

**The Carol and Lawrence Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research  
Research Project**

**Topic:** Public-Private Sector Partnerships and Anti-Corruption Regimes

**Principal Investigator:** Niki Borofsky

**Time Frame:** March 5, 2007 - May 18, 2007

**Description:**

Corruption's impact on global development is widespread, devastating and complex. Although addressing and mitigating corrupt practices while improving governance has been shown to promote both economic and social prosperity with great success, there is a lack of theoretically feasible and practically implementable solutions to guide corrective efforts. Corruption crosses public and private borders with fluidity, and in order to craft a comprehensive solution many argue that representation, participation and oversight from both public and private sectors is needed. Enlisting multi-stakeholder, public-private partnerships has evolved as one of the most promising new models to help curb and control the spread of corrupt practices. This new species of quasi-regulatory bodies raises many questions: Is a public-private partnership the optimal solution to tackling worldwide corruption; What motivates private and state actors to participate in these partnerships; How does internal corporate governance play a role in ensuring good global governance, especially in light of multinationals' history of corruption and scandal; How can biased actors maintain the legitimacy and authority needed to keep partners honest, and who else could assume this role; What type of organizational structure and attending rules or laws (voluntary, mandatory, mixed) will yield the best results; and How can enforcement and meaningful compliance be ensured?

This paper tackles these questions with an investigation into the potential strengths and pitfalls of such partnerships and recommends strategies in light of data and research compiled by the World Bank Institute.