

2011 – a crisis in governance

Protests that marked 2011 show anger at corruption in politics and public sector

Berlin, 1 December 2011 – Corruption continues to plague too many countries around the world, according to Transparency International's 2011 [Corruption Perceptions Index](#) released today. It shows some governments failing to protect citizens from corruption, be it abuse of public resources, bribery or secretive decision-making.

Transparency International warned that protests around the world, often fuelled by corruption and economic instability, clearly show citizens feel their leaders and public institutions are neither transparent nor accountable enough.

“This year we have seen corruption on protestors’ banners be they rich or poor. Whether in a Europe hit by debt crisis or an Arab world starting a new political era, leaders must heed the demands for better government,” said Huguette Labelle, Chair of Transparency International.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2011: The results

The index scores 183 countries and territories from 0 (highly corrupt) to 10 (very clean) based on perceived levels of public sector corruption. It uses data from 17 surveys that look at factors such as enforcement of anti-corruption laws, access to information and conflicts of interest.

Two thirds of ranked countries score less than 5.

New Zealand ranks first, followed by Finland and Denmark. Somalia and North Korea (included in the index for the first time), are last.

“2011 saw the movement for greater transparency take on irresistible momentum, as citizens around the world demand accountability from their governments. High-scoring countries show that over time efforts to improve transparency can, if sustained, be successful and benefit their people,” said Transparency International Managing Director, Cobus de Swardt.

Most Arab Spring countries rank in the lower half of the index, scoring below 4. Before the Arab Spring, a Transparency International [report](#) on the region warned that nepotism, bribery and patronage were so deeply engrained in daily life that even existing anti-corruption laws had little impact.

Eurozone countries suffering debt crises, partly because of public authorities’ failure to tackle the bribery and tax evasion that are key drivers of debt crisis, are among the lowest-scoring EU countries.

Embargoed until 01.01 AM CET (00.01 GMT), 01 December 2011

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Transparency International is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption

Note to editors: The Corruption Perceptions Index is composed from 17 different surveys and assessments. A country's scores in one year cannot be compared to its score in a previous year. Information on how the index is prepared is available in the FAQ.

For the full ranking and regional tables, go to: www.transparency.org/cpi

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Annex

Highs and lows

	Highest scoring country	Lowest score country
Americas	Canada Score: 8.7 Rank: 10	Haiti Score: 1.8 Rank: 175
Asia Pacific	New Zealand Score: 9.5 Rank: 1	Korea (North) Score: 1.0 Rank: 182
Europe & Central Asia	Denmark Score: 9.4 Rank: 2	Uzbekistan Score: 1.6 Rank: 177
Middle East and North Africa	Qatar Score: 7.2 Rank: 22	Iraq Score: 1.8 Rank: 175
SubSaharan Africa	Botswana Score: 6.1 Rank: 32	Somalia Score: 1.0 Rank: 182
G20	Australia Score: 8.8 Rank: 8	Russia Score: 2.4 Rank: 143
OECD	New Zealand Score: 9.5 Rank: 1	Mexico Score: 3.0 Rank: 100
EU	Denmark Score: 9.4 Rank: 2	Bulgaria Score: 3.3 Rank: 86