

## PRESS RELEASE

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI) 2019

#### For Immediate Release

*Accra, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020*

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2019 released worldwide this morning by Transparency International (TI) scores and ranks **180 countries** and **territories** by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. The CPI 2019 draws on **13 surveys** and **expert assessments** to measure public sector corruption giving each country a score from **0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)**.

CPI 2019 focuses on political integrity and highlights the relationship between politics, money and corruption. By political integrity<sup>1</sup>, TI means the quality of: (a) contesting and exercising power (political/public office) consistently acting in the public interest, and (b) providing equal, open and meaningful access to the affected stakeholders before arriving at decisions.

“Frustration with government corruption and lack of trust in institutions speak to a need for greater political integrity,” said Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair of Transparency International. “Governments must urgently address the corrupting role of big money in political party financing and the undue influence it exerts on our political systems.”

More than two-thirds of countries – along with many of the world’s most advanced economies – are stagnating or showing signs of backsliding in their anti-corruption efforts per the CPI 2019 released today by TI.

#### Global Highlights

In this year’s index, **Denmark** and **New Zealand** topped with **87** points each. **Syria**, **South Sudan** and **Somalia** are at the bottom of the index, with **13**, **12** and **9** points respectively. The highest scoring region is **Western Europe** and the **European Union**, with an average score of **66**, while the lowest scoring region is **Sub-Saharan Africa** with an average score of **32**.

More than two-thirds of countries scored below 50, with the global average score of 43. Since 2012, only 22 countries have significantly improved their scores, including Estonia, Greece and Guyana. On the other hand, 21 countries have significantly declined since 2012 including Australia, Canada and Nicaragua.

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<sup>1</sup> Within the framework of political integrity TI discusses a few dimensions relevant for anti-corruption work, including political finance, lobbying, transparency of the policy-making process, citizen engagement, political pluralism, state capture, etc.

### Ghana's Performance

Ghana scored **41** out of a possible clean score of **100** in the CPI 2019 and ranked **80** out of 180 countries/territories included in this year's index. This year's score of **41** shows that Ghana's score remained the same compared to its CPI 2018 score (**41**).

The following are Ghana's CPI scores from 2012 when the scores became comparable:

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>CPI score</b>	45	46	48	47	43	40	41	41

### Ghana's Performance Vis-a-vis Other Sub-Saharan African Countries

Ghana performed better than **37** other Sub-Saharan African countries including Burkina Faso 40, Lesotho 40, Ethiopia 37, Gambia 37, Tanzania 37, and performed below **9** others:

COUNTRY	CPI 2019 SCORE	WORLD CPI 2019 RANKING	SSA CPI 2019 RANK
Seychelles	66	27	1
Botswana	61	34	2
Cabo Verde	58	41	3
Rwanda	53	51	4
Mauritius	52	56	5
Namibia	52	56	5
Sao Tome and Principe	46	64	7
Senegal	45	66	8
South Africa	44	70	9
Benin	41	80	10
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>10</b>
Burkina Faso	40	85	12
Lesotho	40	85	12
Ethiopia	37	96	14
Gambia	37	96	14
Tanzania	37	96	14

In 2019, while Ghana performed better than Burkina Faso and Lesotho, Ghana could not catch up with countries like South Africa, Senegal, São Tomé and Príncipe, etc. that scored better than Ghana in 2018.

### What needs to be done

Reference to the focus of CPI 2019, political integrity, GII recommends the following:

1. Government must take a critical look at elements that promote public sector corruption including patronage, clientelism, nepotism and suspiciously close ties between politics and business

2. Government should enforce sanctions against vote buying, abuse of incumbency and threats to voters in order to ensure the 2020 elections are held in a fair and transparent environment
3. Political parties must demonstrate a high sense of integrity and transparency in all their campaign finances to avoid the snares of 'political entrepreneurs'
4. The Electoral Commission should enforce sections 13 and 14 of the Political Parties Act, 2000 (Act 574) which deal with declaration of assets and expenditure by political parties
5. Civil society organisations including the media must offer equal opportunities for espousing of ideas, programmes and plans and create platforms to hold duty bearers accountable

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Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) is the local chapter of Transparency International (TI), the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption for the last 25 years

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### **About the Corruptions Perceptions Index**

Since its inception in 1995, the [Corruption Perceptions Index](#), Transparency International's flagship research product, has become the leading global indicator of public sector corruption. The index offers an annual snapshot of the relative degree of corruption by ranking countries and territories from all over the globe. In 2012, Transparency International revised the methodology used to construct the index to allow for comparison of scores from one year to the next. For more information, visit [www.transparency.org/cpi2019](http://www.transparency.org/cpi2019).