

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 30 JANUARY 2024 AT 11:01AM Pakistan Standard Time**

## **2023 CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX: WEAKENING JUSTICE SYSTEMS LEAVE CORRUPTION UNCHECKED**

*Governments around the world largely failing to stop corruption*

Berlin/Karachi, 30 January 2024 – The [2023 Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#) released today by Transparency International shows that most countries have made little to no progress in tackling public sector corruption. The CPI global average remains unchanged at 43 for the twelfth year in a row, with more than two-thirds of countries scoring below 50. This indicates serious corruption problems.

According to the [Rule of Law Index](#), the world is experiencing a decline in the functioning of justice systems. Countries with the lowest scores in this index are also scoring very low on the CPI, highlighting a clear connection between access to justice and corruption. Both authoritarian regimes and democratic leaders undermining justice contribute to increasing impunity for corruption and, in some cases, even encourage it by removing consequences for wrongdoers. The impact of their actions is evident in countries everywhere, from **Venezuela** (13) to **Tajikistan** (20).

**François Valérian, Chair of Transparency International, said:** *“Corruption will continue to thrive until justice systems can punish wrongdoing and keep governments in check. When justice is bought or politically interfered with, it is the people who suffer. Leaders should fully invest in and guarantee the independence of institutions that uphold the law and tackle corruption. It is time to end impunity for corruption.”*

**Justice (R) Zia Perwez, Chair of Transparency International Pakistan, said:** *“It is encouraging to note that Pakistan’s score on CPI 2023 has improved by 2 points from 27 in CPI 2022 to 29 in CPI 2023 and Pakistan’s rank has improved by 7 positions from 140 in CPI 2022 to 133 in CPI 2023. This reflects on the anti-corruption efforts taken by different pillars of the state due to which Pakistan has witnessed an improvement in CPI 2023. The government policies aimed at better governance and effective enforcement of the laws is expected to yield positive results in the future, as well as through implementation of the recommendations of Transparency International Berlin:*

- *“Transparency International calls on governments to give justice systems the independence, resources and transparency needed to effectively punish all corruption offences and provide checks and balances on power. Where necessary, they must also introduce better procedures and laws to help justice institutions shield themselves from and target corrupt acts”.*

### **GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

- **Denmark** (90) tops the index for the sixth consecutive year, with **Finland** and **New Zealand** following closely with scores of 87 and 85, respectively. Due to well-functioning justice systems, these countries are also among the top scorers in the [Rule of Law Index](#).

- **Somalia** (11), **Venezuela** (13), **Syria** (13), **South Sudan** (13) and **Yemen** (16) take the bottom spots in the index. They are all affected by protracted crises, mostly armed conflicts.
- 23 countries – among them some high-ranking democracies like **Iceland** (72), **the Netherlands** (79), **Sweden** (82) and the **United Kingdom** (71), as well as some authoritarian states like **Iran** (24), **Russia** (26), **Tajikistan** (20) and **Venezuela** (13) – are all at historic lows this year.
- Since 2018, 12 countries significantly declined on their CPI scores. The list includes low and middle-income countries such as **El Salvador** (31), **Honduras** (23), **Liberia** (25), **Myanmar** (20), **Nicaragua** (17), **Sri Lanka** (34) and **Venezuela** (13), as well as upper-middle and high-income economies like **Argentina** (37), **Austria** (71), **Poland** (54), **Turkey** (34) and the **United Kingdom** (71).
- Eight countries improved on the CPI during that same period: **Ireland** (77), **South Korea** (63), **Armenia** (46), **Vietnam** (42), the **Maldives** (40), **Moldova** (39), **Angola** (33) and **Uzbekistan** (31).

For each country's individual score and changes over time, as well as an analysis of each region, see the [2023 CPI page](#).

## **CORRUPTION AND INJUSTICE**

Independent, transparent and well-resourced judiciaries and law enforcement institutions are central to keeping corruption in check. In turn, preventing the abuse of political power, bribery and other forms of corruption from influencing justice systems is key to ensuring their effectiveness.

**Daniel Eriksson, CEO of Transparency International, said:** *“Corruption worsens social injustice and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable. In many countries, obstacles to justice for victims of corruption persist. It is time to break the barriers and ensure people can access justice effectively. Everyone deserves fair and inclusive legal systems where victims’ voices are heard at every stage. Anything else is an affront to justice.”*

### **NOTE TO EDITORS**

Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is released annually by Transparency International Berlin. Transparency International Pakistan has no role either in the collection of data or the calculation of the country's score.

### **INTERVIEW REQUESTS**

In case of any media engagement request, please contact official spokesperson of Transparency International Pakistan, Justice (R) M. Shaiq Usmani at: 0333-2259225 or 021- 35390408. In case of any queries, please contact Transparency International Pakistan at: [ti.pakistan@gmail.com](mailto:ti.pakistan@gmail.com)