

**COMMUNICATION  
ON ENGAGEMENT  
REPORT**

# FOREWORD

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

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Transparency International Greenland (TIG) is the Greenlandic chapter of the international NGO, Transparency International. Established in 2011, we are working to promote transparency, counter corruption and fair practices in society, business and the public sector in Greenland. We have 18 corporate members and more than 50 private members, which together with a high degree of visibility on social media and in local newspapers have made us one of the most significant NGOs in Greenland.

In 2013, we decided to join the UN Global Compact. This decision was based on a strong interest in supporting the ten principles for responsible business conduct, but also to stress the importance of the tenth principle, 'to fight corruption and extortion in all its forms'.

We work closely with CSR Greenland, the local UN Global Compact contact point in Greenland, to help companies work with the 10th principle of the UN Global Compact fo-

cus on anticorruption. Our work with raising awareness, engaging companies and public sector institutions alike, provide training and insights for companies among other things are described in this report.

We include elements from our start as an organization in 2011, but focus is on events and activities in the reporting period August 2017 – June 30th 2019.

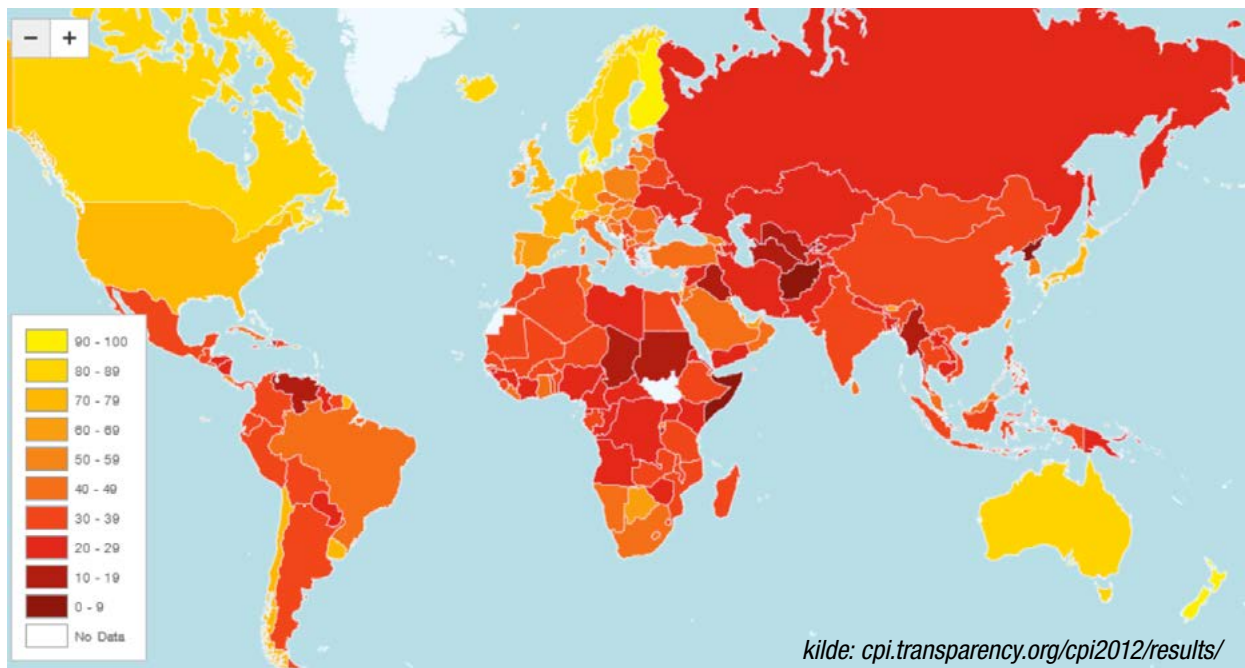
We continue to strongly support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. If you have ideas and suggestions how we can work even more with the principles, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

*Anita Hoffer*

*Chairwoman, Transparency International Greenland*

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## BACKGROUND: CORRUPTION IN GREENLAND

### 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):

**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.**

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 perception index of corruption. Greenland therefore appears as a white spot on the corruption index world map. 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.

<sup>1</sup> For further details, see Transparency International's *Bribe Payers Index 2011* pp. 14-15 and *Global Corruption Report 2019*, p.54. [www.transparency.org](http://www.transparency.org)

## CURRENT STATUS OF CORRUPTION IN GREENLAND

In 2012, TIG published an independent report based on TI's comparative methodology, a *National Integrity Study*.<sup>2</sup> A 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, as these are the key pillars in the Greenlandic society. The study found no indications of widespread corruption in the form of bribery, embezzlement or fraud, but also concluded that Greenland has only a few rather weak institutions, mechanisms and processes to help 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.

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.

The government has decided that a NIS study will be carried out in 2020. Nordic Consulting Group has been appointed for this, TIG is represented in advisory group.

Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) is one of the important tools for Transparency International. In 2016 TIG secured Greenland's participation for the first time. The results say nothing about whether there is actually corruption in the country, but rather about people's experience of this. Corruption was on the respondents' 'top 6' over the important issues that should be on the political agenda. The GCB al-

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

so showed that virtually everyone believed that corruption should come to light. TIG are preparing Greenland's participation in GBG in 2020. In 2016, TIG ensured that Greenland participated for the first time in TI's Global Corruption Barometer. The main conclusions from this were:

- Corruption is experienced as worsening in the past year. Almost half of respondents feel that corruption has become much worse, while only 14% believe that corruption has become less bad over the past year.
- The government is not doing enough to fight corruption. 25% of respondents thought the government handled corruption very poorly, while 38% thought it was being handled poorly.
- The confidence among respondents is lowest for the government and business leaders. 22% of respondents indicated that the government and the head of government are 'all or almost all corrupt', while the same applies to 16% when it comes to business leaders in Greenland.
- Corruption is on the respondents' top 6 over important issues that should be on the political agenda. Corruption is mentioned as a central issue - placed by economy / unemployment, education, health, environment and crime
- Corruption must come to light. 91% of respondents would be required to report corruption if they experienced it.

- Wealthy individuals have too much influence on government. 77% agree that wealthy individuals use their influence on government to promote their own interest.

In January 2019, TIG submitted its recommendations for more transparency in the appointment of board members in the publicly owned companies.<sup>3</sup> The most important were:

- That it should be easier to find information on how to become a candidate for a board position in a publicly owned company
- That the entire set of competencies that the Board needs to cover is stated on the company's website making it more transparent why different members are elected to the Board
- That a "Handbook in Board work in state-owned and municipality-owned companies" is prepared and distributed to new Board Members.
- That the latest international corporate governance recommendations are used as a standard

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<sup>3</sup> *Offentligt ejede selskaber I Grønland: Transparens i udpegning af bestyrelsesmedlemmer og håndtering af interessekonflikter.*  
[www.transparency.gl](http://www.transparency.gl)

# 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 office in Brussel and 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 and be a watchdog for transparency in general.

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 2018 and 2019, TIG noted growing interest from politicians and citizens for greater openness and transparency, especially in the public administration. The government has implemented an internal whistleblower scheme.

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 DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GREENLAND

Transparency Greenland established itself as the Greenlandic Contact Group 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. TIG had a permanent membership in The Human Rights Council.

TI has an extensive admission process for new chapters 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
3. The organisation becomes a *National Chapter in Formation* for two or three years
4. A full *National Chapter*, which is re-accredited every third year

In 2013, TIG achieved the status of *National Chapter in Formation* in 2015 TIG became a full National Chapter under Transparency International. TIG's membership was re-accredited in 2018, and in 2019 TIG received the accreditation to continue as a fully accredited National Chapter.

## THE ORGANISATION

The Board of TIG has six members, elected at TIG general meeting. At the end of the reporting period, the Board consisted of:

- Anita Hoffer, chairwoman
- Naaja H. Nathanielsen, vice chairman
- Dora Drechsel
- Birita I Dali
- Melissa Krogsgaard Geisler
- Sara Olsvig

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

The organisation has a secretariat with one part-time employee Bodil Karishøj, who works as Executive Director for the TIG secretariat.

## RESULTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD 2017 - 2019

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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. 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.



# ENGAGING BUSINESS AND INTERACTING WITH THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

In the following, we briefly account for how we have engaged with companies on Global Compact relevant themes.

## ENGAGE WITH GLOBAL COMPACT LOCAL NETWORKS

In Greenland, the local UN Global Compact network is working together with the organization CSR Greenland. CSR Greenland is also the local contact point for UN Global Compact, working to raise awareness of the principles among Greenlandic companies. From the beginning, there has been a very close collaboration between CSR Greenland and TIG.

In the reporting period, TIG has engaged with the local UNGC network through CSR Greenland in the following ways:

- Joint hosting of a high-level CEO event focusing on anticorruption in companies with participation of C-suite members from a range of Greenlandic companies
- SDG seminars to introduce the Sustainable Development Goals

TIG promotes relevant workshops and anticorruption training courses through the CSR Greenland network

## ENGAGE COMPANIES IN GLOBAL COMPACT RELATED ISSUES

Given TIGs focus on anticorruption and transparency it is within this area that we have worked to engage companies. Among our many activities it is relevant to highlight the following in the reporting period:

- In 2017 TIG published a Handbook in Anti-corruption for Municipalities. The handbook was accompanied by an offer for municipalities to get a specific workshop as well as an offer for training. Courses are given continuously and are continued.
- TIG has offered a number of training workshops for companies to participate in. Courses have been held

several times with a good reach among local companies.

- 2017-2018 TIG participated in project collaboration with TI Russia and TI Lithuania *Establishing Common Guidelines for Conflict of Interests in the Nordic and Baltic Region*. Greenland's contribution to the project was a report with results from TIG's investigation of the Greenlandic Government's and Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq's processes for appointing board members, ensuring board members 'eligibility, guidelines for boards' work and transparency in publicly owned companies. The report *Offentligt ejede selskaber i Grønland: Transparens i udpegning af bestyrelsesmedlemmer og håndtering af interessekonflikter. Anbefalinger fra Transparency International Greenland* is available at our website.

Participate in Global Compact local or international events

Given the high cost of travelling to and from Greenland, it has not been possible to participate in as many international UNGC events as we would have liked to.

The organization prioritizes participation in Transparency International events and in the International Anti Corruption Conference, IACC. Whenever possible, TIG has participated in the regional and global meetings of Transparency International. The purpose of participating in international events overall is for us to learn more about how other chapters work on transparency issues, gather inspiration and get new ideas. Also, we seek opportunities to raise awareness of corruption challenges in Greenland.

At a local scale, TIG has been a regular speaker and co-organizer with CSR Greenland, the local UNGC contact point as mentioned above. Greenland hosted the UNGC Nordic Network meeting in April 2018 for the first time, and TIG was participating in the planning of the meeting as well as in the actual meeting. Key-note speaker was Mogens Lyketoft, former general secretary of UN.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

Below is a selection of other activities in the reporting period. For more information and a more comprehensive overview, please see our annual reports, available at [transparency.gl](http://transparency.gl)

### TRAINING AND SKILLS ENHANCEMENT IN THE MUNICIPALITIES AND DEPARTMENTS

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 TIG secretary. For use in the course is a handbook of anti-corruption and related slide kit prepared. A special course targeted employees in municipalities is developed an courses held five times in Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq.

### 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 2019 visits by more than 1 300 individuals. Our chairman has appeared in the Greenlandic, Danish and international media, and has thereby placed transparency on the agenda. Topics have been recommendation for joining the UN Convention against corruption, the politicians' conflicts of interest, procurement law, openness about quotas and licenses in fisheries, large-scale mining and whistleblowing.

A number of interviews on current political issues, such as whistleblowing and anti-corruption efforts, were included in the press's articles.

### HEARINGS

TIG is often invited to submit consultation responses to, for example, new legislation, in other cases unsolicited consultation responses are provided. All consultation responses are available on our website.

### MEETINGS

Internal meetings: Board meetings are held 8-10 times a year and minutes from Board meetings and the General Assembly are available on the website [www.transparency.gl](http://www.transparency.gl).

External meetings: TIG has been invited to a series of meetings with mining companies, foreign embassies and researchers from different countries. In addition, meetings were held with the Department of Foreign Affairs and representatives from EU. The most important meetings are discussed in board minutes, which are available on the website.

During the period July 2017 to August 2019, TIG held a number of meetings, among others, with the following

- UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights
- Member of Folketinget (Danish Parliament) Aaja Chemnitz Larsen
- TI-Denmark, boardmembers
- Members of Naalakkersuisut (Government Greenland)
- Members of Inatsisartut (Parliament Greenland)
- Ministry of Finance (Greenland) and OECD
- EIT RawMaterials ArcHub; scientists
- TI-S Berlin, chairman and staff in the secretary
- TI-Germany, boardmembers
- TI Iceland, TI Latvia and TI Estonia

## CONFERENCES

At the largest international anti-corruption conference, IACC 2018, TIG, co-organized and hosted with TI Iceland and TI Estonia a workshop under the Nordic Pillar with the title *My friend, my cousin, my business partner: How to prevent misuse of entrusted power in small societies*. Themes addressed include challenges to small societies in avoiding misuse of entrusted power, Nepotism and Tools to ensure transparency in small societies. The workshop was very well attended with more than 100 individuals participating.

Some other seminars abroad,

- SDG in the Arctic: Local and Global Perspectives
- SDG seminar in Copenhagen, invited by the Danish minister on foreign affairs
- Annual Membership Meeting TI, Copenhagen and Berlin

## PUBLIC DIALOGUE

TIG has made it a tradition to invite to public meeting every time there an election for Parliament or municipalities is near. In 2018 the theme was "A future without corruption". All parties have been represented.

In 2018 TIG, in cooperation with Greenland Business Association, Greenland's Lawyers Association and Human Rights Council, focused on the human right 'freedom of speech'. A public conference entitled "The Silent Democracy" was held as part of this focus.

## NGO COALITION

At TIG, we find it important to collaborate with other local NGO's to strengthen civil society. That's the main reason for TIG to have its secretary in a local 'NGO Community House' with 5 other organisations.

In 2018 all NGOs in Nuuk were invited to a workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals organized by TIG, and in 2019 another seminar for all local NGOs was organized by TIG with the title 'Dialogue as a Tool'.

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Through its representative, TIG has ensured that transparency and anti-corruption are on the agenda. Membership has ensured good collaborative projects with other NGOs.

## IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE

You can read more about TIG on our website [www.transparency.gl](http://www.transparency.gl) which provides information in English (not must), Danish and Greenlandic. Here you can find our annual reports accounting for our full activities each year.

If you have questions or would like to join our organization, please to not hesitate to contact us at [info@transparency.gl](mailto:info@transparency.gl).

