

## *Introduction*

The global economy and other international influences have powerful effects on governance and corruption at the country level. Many of these “international drivers” can act to undermine accountable governance – for example, through the effects of substantial rents from commodity exports; the ease of depositing illegal earnings securely in financial centres; and the ability to acquire military force through commercial hiring arrangements. However, other drivers can have positive effects. Examples include competition between states to become more investment-friendly, and the exchange of ideas across international professional networks.

Donors and other international actors increasingly acknowledge the influence of international drivers. This recognition has contributed to the large and growing number of programmes that seek to increase the incentives for good governance through international action. It has not, however, led to the development of tools to *analyse the effects* of these drivers. Such analysis is essential to understand which drivers matter most in given contexts, how or why specific international regulatory instruments can make a difference, and how international actors can best co-ordinate and prioritise their actions.

This report attempts to fill the gap by introducing a tool for understanding the effects of international drivers on particular corruption and governance problems at the country level. The tool follows a four-step process through which users can: *i)* examine a country’s political and economic context; *ii)* identify which international drivers figure most importantly in that country; *iii)* assess their effect on governance and corruption; and *iv)* reflect on how international engagement could be made more effective. It uses existing elements of political economy analysis, including an emphasis on elite incentives and behaviour, and the strategies different elites use to win, use and retain power. The tool’s novelty lies in its ability to link this understanding of a country’s domestic political economy to international drivers of corruption, and to explain the interactions that arise.

The report is divided into two chapters. The first chapter explains why international drivers matter for domestic governance and corruption, and then introduces the concepts and analytical approach to be used in the framework. The four steps of the framework are presented in the second chapter to guide the analysis with the aid of structured questions. Concluding remarks close this report.

The framework is designed to be flexible, and can be applied to help structure a rapid assessment or more in-depth research. At a minimum it could be used to structure a one- or two-day workshop for key informants. Well-informed analysts with existing country knowledge could use the format to synthesise existing literature and prepare a brief country report over one or two weeks’ work. A more comprehensive and authoritative study would require several weeks or months of time and input including key informant interviews, focus groups and original data collection.

The framework may be applied to any country, but is particularly relevant to the problems of countries with more severe governance problems and weaker institutions. To illustrate how the framework can be applied, the report presents four country case studies in Chapters 3-6: Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia. These case studies are intentionally brief; they are not meant to provide exhaustive analysis of international drivers in those countries. Annex B provides a summary of the main existing international tools, instruments and conventions that can be used to engage with these international drivers.



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