



## **BRAZIL NEEDS AN INDEX THAT PUBLICIZES THE DAMAGE RESULTING FROM CORRUPTION, TO BE USED BY FOREIGN INVESTORS/BANKS**

Corruption in Brazil, which resists meddling in politics, should be the object of a corruption harm index.<sup>1</sup> With this internationally-disseminated index, we would be able to pressure our legislators and administrators to apply public resources well. This is how, mainly in the 80s, we saw good results with the dissemination of the irregularities that occurred in Brazil – for example, the illegal exploitation of natural resources and the situation of the rubber workers.<sup>2</sup> In that case, international banks suspended loans<sup>3</sup> and various investors stopped investing in our country. A similar case has been brought against the blood diamonds of Africa, where the international community has disassociated itself from the bloodshed.<sup>4</sup>

In order to have a notion of how much we interfere in (and harm) the world with the corruption that grows uncontrollably, we just have to coalesce our desire into action to bring about the right to public morality, whereas the Somalis desire the most basic of natural resources – water that may or may not be drinkable.<sup>5</sup> As we know, here in Brazil we face a challenge that is infinitely easier to overcome. This does not occur with Somalia and Darfur, for example. In these nations, the battle for a cup of water, for a hut made of synthetic fabric or for penicillin is fierce and the goal often unattainable. We know that our country is so rich that if we reduced our corruption<sup>6</sup> by half, we would be able to eliminate our poverty<sup>7</sup> and there would be plenty of financial resources left over to help others who do not even have water, as is also the case with Kenyans and Ethiopians.

For this reason – corrupt individuals having broken ties with the whole of society – we call upon the International Community to reflect in advance regarding whether or not it is ethical to invest their resources in our country; to become outraged by the fact that our country does not work actively against destroyers of public property. That is – because of an ethical question, our corruption needs to be itemized and considered by investors.

At this moment, a widely-circulated monthly periodical in our country (*Veja* magazine) reveals yet another scandal, a scheme that disgusts even those who are not involved in politics. In the coming days, we await the publication of the unfolding of this scandal, driven by the corruption that is almost institutionalized in our country<sup>8</sup>.

The fact is that within our dissatisfaction there exists a consensus that it is important to create an index that publicizes how much money is diverted, as well as the resulting damage. We are speaking of a statement that is the result of:

A) “research conducted by Marcos Fernandes, coordinator of the São Paulo School of Economy, of the Getúlio Vargas Foundation – the loss of productivity resulting from corruption (public fraud) in Brazil reaches the range of US\$ 3.5 billion per year.”<sup>9</sup>

B) with all Brazil’s wealth, it is excessively negative and disproportional that the country is in 75th place in the index of perceived corruption, according to the NGO Transparency International<sup>10</sup>.

Despite the existence of the Corruption Perceptions Index sponsored by Transparency International, we believe that our executive power should provide an index that discloses what is corrupt and what, consequently, is objectively affected – precariousness in health care and education; in short, in the country’s social development.



Finally, we must say that we want a mechanism that we know is not the solution by itself, but could definitely trigger a spark of transformation in the conduct of administrators and subordinates.

Therefore, we invite citizens – not only Brazilians, but all citizens of the world – to disseminate the necessity of creating the Brazil Corruption Damage Index (IPCB) in order to give the world knowledge of our development in this aspect, whether negative or positive.

In parallel to this proposed solution, we also have social projects that were designed to undermine corruption, but in order to run them, we need financial resources from international organizations that can support this cause; we need external support.

ABRA – Amigos do Brasil em Prol da ética. (Friends of Brazil in Favor of Ethics)

[www.abra.br.org](http://www.abra.br.org)

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