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PRESS RELEASE

Anti-Corruption to Become a Major Political Platform

Phnom Penh, 30 March 2016—Transparency International Cambodia launches the “Proposed Anti-Corruption Platform for Political Parties” today.

The proposed Platform has reflected inputs collected through a series of consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders including civil society organizations, development partners/donor community and political parties. During these participatory consultations, discussants exchanged views on crucial laws to combat corruption, institutional capacity of law enforcement agencies and community’s involvement in the fight against corruption.

The demand from the public for a corruption-free society has never been higher, especially among the growing number of the young electorate who see corruption as the biggest hindrance to development and thus take very strong stance against it. According to the Youth Integrity Survey, 99% of youth consider corruption as the biggest obstacle to development of Cambodia. Transparency International Cambodia believes that this proposed Anti-Corruption Platform will provide ample opportunities for arousing interests and for assessing the willingness of political leaders in stamping out corruption.

“I believe that any contesting political party will have to talk about corruption and how to stamp it out if they wish to appeal to the majority of the voters. So this proposed Anti-Corruption Platform is to draw attention and direct politicians to the most important measures that we believe are key to tackling corruption more effectively” said Preap Kol, Executive Director of Transparency International Cambodia. “More importantly, we hope that these proposed measures will be integrated into an official political platform of the contesting parties and to become central campaign messages in the lead up the elections” he added.

The Anti-Corruption Platform for Political Parties takes three levels into considerations including the normative level, the institutional level, and the community level.

The Normative Level focused on the importance of enacting a set of laws which are crucial in preventing, reporting and curbing corruptible behaviours. We have identified three laws that are most relevant and important: the existing Anti-Corruption Law; the future Law on Access to Information and the future Law on Whistle-blower Protection.

The Institutional Level focused on the need for equipping enforcement institutions with the necessary capabilities and resources to effectively enforce the laws.

The Community Level paid equally high attention to the importance of people’s attitude and perceptions as well as the appropriate level of involvement from various communities (political, business, and civil society ...etc.) The proposed Anti-Corruption Platform is attached.

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