The International Anti-Corruption Court

1. The problem — Grand corruption is not a victimless crime

Grand corruption — the abuse of public power for private gain by national leaders and senior officials — drains public resources, weakens democracy, undermines human rights, fuels instability and blocks sustainable development.

Most countries already criminalize corruption under UNCAC. The problem is enforcement: in kleptocratic systems, those most responsible often control the police, prosecutors and courts.

>5%
of global GDP lost to corruption

Trillions
paid in bribes every year

10×
more lost to corruption than received in foreign aid

$1 TRILLION
in illicit outflows every year

2. The enforcement gap

There is no permanent international court able to prosecute kleptocrats.

This creates an accountability gap: the most powerful offenders often escape justice at home while their stolen assets are hidden through various channels.

PROFESSIONAL ENABLERS › SHELL COMPANIES › GLOBAL FINANCIAL CENTRES › REAL ESTATE

190+
UNCAC parties have anti-corruption laws, yet kleptocrats may enjoy impunity at home.

A GLOBAL PROBLEM › A GLOBAL SOLUTION

3. The solution: A court of last resort

The IACC would be a permanent, treaty-based international court. It would not replace national courts, stepping in only when national authorities are unwilling or unable to prosecute grand corruption.

NATIONAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS
Unwilling or unable to act

IACC Court of last resort
No international institution currently exists to hold kleptocrats accountable when their own countries are unwilling or unable to act.

4. Who could be prosecuted?

The IACC could prosecute heads of state and government, senior public officials, officials appointed by them, and those who knowingly assist them, including transnational networks of professional enablers.

- HEADS OF STATE
- GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
- OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THEM
- BANKERS
- LAWYERS
- ACCOUNTANTS
- BRIBE PAYERS
- REAL ESTATE AGENTS
- COMPANY-SERVICE PROVIDERS
- CORPORATE ACTORS

5. What crimes would it cover?

The Court would enforce existing UNCAC crimes and related offences.

- Bribery of public officials
- Embezzlement of public resources
- Misappropriation of public resources
- Money laundering
- Obstruction of justice
- Related offences

6. When would it have jurisdiction?

The IACC would mainly operate through an opt-in treaty system.

Opt-In Treaty

CRIMES COMMITTED IN A STATE PARTY	NATIONALS OF STATES PARTIES

States joining the IACC delegate limited prosecutorial authority to give real integrity to their own anti-corruption laws.

8. No immunity for kleptocrats

Because the IACC would be an international court, official position would not protect leaders from prosecution.

HEADS OF STATE › HEADS OF GOVERNMENT › SENIOR OFFICIALS

8. Asset recovery for victims

A central innovation in the Court's design is its asset-recovery function.

- IDENTIFY
- FREEZE
- RECOVER
- REPATRIATE
- REPURPOSE

9. How would the court be organized?

The IACC would be independent and impartial, with the following organs:

- CRIMINAL DIVISION
- ASSETS DIVISION
- OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR
- REGISTRY

- Adaptable number of active judges according to caseload.
- More flexible and cost-effective than larger international tribunals.
- Final number of judges, seat of the Court and election procedures to be settled through treaty negotiations.

10. Global momentum

The campaign is supported by a growing coalition of former heads of state and government, Nobel laureates, civil society leaders, legal experts and public officials.

300+ WORLD LEADERS FROM **90+** COUNTRIES

- A growing cross-regional coalition, including several governments and the European Parliament, backs a court of last resort against grand corruption.
- Integrity Initiatives International is catalysing and coordinating the growing global campaign to establish the IACC.

Global Governance Forum

Coalition for the International Anti-Corruption Court

INTEGRITY INITIATIVES INTERNATIONAL