



INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
CONFERENCE

Time for Justice
Equity. Security. Trust.

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA
1-4 December 2016

Short Session Report

Session Title: Panama Papers, Nine Months On

Date & Time: 1 December 2016, 15:30-16:30 hours

**Report prepared by: Annette Kleinbrod, Head of Programme,
Transparency International**

PLEASE INCLUDE BEST QUOTES!

Experts:

Frederik Obermaier, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany

**Marina Walker, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
(ICIJ)**

Jake Bernstein, Author of *Secrecy World*, United States

**Moderated by: Barbara Trionfi, Executive Director,
International Press Institute**

**Session coordinated by: Barbara Trionfi, Executive Director,
International Press Institute**

**Main issues raised in kick off remarks. What's the focus of the
session?**

- Important role investigative journalist do play in investigating corruption
- Many of the journalists involved in the Panama Paper work faced harassment and put their life at danger
- This session will look at what we have achieved and what we learned from the Panama Papers
- The speakers are impressive journalists who have collected most impressive awards on journalism

What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing strategies/ ideas (if applicable)

- Panama Papers investigation:
- A whistleblower provides investigative journalists with a story to achieve change. Investigative journalists do typically work as lone wolf. However, due to the massive amount of data and its cross-country nature, investigative journalists looked for a trans-national solution to a trans-national problem.
- Network journalism is the game changing strategy: collaborating, shared ownership, open source, global impact, efficient, the networks protects.
- A virtual newsroom, the so-called Global i-Hub, allowed radical sharing of information.
- Result: 4,700+ stories by 376 journalists all over the world.
- Impact:
 - Investigations, protests and call for election in Iceland – Iceland's minister resigns
 - Chile President of Transparency International steps down
 - Cartel-linked suspects arrested after Panama Papers revelations
 - 150 civil/criminal probes in 79 countries
 - Just in from EUROPOL found connection with terrorism, Russian organised crime etc.
 - Wiped out 135 USD billions of the value of about 400 publicly traded companies
 - Law changes in New Zealand, Mongolia, Panama, Taiwan
- Etc.:

Briefly describe the highlights including the thematically interesting questions and ideas that were generated from the discussion or from the floor, and session quotes.

Highlights – thematically interesting questions

- Prosecutors need to have the resources they require to do their job.
- If authorities want to collaborate directly with whistleblowers, they need to provide secure communication channels.
- One sees increasingly cross-border collaboration involving governments and authorities.
- Fact-checking: constant dialogue between confidential and public data; verification with investigated organisations.
- Investigative journalists can only report on data they have. E.g. in case of the Panama Papers, there were also thousands of US data but not that high profile cases as for other countries.
- MF did not focus on US market. They focussed first on Latin America market, then on Europe, Asia and Africa but not on the US. Panama would not be the first choice for US-based firms as there are so many options in the US and it is in your language.

Session quotes:

- *We decided we need trans-national solutions for trans-national problems. So*

we contacted ICIJ. – Frederik Obermaier, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany)

- We needed to change the way we are working and this is what we call network journalism. *This is what ICIJ was working for for 19 years.* – Marina Walker, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)
- *4,700+ stories by 376 journalists all over the world* – Marina Walker, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)
- *Information wants to be free and technology exists to make this happen.* – Jake Bernstein, Author of Secrecy World, United States

What are the key recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)

- Network journalism offers opportunities to achieve a much higher level of impact.
- Better [protection for investigative journalists and whistleblowers
- Equip prosecutors with sufficient resources to do their work.
- Enable whistleblowers and investigative journalists to communicate via safe communication channels

Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration

- See above.

Rapporteur's name and date submitted

Annette Kleinbrod, 1 December 2016

Remember! This Short Report needs to be emailed to reports@17iacc.org within 2 hours after the session and will be uploaded instantly to the IACC website. Thanks.