

**Transparency International is the leading global movement in the fight against corruption. The organisation consists of more than 100 chapters worldwide, plus an international secretariat in Berlin. We document and highlight corruption problems, and work with governments, the business community and civil society to implement mechanisms that effectively counter corruption.**

# CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**2**

GAP ANALYSIS

**6**

RESULTS IN 2014

**8**

CORRUPTION  
IN GREENLAND

**4**

TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL

**6**

STRATEGY AND  
ACTION PLANS

**8**

WHY WORK  
WITH CORRUPTION  
IN GREENLAND?

**4**

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT  
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST  
CORRUPTION

**6**

AWARENESS  
AND INVOLVEMENT

**8**

CURRENT STATUS  
OF CORRUPTION  
IN GREENLAND

**5**

THE PATH OF  
TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL  
GREENLAND

**7**

HOW FAR HAVE  
WE COME IN 2014

**9**

LEGISLATION

**6**

THE ORGANISATION

**7**

TRAINING AND SKILLS  
ENHANCEMENT IN THE  
BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE  
CIVIL SERVICE, THE MEDIA, CIVIL  
SOCIETY AND ACADEMIA

**9**

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND  
MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

**9**

INFORMATION AND  
TRAINING MATERIALS

**10**

FUNDS AND  
DONATIONS

**10**

HEARINGS

**9**

TI SUMMERSCHOOL

**10**

SECRETARY

**11**

MEETINGS

**9**

GREENLANDS  
NGO COALITION

**10**

TI SUMMERSCHOOL

**11**

CONFERENCES

**9**

TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL  
MEETING IN BERLIN

**10**

THE PUBLIC

**9**

VISIT FROM TI'S  
SECRETARIAT

**10**

# CORRUPTION IN GREENLAND

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## WHY WORK WITH CORRUPTION IN GREENLAND?

Corruption exists in all sectors and at all levels of society, and involves more than just bribery, fraud and embezzlement. Other kinds of abuse of power can also be corrupt, such as kickbacks, gifts, entertainment, favours for friends, favouritism and nepotism. A common denominator for these problems is provided in the broad definition of corruption used by Transparency International (TI):

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**Corruption is defined by Transparency International as *the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It harms everyone whose life, livelihood or happiness depends on the integrity of people in a position of authority.***

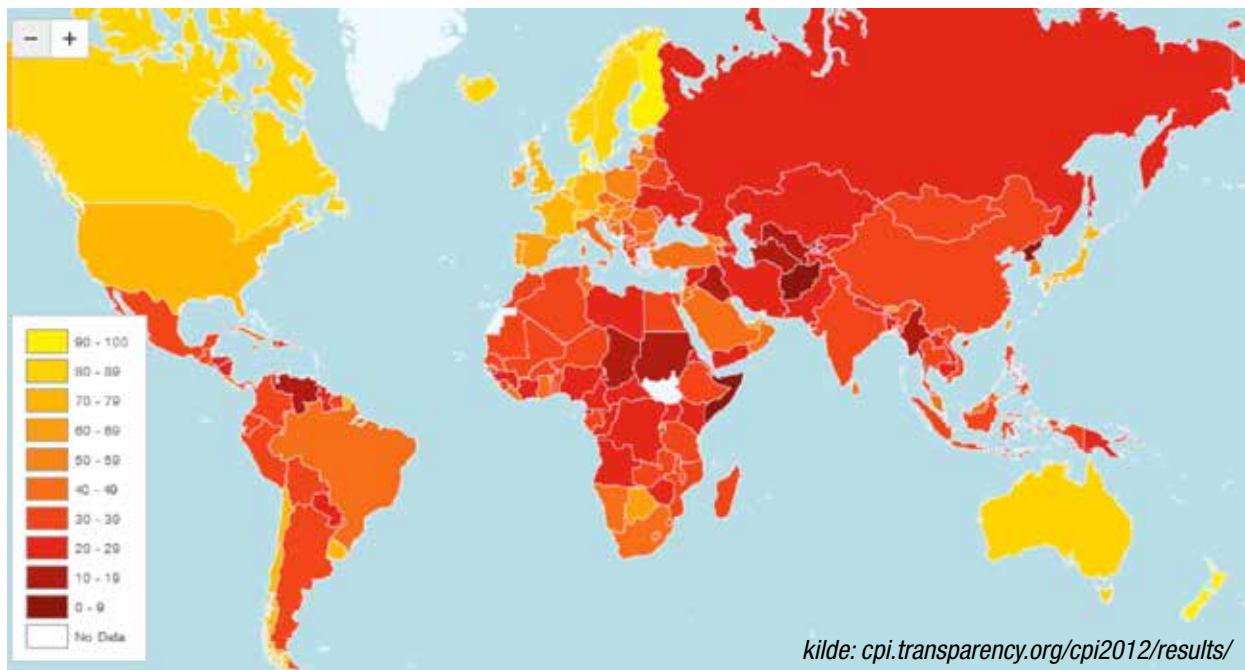
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Regardless of its form, corruption harms a society by creating unequal conditions and distrust, and by discouraging free competition. According to the World Bank and the United

Nations Development Programme (UNDP), corruption is the most significant barrier to sustainable development in a global perspective. Corruption is by its nature a sensitive issue and can therefore be difficult to identify – but its enemy is transparency. That is why TI fights corruption by promoting transparency in all sectors – and at global, national and local level.

TI regularly publishes reports on global corruption. This applies, among other things in areas such as climate change, education, private sector and the legal system.

The nature and extent of corruption in Greenland has not yet been monitored by independent bodies, and has thus not been registered in TI's global index of corruption. Greenland therefore appears as a white spot on the corruption index world map (see figure below). This seems paradoxical in a time of growing geopolitical and commercial interest in the Arctic and in Greenland's natural resources, and emphasises the need to focus on this area in Greenland, too.



Greenland's mineral resources have a huge potential which the oil and mining industries wish to exploit. By reputation, these industries are among the most corrupt in the world.<sup>1</sup> This is a source of concern to Transparency International Greenland (TIG), as such corruption can prevent economic development from benefitting society as a whole, because the gains either leave the country or are unfairly distributed.

In 2012, TIG published an independent report based on TI's comparative methodology, a *National Integrity Study*.<sup>2</sup> An NIS study seeks to identify a society's robustness in resisting corruption. The study carried out was not a full NIS study, but in the first instance covered the construction, fisheries and minerals industries, on the basis of the public sector. The study found no indications of widespread corruption in the form of bribery, embezzlement or fraud, but on the other hand revealed that Greenland has only a few rather weak institutions, mechanisms and processes with which to resist corruption. This implies a high element of risk in connection with the massive investments upon which the large-scale projects in Greenland will depend.

<sup>1</sup> For further details, see Transparency International's *Bribe Payers Index 2011* pp. 14-15 and *Global Corruption Report 2009* p. 54.

<sup>2</sup> The NIS report is available in Danish, Greenlandic and English at the TIG website [www.transparency.gl](http://www.transparency.gl)

## CURRENT STATUS OF CORRUPTION IN GREENLAND

Overall, the NIS study points to a number of corruption risks in Greenland, but also emphasises that there is no evidence of widespread corruption at the present time. However, the report's main conclusion is that there are a number of factors which could usefully be improved to strengthen Greenland's ethical preparedness now and in the future:

- Greenland has a limited number of civil society organisations, which possess few resources and a limited capacity to understand complex material from international companies – particularly in environmental matters
- The media are assessed to have a high degree of dependence on public funding, as well as a limited capacity, which restricts their ability to act as a watchdog
- Greenland has few institutions, with limited resources, to prevent corruption. The existing institutions, such as the ombudsman, lack specified areas of responsibility at both local and national level
- The public administration is weak in resources, particularly due to its high employee turnover. Greenland currently has no whistle-blower systems to protect individuals with knowledge of corruption, which means that contacting the police is often the only option. Today, people are often turning to TIG in the absence of other options
- There is a lack of transparency in legislative processes, particularly in the Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum
- As a small society, Greenland has a number of closely-related networks and family ties, which entails a risk of inappropriate personal preferential treatment

## LEGISLATION

The UN Convention against Corruption and The Aarhus Convention was considered by Inatsisartut by spring 2014. The meeting points were not finalized because of election. The Government was instructed to look around EITI and legislate on whistleblowing. TIG follows legislative action with interest.

## GAP ANALYSIS

How does it look today, how is the reality of Greenland in 2014 in relation to the obligations under the UN Convention on anti-corruption? TIG asked the question together with Greenland Employers Association and Greenland Human Rights Council has given support to an analysis prepared by Thomas Trier Hansen from Nordic Law Group. The GAP analysis will be published in early summer 2015.

# TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

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## A GLOBAL MOVEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

TI's vision is to secure a world in which governments, politics, business life, civil society and people's daily lives are free of corruption, by promoting transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and in all sectors. The organisation consists of more than 100 chapters worldwide, plus an international secretariat in Berlin. TI documents and highlights corruption problems, and co-operates with governments, the business community and civil society to implement mechanisms that will effectively counter corruption.

The national chapters are independent organisations of civil society which are registered in their home countries and internationally associated with TI. Each chapter has its own board, membership base, strategic priorities and projects, and is responsible for providing its own funding. The TI secretariat in Berlin supports the chapters by providing knowledge and tools (such as the Corruption Perception Index, the Global Corruption Barometer, NIS methodology, etc.), but does not provide financing for such projects. The international secretariat also organises annual regional and global meetings at which the chapters can exchange experience, develop new partnerships and share the latest knowledge on research, initiatives and results achieved in TI as a whole.

TIG is part of this structure and supports the TI vision. While there are already corrupt practices and a lack of transparency in Greenland that should be addressed by TIG, our primary goal is to prevent corruption gaining a foothold during the rapid development of the minerals sector.

The NIS report suggests that there is low awareness of the risk of corruption in Greenland, and that the institutions, mechanisms and processes available to counteract it are limited. Over the years, but particularly marked in 2014, TIG noted growing interest from politicians and citizens for greater openness and transparency, especially in the public administration.

Civil society organisations in the country are small and poorly funded, which leaves a void without critical agencies to monitor the situation and hold politicians and officials to account. The media also lack the resources and skills to play a watchdog role. Such a role requires knowledge and technical expertise.

## THE PATH OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GREENLAND

Transparency Greenland established itself as the Greenlandic point of contact for TI in 2010, with the aim of ensuring the sustainable development of Greenland towards an independence unhampered by corruption and nepotism, to the common benefit of current and future generations. This requires timely action.

In general, the organisation has been welcomed by politicians, the media, civil society, the business world and the wider community – but there are also critical opponents who do not wish more attention to be paid to the issues the organisation raises. Due to the country's size and its limited human resources, TIG attempts to co-operate with other civil society organisations to ensure maximum impact on the sustainability agenda. Together, we try to address issues of transparency, the environment and human rights associated with the development of Greenland. The NGO-coalition, established in 2013, consist today of Transparency International-

al Greenland, ICC Greenland, KNAPK, WWF and Earth Charter Greenland.

TI has an extensive admission process for new branches in the movement, which consists of four phases: 1) A broadly-based contact group is founded and approved as legitimate by the TI secretariat, 2) a National Contact Point is formed as a civil society organisation, which must demonstrate its viability by maintaining a high level of activity and good results for approximately two years, until 3) the organisation becomes a National Chapter in Formation, and finally, after two or three years, 4) a full National Chapter. In 2013, TIG achieved the status of National Chapter in Formation and applies for admission as a full-fledged Chapter in 2015. The good results during the organization's first year of life has been achieved in close co-operation with TI's secretariat in Berlin.

## THE ORGANISATION

The Board of TIG has five members, elected at TIG general meeting in April 2014. At the end of December 2014 the Board consisted of:

Anita Hoffer, chairman

Merete Smidt-Sivertsen, vice-chairman

Tine Pars

Birgit Gedionsen

Jakob Strøm

The Board has assigned two expert members: Anne Mette Christiansen and Thomas Trier Hansen. Expert members have no voting rights.

Other Board members in 2014:

Aaja Chemnitz Larsen, member of the Board from April 23 to October 23. Resigned justified in standing for the Inatsisartut election.

Ellen Høy Arnskjold, member of the Board from April 23 to August 19. Resigned due to removal to another country.

Nuka Nathanielsen, member of the Board from April 23 to October 20. Withdrawn on own request.

The organisation employs a secretariat, consisting of two part-time employees Bodil Karlshøj Poulsen and Marianne Jensen. The aim is to employ a full-time head of secretariat in 2015.

# RESULTS IN 2014

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## STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS

Since its foundation, TIG has been very active in its efforts to reach both the public and decision-makers with its messages and concrete solution proposals. In its first four years, TIG has provided expert advice, training and instruction, and promoted citizen involvement. The organisation has acquired new members, been visible in the media, lobbied, given hearing responses, entered into commitments with other civil society organisations and pursued a number of individual cases. TIG has since 2013 been a member of UN Global Compact and had a representative in Greenland's Council for Human Rights.

The annual report for 2012 describes the three-year strategy and action plan for 2013 – 2015 with the objectives and activities in the areas of awareness and involvement, legislation and institutions, long-term sustainability as well

as network and coalition. The Board held in the autumn of 2014 a strategy seminar. Here it was decided to maintain the previous activities, but also to be more visible and proactive.

## AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

Corruption is a shady affair, which only thrives in secrecy. This makes public attention to the problems crucial. The more people in the community who know about harmfulness of corruption and know their options with regards to counteract corruption, the harder it is to keep the abuse of entrusted power hidden from the public. TIG is concerned at the relatively low awareness about corruption in the society and thus wants to put solid focus on education, training and public engagement.



# HOW FAR HAVE WE COME IN 2014

## TRAINING AND SKILLS ENHANCEMENT IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE MEDIA, CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACADEMIA

TIG has developed a course targeted at these groups that provides participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to work on anti-corruption and transparency. The course is taught by local lawyers and CSR experts. For use in the course is a handbook of anti-corruption and related slide kit prepared. The handbook should make it easier for domestic companies to navigate without corruption. The course was held in May 2014.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS AND MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Facebook is utilised as a primary channel to collect discuss and disseminate messages to a wider range of citizens. The Facebook page is very popular and achieved in 2014 visit by more than 700 people. The organisation chairman has appeared in the Greenlandic, Danish and international media, and has thereby placed transparency on the agenda. Topics for this year's debate has been the politicians conflicts of interest, misuse of state funds, large-scale mining, Uranium debate and whistleblowing.

## HEARINGS

TIG receives several requests to give hearing responses. Due to resources must be prioritized. TIG has in 2014 submitted its hearing answer to:

- Statement on the advantages and disadvantages of converting Nukisiorfiit to a limited company
- Pre-hearing of reports for Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). GME/Kvanefjeldet.
- GeoSurvey. Proposal for a national geological research, knowledge and data centre.

- Amendment of the Mineral Resources Act.
- Draft terms of reference, evaluation on the structural reform.

## MEETINGS

**Internal meetings:** Board meetings were held on January 13., April 4., April 23., April 29., June 10., August 19., October 23., December 4. Minutes of negotiation protocol from Board meetings and the General Assembly are available on the web-side [www.transparency.gl](http://www.transparency.gl). The General Assembly was held in Katuaq and had many participants. It was the first time the members elected chairman and Board of Directors. Amendments from 2013 meant that the Board was no longer designated, but that TIG from April 23. 2014 is a common association where the Board is appointed by and among the members. The Board held strategy seminar in September, and the direction for the coming year was outlined. Member meeting was held on December 6.

**External meetings:** TIG has been invited to a series of meetings with Tanbrezz, Greenland Minerals and Energy (GME), Shell Greenland Director, the Canadian Embassy in Copenhagen, Baffinland Iron Mines Company and researchers from different countries. In addition meetings were held with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality Sermersooq.

In connection with the visit of TI's coordinator TIG wished that he was given broad and comprehensive information about the community. Meetings were arranged with ICC, rector on Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland Business Association, Grønlandsbanken, member of Inatsisartut Naaja Nathanielsen and BMN Company.

## CONFERENCES

In order to spread the organizations agree views TIG has participated in a

series of conferences. TIG has at the following conferences/meetings had a representative as speaker or in panel:

- Conference at Ilisimatusarfik by publication of report *For the benefit of Greenland*
- NGO coalition. Public meeting on better public participation.
- The Committee for Mineral Resources. Seminar on Oil and Mineral Strategy.
- Business Conference at Christiansborg.

## THE PUBLIC

TIG's Facebook Page is frequently used and has more than 700 likes. The Facebook page is used to tell about current meetings, press releases and comments on current affairs. Interested citizens are using the Facebook Page to get in contact with the Board.

TIG was at the Culture Night present at Ilisimatusarfik with information.

Outside Nuuk activities were held in Paamiut, Sisimiut and Aasiaat. In Paamiut a public meeting and in Sisimiut as well as in Aasiaat information on TIG was given during days of education,

Working in the autumn 2014 was marked by the election of Parliament. TIG wanted to make corruption and fight it to a theme in the election campaign and therefore launched a '3-stage-rocket' starting with setting up posters for election, visibility of TI's Declaration against corruption and finally a meeting for voters.

Election posters urging voters to vote for a party that works for a Greenland without corruption, nepotism and abuse of entrusted power, was set up around the country. The campaign also included postcards with questions to candidates: 'Who pays your travel', 'Who do you hire' and 'How large a gift do you want to receive'.

TI declaration against Corruption was translated to Greenlandic and Danish and printed on a huge poster (320x160 cm) and on business cards. All citizens were invited to sign on the poster and were afterwards handed a business card. Signatures were collected at a members meeting in Nuuk, at an election meeting in Nuuk, in Aasiaat and Sisi-miut during education days, at 'Kaffemik' arrangement December 9 and finally through Facebook. Totally around 600 citizens have by their signature marked that they would comply the Declaration.

The voters meeting was organized by the NGO coalition headed: How will the parties ensure better citizen involvement?

December 9, UN International Anticorruption Day, was marked with Kaffemik in Katuaq.

### INFORMATION AND TRAINING MATERIALS

Handbook on public employees' freedom of expression as well as teaching materials targeted schoolteachers at primary schools were formed at the end of 2014. Both will be published in 2015.

For the visibility of TIG were purchased balloons, sweets, badges and bracelets with TIG logo.

### TI SUMMERSCHOOL

TI Summer School in Vilnius had 120 young participants. From Greenland student in the social sciences at Ilisima-tusarfik Tukuminnguaq Nykjær Olsen participated. Participation was possible as the Bank of Greenland donated kr. 15,000 for travel and subsistence.

### GREENLANDS NGO COALITION

Recommendations from the NGO Coalition, which was formed in 2013 to improve citizen involvement were handed over to the Government on March 25. A common charter, that prospectively describe the Coalition's vision, purpose and framework was signed in October 2014. The signatory organizations are Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland (ICC), Transparency international Greenland (TIG), Kalaallit Nunaani Aalisartut Piniartullu Kattuffiat (KNAPK) Earth Charter Greenland and WWF World Wildlife Foundation. In October, a workshop for organizational development and design of common concept note for de next years was held.

### TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING IN BERLIN

Board members and secretariat staff members from chapters around the world met to discuss challenges and

possible ways to combat corruption. TIG participated with the Chair, the two expert members of the Board and the two part-time employees of the secretariat. During the meeting TIG's representatives joined TI's Declaration against corruption.

### VISIT FROM TI'S SECRETARIAT

The international organization's regional coordinator Peter Vagar, who ordinarily is attached to the Secretariat in Berlin, visited TIG December 4. – 9. Transparency and anti-corruption has been a major agenda in Greenland, and TIG is applying to become a full Chapter in the international organization. Peter Vagars visit was part of this process. He attended a board meeting, reviewed the application process and had the opportunity to meet a number of TIG members and partners.

### FUNDS AND DONATIONS

Bank of Greenland Business Fund: kr. 215.000 for the operation of the Secretariat and support for projects, including Summer School.

Tips & Lotto: kr. 75,000 for rental of office room.

Greenland Council for Human Rights: kr. 31,119 to an information film in Greenlandic on UN Disability Convention, TIG in



TI Declaration against corruption. Poster with signatures photographed on December 9 in Nuuk at the UN anti-corruption Day



*Participants in Summerschool 2014.*

collaboration with IPIS (Knowledge and Advisory Centre on Disability). Kr. 39.000 to develop tools for primary school teachers for training in anti-corruption, TIG in collaboration with Ilisimatusarfik. Kr. 32.250 to Handbook on public employees' freedom of expression, TIG in collaboration with Greenland Lawyers. Kr. 37,000 to form a GAP analysis, TIG in collaboration with Greenland Business Association. From the latter donation is kr. 15,000 returned as translation was not reached in 2014.

**Tele Greenland:** internet for free in the Secretary.

**Greenland Business Association:** kr. 15,000 and postal costs for information about transparency in relation to the election in November 2014. Assistance for bookkeeping.

**Maren Granlien:** reduced cost of consultant service.

**Deloitte:** Audit of accounts free of charge.

**Inu-it:** Practical help with Internet setup.

## **SECRETARY**

TIG is included in office facilities with a number of other NGO's. The office is

housed in the former Oles Varehus in the middle of Nuuk.

## **TI SUMMERSCHOOL**

In mid-July 2014 120 young people met in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius to participate in Transparency International School on Integrity's Summerschool on corruption.

Transparency International Greenland had in cooperation with ILI ILI, university student association, again in 2014 one participant. This time it was Tukumminnguaq Nykjær Olsen, student in social science at Ilisimatusarfik. The participation was made possible by a donation from Grønlandsbanken's Business Fund.

Tukumminnguaq Nykjær Olsen has sent reporting and images. From abbreviated version: "At the Summerschool we dealt with various tools to combat corruption, for example UN anti-corruption convention and different ways of calculating corruption such as Corruption Perception Index and Bribe Payers Index in micro and macro perspective.

Some of the participants spoke of corruption in their countries on many different levels, including at hospitals and the police. For example, it was told not only

from one country that you have to bribe the nurses, so relatives who are at the hospital get proper care and if you do not do this, your stay at the hospital can cause death. This is regarded to be so normal that it is considered a part of the culture why it is very difficult to change such practices. Other participants spoke about corruption among the police, for example illegal bills from the police will be put in their own pockets.

Staying at the school was very much about personal qualities such as leadership and better insight into how to make good choices and dissemination of information, because we all have a responsibility for a better society without corruption.

I hope that other young people will be interested in participating next year as it is a very important issue which Greenland in the future also should be careful about, as a country in the process of developing a future mining industry, and where we have already seen lack of transparent behaviour."

