: Law, Faculty of Law and Political Science, MouloudMammery University, Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria, 2018, p. 133.

[5]Report: Corruption Perceptions Index 2019, Transparency International, Berlin, Germany, January 2020, p. 01.

[6]GhazwanRafiqOweid, an analytical study of Transparency International's indicators "with reference to the case of Iraq", Integrity and Transparency Journal for Research and Studies, Issue 09, Year 2016, p. 171.

[7]SufianNuqmari, previous reference p. 11.

[8]SufianNuqmari, previous reference, p. 04.

[9]SufianNakmari, previous reference, p. 04.

[10]Tudor Tagarev, Building Integrity and Reducing Corruption in the Defense Sector: A Compendium of Best Practices, Directorate General of Security Policies, Ministry of Defense, Civil Protection and Sport, Geneva, Switzerland, 2010, p. 05.

[11]Mohamed Karim Groff - Nabil Brahmia, The role of economic reforms in curbing the phenomenon of corruption and improving economic performance, an intervention within the activities of the first national forum on: Corruption and its impact on economic development, Faculty of Economic, Commercial and Management Sciences, University of 08 May 1945, Kalmah, Algeria, on April 24-25, 2018: April 24-25, 2018, p. 03.

- A universally condemned phenomenon.
- Reflects moral decay, undermining positive principles, values, and ethics, promoting negative changes and behaviors that lead to crime.[12]

b)   Political Perspective of Corruption:

This perspective defines corruption as a **political** phenomenon prevailing in an environment where public policy supports a bureaucratic system where most transactions occur in relative secrecy[13]. This obstruction, namely corruption, stands in the way of development and undermines societal security[14]. Consequently, corruption is defined by several key points, including:

- Direct or indirect offer, request, or acceptance of undue advantage, at any time, for offers, promises, donations, gifts, or favors, by a person holding public office or tasked with a public duty or enjoying public electoral authority[15].
- Maintenance of the current situation and inequality in power based on social-political concepts[16].
- The prevalence of direct bribes to political leaders to buy positions and approvals, and political bribes in the form of donations to political parties to fund their electoral campaigns in exchange for special privileges after their success, such as obtaining major state contracts in infrastructure, mining, and other sectors[17].

c)   Legal Perspective of Corruption:

This perspective defines corruption as an **illegal** phenomenon primarily involving violation of existing legal rules within a **legal** system. Based on this, corruption is defined by several key points, including:
- A form of unlawful actions committed by the perpetrator using secretive methods typically involving legal deception to obtain money, assets, or personal benefits.[18]
- A range of acts and practices, including related crimes prohibited by law[19].

d)   Transparency International's Perspective on Corruption:

Transparency International defines corruption as: "The abuse of entrusted power for personal gain."[20] This definition aligns with the United Nations' definition of corruption, which views it as: "The misuse of public authority for private benefit, resulting in harm to the public interest."[21]

Despite the concise nature of Transparency International's definition of corruption, it inherently includes **three essential elements**: the abuse of power (both public and private sectors), the direction of this abuse towards achieving personal rather than public benefits, for oneself or for one's family and friends.[22]

Transparency International itself attempted to explain this definition in one of its reports, stating that the definition of corruption provided by the organization refers to a form of misuse or unauthorized use of resources allocated for a specific purpose to achieve another goal. This involves benefiting from something that should not have been obtained, in addition to causing harm to those entitled to receive benefits. When applied to the public sector, it reflects a disregard for expectations and specific rules due to misuse of the general system (often government) to achieve private (individual or collective) benefits, rather than public ones. If this becomes a regular

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[12]Mohamed JumaAbdo, "Corruption: its causes, phenomena, effects and prevention", National Books House, Benghazi, Libya, 2019, p. 08 - p. 13, with adaptation.
[13]SufianNagmari, previous reference, p. 04.
[14]Tudor Tagarev, previous reference p. 03.
[15]TodorTagarev, previous reference p. 175
[16]Mohammed Al-Amin Al-Bishri, Corruption and Organized Crime, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2007, p. 42.
[17]Mohamed JumaAbdo, previous reference, p. 14.
[18]SufianNagmari, previous reference, p. 04
[19]Elias Chaaban, Report on: Implementation of the requirements of the African Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption in Tunisia, Tunisia 2018, p. 06.
[20]SufianNoghmari, previous reference p. 04.
[21]SufianNakmari, previous reference p. 04.
[22]Tudor Tagarev, previous reference, p. 174.

occurrence, it leads to the deterioration of the system, shifting it from serving the public interest to benefiting certain groups at the expense of others.[23]

However, criticism of this definition lies in its focus primarily on the environment of officials and the public sector within a state, without addressing corruption in social or religious environments, for example, leaving it to local concepts that suit the specificities of each society[24]. Furthermore, it does not address corruption in the private sector, despite its significant dangers when considering its connection to corruption in the public sector.

In reality, according to Transparency International, corruption can be categorized into two types: legal corruption, known as facilitation payments where bribes are paid to gain preference in a service provided by the bribe recipient according to the law, and illegal corruption, which involves paying a bribe to obtain a prohibited service from the recipient (the bribe recipient)[25]. In other words, it includes paying bribes or commissions directly to employees and officials to facilitate contract agreements and manage affairs on one hand, and misappropriating public funds and obtaining unauthorized personal or collective benefits on the other[26].

Secondly: Transparency International's Role in Combating Corruption:

Transparency International plays various roles in combating corruption, aiming to identify the causes of corruption, how to detect its presence, and which countries are most affected by this phenomenon compared to others. This is achieved through preparing Corruption Perceptions Indices (CPI) or commonly known as Transparency Indices, interpreting these indices, and compiling international reports on corruption. These points are detailed as follows:

01 - Preparation of Corruption Perceptions Indices (Transparency Indices):[27]

Transparency International publishes the **Corruption Perceptions Index**[28] to measure the level of corruption across countries globally, known as the CPI, since 1995[29]. To **prepare** these indices, the organization conducts several surveys in the form of relevant questions regarding the misuse of power to achieve personal gains. For instance, how widespread is the acceptance of bribes among government officials during their duties? Or their embezzlement of public funds…etc.? The organization relies in **developing** them on surveys that do not focus on the specific type of corruption but rely on secondary information about corruption gathered from independent institutions through surveys and polls designed for this purpose. Sources include the World Bank, the Intelligence Unit of The Economist magazine, the International Management Development Group, the International Trade Group, the United Nations' Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Group, the World Economic Forum, and the International Market Research Center[30].

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[23]Carolina McLachlan, The Fifth Column: Understanding the relationship between corruption and conflict, Transparency International "Defense and Security" UK, 2017, p. 01.

[24]Mohamed JumaAbdo, previous reference, p. 08.

[25]Mohamed El-Amin El-Bishri, previous reference, p. 41.

[26]Samir Al-Tanir, Poverty and Corruption in the Arab World, Dar Al-Saqi, Beirut, Lebanon, T01, 2009, p. 15.

[27]We note that Transparency International publishes several indicators, namely: Corruption Perceptions Index, Bribery Payers Index, National Integrity System Assessments, Global Corruption Barometer, etc.

However, we will rely in this study on the first indicator only (Corruption Perceptions Index), as it is the most important indicators of Transparency International, and the most important criterion that can be relied upon to issue the annual reports of this organization, and we will term it in this study Corruption Perceptions Indicators plural and not singular, because this indicator is issued periodically (annually), so adding the indicator for each year gives us indicators.

[28]AlwizaNajjar, previous reference, p. 121.

[29]Some studies indicate that the Corruption Perceptions Index issued by Transparency International has been published since 1993 on an annual basis.

- Handbook of International Development Indicators and Databases, Arab Planning Institute, Kuwait, Vol. 01, 2019, p. 53.

[30]SufianNagmari, previous reference p. 09.

The importance of Corruption Perceptions Indices lies in being considered - by some - the most effective method to monitor the effectiveness of countries' mechanisms in combating corruption. It evaluates countries based on surveys and investigations, representing a composite index based on corruption-related data, reflecting opinions of financiers and analysts worldwide, including specialists and experts from the same country being evaluated[31].

02 - Interpretation of Corruption Perceptions Indices:

Regarding the interpretation of Corruption Perceptions Indices (collective index for each year meaning indices for several years), it is noted that despite using the index to rank countries on the transparency scale, the numerical value is crucial in indicating the perceived corruption level. The index value ranges between 0 and 100, where a higher score signifies greater transparency (i.e., absence of corruption), while a lower score indicates more significant corruption at that degree. For instance, in 2003, a sample of 133 countries was taken, in 2006, a sample of 163 countries[32], and in 2007, a sample of 172 countries[33]. The corruption indices ranged from 0 to 100 and were divided into ten degrees (from 0-9) and (90-100). A country with an index score in the (0-9) range is considered more corrupt, while in the (90-100) range, it is considered more transparent. The number of countries sampled for corruption perceptions indices has steadily increased, reaching 180 countries and regions worldwide in the Corruption Perceptions Index report for 2019[34].

The Corruption Perceptions Index is a composite index that **aggregates** data derived from various sources. For a country to be included in the index classification, it must be covered by at least three survey sources of Corruption Perceptions. The inclusion in the index does not necessarily mean that corruption exists in the listed country, but rather depends on the availability of information about corruption in that country.

The methodological review of the index follows the advice provided by **Professor Johann Graf Lambsdorff** from Passau University, where the index calculation relies on information derived from statistics of the last two years of the year for which the index is intended to be calculated. Information from the last two years must be available, and the Corruption Perceptions Index until 2011 is calculated using a standardized scale ranging from 00 to 10 - as previously mentioned[35], then calculated on a scale from 00 to 100 divided into ten degrees (from 00 to 09) and (from 90 to 100).

03 - Preparation of International Reports:

At the beginning of this element, it must be noted that one of Transparency International's most important reports is the report that ranks countries in terms of the prevalence of corruption or what is commonly referred to as the comprehensive global report on corruption. However, there are many other reports issued by the organization besides this report.

The comprehensive global report on corruption is one of Transparency International's important publications, which rely on recent research in order to provide the latest developments in corruption, addressing international and regional trends related to combating corruption.

The comprehensive global corruption report aims to draw the world's attention to the issue of corruption and assist in combating it, as it is designed as a tool to help policy makers and civil society change corrupt behavior, by providing the guidelines and recommendations contained in it - that is, in the report[36].

In general, Transparency International reports focus on studying the conditions of corruption in general (the comprehensive global corruption report for 2001) - the role of corruption in ways of obtaining and dealing with information (the comprehensive global corruption report for 2003) - political corruption (the comprehensive global corruption report for 2004) - corruption in the construction, contracting, reconstruction, and construction sector (the comprehensive global

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[31]Sufian Morey, previous reference p. 137.
[32]SufianNoghmari, previous reference, p. 09.
[33]AlwizaNajjar, previous reference, p. 121.
[34]Report: Corruption Perceptions Indicators 2019, p. 02.
[35]GhazwanRafiqOweid, previous reference, p. 173.
[36]SufianMouri, previous reference, pp. 139-140.

corruption report for 2004)[37], and other areas addressed by comprehensive global reports issued by Transparency International.

<div align="center">**Performance of Transparency International in Anti-Corruption Efforts:**</div>

The performance of Transparency International is embodied in its pursuit of multiple objectives through the adoption of various strategies, which have yielded results aimed at combating corruption. The following statement outlines Transparency International's performance elements (objectives - strategies - results) through the following points:

01 - Objectives of Transparency International in Anti-Corruption:

Transparency International aims to reduce corruption by activating a global alliance to improve and strengthen local and global integrity systems[38]. Its focus includes achieving several key objectives:

- Combatting the silence prevailing over the majority of corruption cases worldwide, creating a transparent climate to combat corruption, thereby fostering sustainable development. This involves enhancing central oversight locally and internationally to eliminate corruption and raising public awareness to combat corruption across various sectors by helping them realize the reality of corruption in the world and forming global coalitions to combat corruption.

- Activating the role of the press and media by drawing attention to corruption issues and their negative effects on local development and hindering its progress through disseminating awareness locally and globally[39].

- Activating the principle of shared and public responsibility to combat corruption by attempting to raise awareness that the risks of corruption extend beyond individual cases. The organization assists in achieving this goal as a global movement that transcends social, political, economic, and cultural systems within each country[40].

02 - Strategies of Transparency International in Anti-Corruption:

Transparency International relies on its strong belief that combating corruption permanently and continuously is possible by cooperating with societal forces. It operates across various regions of the world, relying on individuals with high ethical values not only in the international community but also in the business and government sectors. This aims to form an alliance to reform existing systems that have caused or contributed to the spread of corruption[41].

Overall, Transparency International adopts a strategy consisting of several elements to achieve its objectives, including:

- Analysis of primary sources and interviews conducted with academics and former policymakers.

- Intensive review of writings to identify various ways that increase corruption risks[42].

- Building alliances at the local, regional, and global levels, involving governments, civil society, and the private sector to combat internal and external corruption.

- Organizing and supporting local branches of the organization to enable them to achieve their goals.

- Assisting in designing and implementing effective integrity systems.

- Collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information, and increasing public awareness of the damage of corruption to individuals and economic development[43].

03 - Results of Transparency International in Anti-Corruption:

To implement its previous strategy, Transparency International uses global mandates represented in various literatures issued by the organization, revolving around discussing the issue of corruption,

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[37]Sara Boussaoud, "The Role of Economic Anti-Corruption Strategy in Achieving Sustainable Development: A Comparative Study between Algeria and Malaysia", Master's thesis, Specialization: International Economics and Sustainable Development, Faculty of Economics, Business and Management Sciences, Farhat Abbas University, Sétif, Algeria, 2012-2013, p. 31.
[38]AlwizaNajjar, previous reference p. 118.
[39]Samar Ahmed Mohamed El-Damanhouri, previous reference, p. 125.
[40]AlwizaNajjar, previous reference p. 118.
[41]Al-WaziahNajjar, previous reference, p. 118.
[42]Carolina McLachlan, previous reference, p. 05.
[43]AlwiziyahNajjar, previous reference p. 119.

which is no longer today a difficult or prohibited matter. This raises the question: How can these issues be rectified and returned to the correct path?[44]

Thus, Transparency International engages in commendable **activities** aimed at combating corruption prevalent across various countries worldwide. It also works on preparing reports with a high degree of integrity, which identify corruption issues, clarify ways to combat them, and highlight obstacles to their eradication. Additionally, it issues annual international reports that include tables showing which countries in the world are plagued by corruption[45].

Transparency International publishes **a book** that explains **all the ideas and concepts** that support the sound system of the state. It also provides proposals that help make systems more transparent and accountable.

The organization retains official information and provides it to those who will be affected by it, taking these details and presenting them to officials to **hold them accountable** so they can explain and justify why funds did not go where they were supposed to, which can lead to changes in their behavior in the future[46].

Fourthly: Assessment of the International Transparency Organization's Performance in Fighting Corruption:

The International Transparency Organization, through the role mentioned above, has provided outstanding performance in combating corruption, especially when compared to other international and national efforts aimed at tackling corruption. This distinguished performance is manifested in several achievements by the organization in this field. However, the reality indicates that while these achievements are significant and distinctive in raising awareness about corruption and its hotspots worldwide, and in attempting to articulate methods and mechanisms to combat corruption, they are insufficient and ineffective in addressing the phenomenon of corruption, which continues to exist and worsen amidst the ongoing efforts by the International Transparency Organization.

Therefore, we will attempt to assess the role of the International Transparency Organization in combating corruption through the following points:

01 – Achievements of the International Transparency Organization in Combating Corruption:

The work of the International Transparency Organization represents an international challenge in combating corruption, as it involves enhancing legal means and institutional frameworks concerned with anti-corruption efforts. This is achieved through the crucial role played by the organization in monitoring the extent to which countries respect international agreements related to anti-corruption efforts, and in urging countries to implement practical measures on the ground[47].

Indeed, the International Transparency Organization has numerous **achievements** in its realistic efforts to combat corruption, which cannot be denied. The most important of these achievements include:

- Influencing the World Bank's stance from rejecting the idea of combating corruption to becoming a pioneer in the global movement to contain corruption.

- Providing support to the Cooperation and Development Organization in the context of the Convention against Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, which the international press has reported as damaging the International Transparency Organization.

- Pressuring the member states of the Economic Cooperation and Development Organization (48 countries) to end the reduction of taxes on bribes.

- Establishing alliances of organizations and individuals to elect honest and secure governments globally, and developing business practices that are more socially responsible.

- Continuously expanding its branches to include a large number of countries worldwide, where the workshops of these branches have prompted some heads of state to disclose their private properties, as was the case in Tanzania and Mauritania.

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[44]AlwiziaNajjar, previous reference, p. 119.
[45]Samar Ahmed Mohammed Al-Damanhouri, previous reference p. 124.
[46]AlwizaNajjar, previous reference p. 119.
[47]SufianMouri, previous reference p. 140.

- The International Transparency Organization has established a charter to combat bribery in large public procurement contracts. According to this charter, all parties to the contract, whether businessmen or government officials, commit not to receive or offer any form of facilitation or bribery in the contract. If any party violates this charter, they are placed on a blacklist associated with corruption and are excluded from obtaining any future contracts[48].

- The International Transparency Organization succeeded in submitting proposals and recommendations to the Cooperation and Development Organization on the necessity of concluding an international agreement for common deterrence against corruption. The organization managed to mobilize heads of global institutions and companies to engage in combating corruption under the framework of economic cooperation and development by formulating provisions of a convention against bribery of foreign public officials in international transactions.

- Assisting the countries in overseeing and removing obstacles to implementing their obligations arising from joining the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003, and providing the necessary technical advice and assistance. Starting from December 2004, a research group was set up on how to establish a supervisory system to monitor the UN convention, and reviewed the supervisory processes applied in other anti-corruption agreements to compare and determine their effectiveness. The team studied all the obstacles that could hinder the effectiveness of the monitoring mechanism for implementing the provisions of the convention when formulating or amending its domestic laws.

- By 2007, more than 10 years after the adoption of the Organization of American States' Convention against Corruption, the International Transparency Organization organized an international conference to discuss the extent to which member states comply with the provisions of the convention. Through this conference, an evaluation was conducted of 10 party states to the convention on the legal and institutional measures taken to combat corruption and their compatibility with the provisions of the convention, and various obstacles that hinder the effectiveness of these measures were openly discussed.

- The International Transparency Organization has an important deterrent mechanism for combating corruption, through which many individuals involved in corruption cases fear resorting to such a mechanism, enabling it to file lawsuits against corruption and establish itself as a civil party. This places the accused of corruption in a practical confrontation with the charges against them. Practical experience has proven that there are many international corruption cases where the International Transparency Organization has been established as a civil party, such as the lawsuit it initiated before the French judiciary in 2007 in the case of real estate, movable property, and illegally obtained funds against African heads of state, particularly against: President of the Republic of the Congo, **Denis SassouNguesso** - Former President of the Republic of Gabon, **Omar Bongo** - President of Equatorial Guinea, **TeodoroObiangNguemaMbasogo**. For the first time, the French judiciary accepted the establishment of the International Transparency Organization as a civil party[49].

- The Corruption Perceptions Index issued by the International Transparency Organization pointed out the remarkable progress achieved by **Georgia** in implementing its strategy - the organization's strategy - aimed at combating "petty" corruption[50]. Today, **Georgia**'s army (compared to 2004 - before the implementation of the International Transparency Organization's strategy) is considered more modern, organized, receives good salaries, is better trained and equipped according to NATO standards, and is free from "petty" corruption activities[51].

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[48]AlwizaNajjar, previous reference, pp. 120-121.

[49]Sufian Morey, previous reference, pp. 141-145.

[50]Researchers in the forms of corruption distinguish between major corruption and minor corruption, so that major corruption: It is carried out by senior officials, ministers and heads of state, and petty corruption: It is carried out by small employees.
- Mohamed Karim Grove - Nabil Brahmia, previous reference p. 03.

[51]TodorTagarev, previous reference, p. 159.

Through these achievements, it is evident that the role of the International Transparency Organization does not stop at merely participating in and caring about the drafting and formulation of international agreements related to anti-corruption efforts. It also contributes to examining the extent to which countries comply effectively with the provisions of these agreements in their domestic laws. It serves as an effective mechanism to pressure countries to commit to respecting their obligations in combating corruption, whether through publicizing corruption cases related to them or resorting to the judiciary[52].

02 - Insufficiency of the Achievements of Transparency International in Combating Corruption:
Despite the efforts and achievements of Transparency International in combating corruption, which cannot be denied by anyone, these efforts are insufficient in reality, as evidenced by Transparency International's own reports. These reports indicate in many instances that there has been no improvement and even a decline in the rankings of countries according to corruption indices. Therefore, we will discuss the reasons and contents of the insufficiency of these achievements in combating corruption within the following points:

a)   Reasons for the Insufficiency of Transparency International's Achievements in Combating Corruption:
- In reality, the most effective ways individuals can take are blaming or lodging complaints when they witness corruption. However, this can be **difficult** if it involves their direct superior, as most individuals do not have the courage to confront their bosses or managers. This is the reason why no reforms occur in combating corruption after it has been exposed by Transparency International[53], despite efforts by some branches of this organization succeeding in filing complaints and initiating legal actions against many perpetrators of corruption. An example is the Transparency International branch in France, which, thanks to its efforts, has been able to pursue cases against foreigners residing in France who benefit from or employ illicit funds there, such as the case of the Deputy President of Equatorial Guinea pursued for crimes of embezzlement of public funds, money laundering, and bribery, as the embezzled funds are employed and located in France[54].

In addition, Transparency International's efforts are characterized by unified strategies that often do not fit the specificities of some societies. Therefore, these strategies remain inadequate and require a lot of change, modification, and diversification that should suit the specificity of each country or society.

b)   Contents of the Insufficiency of Transparency International's Achievements in Combating Corruption:
- Transparency International announced in 2010 that 75% of the world's countries are severely corrupt, especially countries facing wars like Iraq and Afghanistan. In its guide for the same year, it warned governments, considering that corruption threatens its efforts to support financial markets and fight poverty[55].

Additionally, one study issued by Transparency International indicates that, "… According to the Global Corruption Index, in the Middle East and East Africa, the situation has not changed much since then - that is, since 2010 … The index showed that most people in the region actually see corruption increasing and that their governments are not doing enough to reduce the problem … Our research - that is, Transparency International's research - has shown that even in countries where bribery rates are low, such as Jordan and Palestine, personal relationships or what is known as mediation remain the most common methods used to obtain public services or benefits unfairly …"[56]

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[52]Sofiane Morey, previous reference, pp. 141-143.
[53]AlwizaNajjar, previous reference, p. 119.
[54]Sufian Mori, previous reference, margin 236, p. 92.
[55]AlwizaNajjar, previous reference p. 121.
[56]Roberto Martinez - P. Kukuchka - John Froschi, Global Corruption Barometer: Middle East and North Africa 2019 "Citizens' Views and Experiences with Corruption", Transparency International, Berlin, 2019, p. 03.

Whereupon we conclude that as reality proves that giving indicators of corruption is not necessarily a way to combat corruption across different countries, for example: Some countries have improved, such as: "Bhutan - Chile - Ecuador - Macedonia - Gambia - Haiti - Jamaica - Kuwait - Qatar" since 2009, and conversely the corruption index has risen in some other countries such as: "Czech Republic - Hungary - Greece - Italy - Madagascar - Niger - United States of America" and thus the results of these countries have deteriorated (their ranking in terms of the spread of corruption in them)[57].

The latest report on corruption perceptions indices issued by Transparency International discusses improvements and declines in the rankings of countries between the years 2012 and 2019 as follows:

- 22 countries have improved their rankings in the overall corruption perceptions index, including:
- Greece, which improved by 12 ranks
- Guyana, which also improved by 12 ranks
- Estonia, which improved by 10 ranks.
- 21 countries have declined in their rankings in the overall corruption perceptions index, including:
- Canada, which declined by 7 ranks
- Nicaragua, which also declined by 7 ranks
- Australia, which declined by 8 ranks[58].

In this regard, some researchers attribute this to the fact that corruption index results are a snapshot based on the opinions of businessmen and analysts, focusing less on trends and changes within a country from year to year. Therefore, when comparing corruption levels in a specific country in a given year with previous years, the comparison should focus solely on the country's score rather than its ranking position[59]. **Dr. Mohamed JumaAbdou** elaborates on this in his book '**Corruption,**' analyzing Libya's ranking in Transparency International's corruption perceptions index from 2010 to 2018. He notes that the ranking of countries according to this index depends on a variable, which is the number of countries evaluated, hence it can vary due to an increase or decrease in the number of evaluated countries, despite little change in the scores obtained by the country. For example, Libya received the same score of 17 points in both 2017 and 2018, yet its ranking improved from 171st in 2017 to 170th in 2018. Dr. Mohamed AbdouJuma expects that Libya's score in surveys and polls will increase, yet its ranking may drop by one or more positions due to an increase in the number of evaluated countries[60].

Additionally, the failure to improve the rankings of some countries according to corruption perceptions indices, despite some economic and legal reforms, can be attributed to a culture where corruption becomes normalized, making corrupt practices seem acceptable. This is a dangerous culture for society and interpersonal relationships, as it undermines trust among people and weakens a country's standing internationally, leading to what is known as 'corruption susceptibility.'[61]

Therefore, how can we expect a society with corruption susceptibility to improve its rankings in Transparency International's corruption perceptions indices? In this context, **Ashraf Al-Awadi**, head of the "I Am Vigilant" organization's Tunisian branch of Transparency International, expresses concerns, stating, '... Corruption, despite being a tool in the hands of the ruling class, has deeply permeated the behavior and culture of our people – meaning the Tunisian people – and now affects every aspect of life.'[62]

This implies that Transparency International's strategy in combating corruption in countries like Tunisia must be deeper than the current strategy, which has proven insufficient, if the organization aims to achieve real rankings for countries characterized by stability and genuine changes in Transparency International's corruption perceptions index.

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[57]Same reference, p. 122.
[58]Report: Corruption Perceptions Indicators 2019, p. 08.
[59]Mohamed Karim Grove - Nabil Brahmia, previous reference, p. 09.
[60]Mohamed JumaAbdo, previous reference, p. 140.
[61]Mohamed Warth, previous reference, p. 91.
[62]Robin Carnza - Mohamed AzerZouari, previous reference, p. 04.

Here are some examples of Transparency International's efforts in some countries that have not been sufficient in combating corruption:

- In **Tunisia**: After the Tunisian popular movement, despite the Tunisian authorities' efforts to combat corruption, corruption in Tunisia has persisted, as noted in Transparency International's reports. Based on the 2013 International Corruption Index issued by Transparency International, Tunisians have observed an increase in bribery and petty corruption since the fall of the Ben Ali regime.

- In **Libya**: Libya was classified among the most corrupt countries in the world after the Gaddafi regime, ranking alongside North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan. Given the situation in Libya, it is unlikely that its ranking will improve due to entrenched corruption in Libyan society, high unemployment rates, and widespread poverty[63].

- In **Algeria: Mr. DjilaliHadjadj**, the representative of Transparency International in Algeria, questions the reason for the high percentage of poverty in one of the world's largest oil-exporting countries, linking it to the spread of corruption[64]. Therefore, Transparency International's corruption perceptions indices have not improved Algeria's ranking nor reduced the corruption phenomenon over the years.

03 - Ineffectiveness of Transparency International's Efforts in Combating Corruption:

Transparency International undertakes a series of efforts and roles in combating corruption, manifested in a number of achievements. However, reality has shown that the organization's efforts are not sufficiently effective in combating corruption worldwide.

The main factors and aspects contributing to the ineffectiveness of Transparency International's efforts in combating corruption can be attributed to:

a)   Lack of adaptation of Transparency International's strategies to each country's specificities:

Transparency International's strategies are uniform global strategies that do not cater to each country individually. Meanwhile, each region and country have specific characteristics that must be considered if any party aims to combat corruption. This is especially relevant for countries, such as those in Africa, which still face numerous challenges in combating corruption. These challenges range from local problems and obstacles due to lack of expertise, resources, training, and technical issues that hinder the formulation of criminal provisions or the inclusion of specific procedural elements to combat corruption[65].

The impact of not adapting Transparency International's strategies to the specificity of each country is evident in the organization's insufficient achievements. Corruption is a concept that varies over time and from one society to another. The perception of behaviors that may be considered corrupt, such as favoritism and nepotism, may vary significantly in societies with familial obligations compared to others. Moreover, it is difficult to establish standards that apply to the phenomenon of corruption in all societies[66].

Therefore, if Transparency International wishes to achieve more positive results and more effective accomplishments, and to ensure more efficient performance, it should adapt its strategies according to the specificities of each country and the uniqueness of each society.

b)   Lack of alignment between Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index and the actual levels of corruption in countries:

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[63]Group of Authors, Fighting Corruption: Constitutional Frameworks for the Middle East and North Africa, Center for Constitutional Transitions, International Foundation for Democracy and Elections, Stockholm, Sweden, 2014, p. 29.

[64]Mohamed Warth, Corruption and its impact on poverty "A reference to the case of Algeria", Journal of Politics and Law Notebooks, KassidiMerbah University, Ouargla, Algeria, No. 08, January 2013, p. 91.

[65]Elias Chaabane, previous reference, p. 07.

[66]Mahmoud Mohammed Maabra, Administrative Corruption and its Treatment in Islamic Law "A Comparative Study of Administrative Law", Dar Al-Thultha, Amman, Jordan, 2011, p. 91.

It is difficult to measure levels of corruption in different institutions and countries without practical experimental experience, such as comparing the number of lawsuits or cases brought before courts between one country and another, or between one institution and another.

Some researchers argue that the data resulting from Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index reports do not reflect actual levels of corruption, but rather the quality of public prosecutors, their attributes, the quality of courts, and/or media methods in uncovering corruption. They believe that the only way to gather information for comparison between countries – and their rankings – is through the direct experience and insight of those most exposed to the reality of corruption in a country[67].

The lack of alignment between Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index and the actual levels of corruption in countries has led some to criticize the organization and accuse it of favoring certain governments. For example, upon reviewing opinions from figures such as **Robin Caranzza**, Director of the Reparative Justice Program, and **Mohamed Azar Al-Zawari**, Legal Officer at the Tunis Office of the International Center for Transitional Justice, they pointed out: '... even Transparency International, on the eve of the 2010 revolution, downplayed corruption in Tunisia and did not describe Ben Ali as the dictator of corruption...'[68]They affirm that Transparency International was not fully aware of the corruption under Ben Ali, suggesting bias towards him and attempts to minimize the severity of corruption in Tunisia due to this bias.

In this regard, a memorandum from the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait states: 'It should be noted that the data – meaning Corruption Perceptions Index data – is not available for every country, but its availability varies from one country to another. Statistical methods are used to calculate missing values, which increases the index's inaccuracy.' Responding to these criticisms, Transparency International recently published another index measuring corruption, the Bribe Payers Index based on a public survey about bribery for public services. However, most of its results are not compatible with Corruption Perceptions Index data.'[69]

Similarly, in **Dr. Mohammed JumaAbdou**'s book on corruption, he analyzes Libya's ranking in the global corruption ranking according to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index from 2010 to 2018, stating that 'this ranking does not truly reflect the quantity and quality of corruption in the country.'[70]

All of this has led some, like **Dr. HahaAbdelali**, to express distrust in the statistics and rankings compiled by Transparency International in the field of corruption.[71]

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion of this research paper, we can say that **corruption** is an unethical phenomenon because it deviates from ethical behavioral standards and traditions, prevalent in environments or societies where transactions are characterized by a level of secrecy that undermines efforts towards development, thereby jeopardizing the security of societies.

It is, therefore, a criminal phenomenon legally, as it involves actions characterized by legal deceit and manipulation to obtain privileges and benefits in ways prohibited by law on one hand, and because it manifests as the misuse of authority or positions entrusted by individuals (whether in the public or private sector) for personal gain at the expense of violating public interest on the other hand.

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[67]Mohammed Karim Grove - Nabil Brahmia, previous reference, p. 08.

[68]Robin Carnza - Mohamed AzerZouari, Briefing (Job, Freedom, National Dignity: "The ambition of Tunisia's youth does not stop at accountability for corruption"), International Center for Transitional Justice in Tunis, Tunisia, February 2020, p. 02.

[69]Handbook of International Development Indicators and Databases, previous reference, p. 54.

[70]Mohamed JomaaAbdou, previous reference, p. 140.

[71]AbdelaliHaha, Legal Mechanisms to Combat Administrative Corruption in Algeria, PhD thesis, Specialization: Public Law, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Mohamed Kheder University, Biskra, Algeria, 2012-2013, p. K.

This phenomenon has united national and international efforts to combat it, considering its significant detrimental impact across various sectors and in societal development.

The efforts undertaken by **Transparency International** in combating corruption since its inception until today are among the most prominent efforts in the field of anti-corruption. Indeed, they have achieved numerous accomplishments that cannot be denied. However, they have also been efforts that did not succeed, simply **because they did not achieve the purpose for which they were intended**, namely, creating a corruption-free international community.

While we acknowledge the efforts and achievements of Transparency International in combating corruption, it cannot be asserted that these efforts are sufficient and effective.

Therefore, we can conclude this research paper by stating:

- Transparency International has achieved many accomplishments in combating corruption, particularly in crystallizing the concept of corruption as a global phenomenon, defining it, and raising awareness about its risks. While these are achievements that contribute positively to evaluating the organization's role in this field, they remain inconsistent achievements at times (because the ranking of countries in terms of corruption prevalence or proximity to integrity is not stable; some countries have improved their anti-corruption efforts and approached integrity standards more, while others have regressed, moving away from integrity standards), and these achievements are **not universal** (as they pertain to specific positions or regions designated).

- Transparency International's efforts in the framework of combating corruption are **inadequate and ineffective**, considering many indicators, the most important of which include:

• The organization's continued unification of anti-corruption procedures or strategies without diversifying them according to what suits the nature of each country, or in other words, without adapting the organization's strategies within the framework of its role aiming to combat corruption in line with the unique needs of certain regions and communities, which due to their nature, composition, and level, require special anti-corruption strategies.**This means that if Transparency International truly desires a corruption-free society, it must vary its strategies and adapt them intermittently, whether temporally or spatially, as what may serve as suitable strategies in one region or country may not be suitable in another. Therefore, the adaptation of Transparency International's strategies within the framework of combating corruption remains one of the most crucial factors in its success in this field.**

• The mismatch between the results announced by Transparency International regarding corruption levels in a particular region or country and the actual data reflecting real corruption levels in that region or country, attributable to Transparency International's strategies in obtaining information and data about corruption. While the organization indeed has around 100 branches worldwide, these branches either do not fulfill their expected role effectively or the nature of the indicators imposed by the organization in measuring corruption does not correspond to the composition of all regions and countries. **Therefore, in our view, for Transparency International to achieve consistent or closely aligned results with the actual reality of corruption, it must change its strategies and even its corruption measurement standards (indicators) to suit the nature of each country, the prevalence rate of corruption therein, and the centers of those engaged in such corruption. This necessitates the organization not relying solely on what is provided by its branches spread across various regions and countries, but also seeking the assistance of individuals and civil society organizations who must be encouraged to produce local strategies (as they are the most knowledgeable about the society they live in) that can lead to revealing meaningful results that truly reflect corruption.**

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