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Harnessing AI for Integrity: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Business Case Against Corruption

Business at OECD (BIAC) Anti-Corruption Committee Paper

Established in 1962, *Business at OECD* (BIAC) is the officially recognized institutional business stakeholder at the OECD. We stand for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to economic growth, sustainable development, and societal prosperity.

Through *Business at OECD*, national business and employers' federations representing over 10 million companies provide perspectives to cutting-edge OECD policy debates that shape market-based economies and impact global governance. Our expertise is enriched by the contributions of a wide range of international sector organizations.

Contents

Foreword

The *Business at OECD* (BIAC) Anti-Corruption Committee brings together business integrity and anti-corruption experts from various sectors to support OECD efforts in combating bribery, fostering integrity, and ensuring a global level playing field.

As part of our advocacy efforts with the OECD, we strive to anticipate and focus on emerging trends in the anti-corruption landscape.

Building on this approach,, we casted a new vision, issuing the Zero Corruption Manifesto in 2021. This Manifesto sets out ten key actions to eradicate corruption and calls for its recognition and treatment as an 18th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

In line with Action No. 7 of the Manifesto: Tech for Trust & Transparency , we published in 2022 a paper on the importance of digital technologies in the fight against corruption, titled *Stepping Up the Game: Digital Technologies for the Promotion of the Fight Against Corruption – A Business Perspective*. This paper outlines the risks, opportunities, and challenges of "digital compliance", offering both theoretical insights and practical examples from successful companies, universities, and public institutions.

Since 2022, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significantly increased its relevance across all sectors. In this context, Artificial Intelligence at large, and Generative AI in particular, is transforming our fight against corruption, offering new methods and tools to enhance transparency, ensure accountability, and improve efficiency like never before.

Given these technological advancements, we have decided to update our paper on "digital compliance", with the hope that this work will foster meaningful public-private dialogue and provide practical recommendations for fully leveraging AI in our ongoing battle for integrity and against corruption.

In conclusion, Generative AI should be recognized as a new component of corporate governance and as a key tool in our race to zero corruption. Its embedded interest is to ensure the balance between performance and compliance, results and rules, business and values.

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Introduction

Considering the rapid advancements of digital technologies, particularly in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), this paper provides insights into how the private sector is utilizing the latter or perceives its potential in the global fight against corruption. This paper serves as an update to *Business at OECD*'s 2022 publication *Stepping up the game: Digital technologies for the promotion of the fight against corruption – a business perspective*, aligning the discussion with the latest digital trends such as AI.

The OECD defines an AI system as "a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. AI systems are designed to operate with varying levels of autonomy".[1] In the anti-corruption context, Artificial Intelligence covers many different but related tools, and the examples presented in this paper primarily relate to big data analytics, machine learning (ML), natural language processing (NLP), and generative AI.

Corruption remains a pervasive and global issue, with the latest Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) revealing over two-thirds of the 180 countries analyzed scoring below 50,[2] and 23 nations reaching their lowest scores yet in 2023.[3] Even countries with a high ranking on the CPI can contribute to the persistence of the issue as they often fail to address transborder corruption; indeed, many cross-border cases of corruption have been found to involve companies from "clean" nations resorting to bribery when operating abroad.[4]

While OECD countries have made progress in developing more comprehensive and sophisticated regulations on anti-corruption and integrity, gaps in their scope, implementation, and monitoring persist. For example, according to the OECD's latest Public Integrity Indicators (PIIs), 60% of OECD countries do not actively monitor the implementation of their anti-corruption and integrity strategies, underscoring a critical oversight gap.[5]

[1] OECD (2019), Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence, OECD/LEGAL/0449, https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/oecd-legal-0449.
[2] 0 equating to highly corrupt and 100 to very clean
[3] Transparency International. (2024, September 12). 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index. https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023
[4] Ibid.
[5] OECD (2024). Anti-Corruption and Integrity Outlook 2024.

This lack of monitoring is particularly concerning as the corruption landscape continues to evolve. Indeed, while traditional barriers to combating corruption remain, new challenges have emerged that require updated analyses and practices.

Among these are the rapid adoptions of digital technologies, specifically AI, that transform the dynamics of corruption and integrity management. While this technology holds the potential to enhance transparency and accountability, it can also be misused in pursuit of fraud, manipulation, and other corrupt practices. It is, therefore, crucial to focus global attention on the transformative potential that AI has to reshape the corruption landscape, making it a key tool for addressing both existing and emerging threats while reinforcing, rather than undermining, anti-corruption and integrity strategies.

Recognizing the imperative for collective action and the need for an updated approach to tackle corruption, *Business at OECD* has developed this paper to advance public-private dialogue by offering practical insights and examples of how the business community is preparing to harness AI as an anti-corruption tool.

After outlining the general benefits that AI can bring to anticorruption practices (I), this paper will then focus on the practical uses of AI from companies in their efforts to combat corruption as well as on the conditions to fully leverage its potential (II). The last segment of this document will set out concrete recommendations to maximize the utility of AI as a tool in the fight against corruption (III).

I. Beyond Digital: The Potential of AI for Transforming Anticorruption Practices

1. The Importance of Leveraging the Digital Transformation for Anti-Corruption

In the fight against corruption, the digital transformation presents opportunities to facilitate processes at scale and strengthen transparency, accountability, and governance across public and private sectors. By reshaping the tools and strategies available to detect, prevent, and combat corrupt practices, digital technologies address critical weaknesses in traditional anticorruption efforts. Moreover, they empower stakeholders to access, analyze, and act upon information with unprecedented speed and precision, ensuring that both institutions and individuals are held accountable.

For public administrations, the digital transformation facilitates the digitization of government processes such as public procurement, financial transactions, and service delivery. This deepened incorporation of digital technologies within necessary processes creates a more transparent system, which makes it more challenging for corrupt practices to go unnoticed. Practices such as digital platforms for government services, known as e-government, demonstrate the possibilities offered by digital tools by enabling real-time monitoring of government spending and public projects.

For businesses, embracing innovation also offers an opportunity to foster trust, improve operational efficiency, and gain a competitive edge in an increasingly transparent global marketplace. In the interconnected global economy, companies face growing scrutiny from regulators, investors, and consumers to demonstrate ethical practices and maintain clean supply chains. Leveraging digital tools allows businesses to proactively manage risks, streamline compliance processes, and build resilient governance frameworks.

Digital technologies, and specifically AI, are driving transformative change in anticorruption efforts. By enhancing oversight and transparency, automating risk management processes, and improving global cooperation, these tools are revolutionizing the ways in which corruption is tackled at both national and international levels.

2. Where Digital Technology Meets Anti-Corruption: Key Examples

i. Enhanced oversight and increased transparency

Artificial intelligence applied to anti-corruption offers transformative solutions in promoting transparency and ensuring accountability for both public and private actors. By leveraging AI technologies, organizations can:

- monitor and analyze vast datasets in real time, detecting irregularities and potential signs of corruption more effectively than traditional methods;
- enhance oversight by automating data collection, enabling predictive analytics;
- facilitate the visualization of complex financial transactions and operational processes.

These capabilities allow all stakeholders to gain deeper insights into financial flows, procurement processes, and resource allocation. With its ability to process information at scale, AI not only bolsters compliance with regulatory standards but also fosters public trust by making institutional operations more accessible and transparent.

By enhancing oversight and transparency, automating risk management processes, and improving global cooperation, these tools are profoundly transforming the way in which corruption is tackled at both national and international levels.

Some corporations are making efforts to transition from discrete monitoring to continuous monitoring, analyzing 100% of their data rather than relying on sample-based approaches.

Continuous monitoring enables near real-time analysis of all process data, risks, and corrective actions, facilitating the timely detection and assessment of potential anomalies. For example, Autostrade per l'Italia has developed RITA (Risk & Integrity Technical Assistant), an AI-powered digital assistant that is more than just a compliance tool. As an intelligent assistant, RITA continuously evolves, enhancing risk analysis and continuous monitoring within ASPI's broader Risk Management Framework. Operating under human supervision, RITA autonomously performs specific tasks, interacts with its environment, collects and analyzes data, and adapts to new scenarios. With its advanced capabilities, RITA streamlines operations, improves efficiency, and ensures accurate, timely execution of activities.

ii. Automated processes and risk management

Digital technologies, particularly AI, are revolutionizing the fight against corruption by automating key processes and enhancing risk management capabilities. Traditional manual systems often leave room for human error, inefficiencies, and vulnerabilities to unethical practices.

In contrast, AI-powered tools:

- Streamline operations, ensuring consistency and accuracy while minimizing opportunities for misconduct.
- Enable organizations to automate complex tasks such as monitoring compliance, detecting anomalies in procurement or bidding processes, and identifying patterns indicative of corrupt practices.
- Harness predictive analytics and machine learning, AI can assess risks more efficiently and alert stakeholders to potential issues before they escalate.

This proactive approach not only reduces financial losses but also bolsters confidence in public institutions and corporate governance.

Long before the widespread diffusion and adoption of AI tools, digital technologies have helped countries fight corrupt practices. For example, Estonia's e-procurement system exemplifies how automation fosters transparency and accountability in public spending. The system developed in Estonia is a digital platform enabling real-time monitoring of public contracts, ensuring that government spending remains open to public scrutiny and adheres to regulatory standards. By ensuring that every stage of the procurement process—from tender announcements to contract awards—is digitally tracked and publicly accessible, the system reduces opportunities for corruption and encourages competition among bidders. Moreover, the platform's open-access nature empowers civil society and media to scrutinize government transactions, creating an additional layer of oversight. These features not only enhance trust in public institutions but also drive cost efficiency by reducing waste and fraud in government spending (OECD, 2019).

With the arrival of AI, anticorruption practices are becoming more efficient. The Korean Fair Trade Commission (KFTC) has been at the forefront of countering collusive practices in public procurement, leveraging AI through its Bid-Rigging Indicator Analysis System (BRIAS). Since its launch in 2006, the BRIAS has used advanced algorithms to analyze bidding data and identify irregularities that may indicate bid-rigging. The system processes large volumes of data from public tenders, flagging suspicious patterns such as repeated collaborations between specific bidders or pricing anomalies inconsistent with market trends. Once flagged, these cases undergo further investigation, enabling the KFTC to take timely enforcement actions. By automating this process, BRIAS not only reduces the time and resources required for manual audits but also significantly enhances the effectiveness of anticorruption efforts. Over the years, BRIAS has become a model for leveraging AI to ensure fairness and integrity in public procurement, inspiring similar initiatives globally.

These examples demonstrate the close ties between the digital transformation and the fight against corruption as well as the transformative potential of AI in mitigating corruption risks. By streamlining processes and enabling real-time oversight, such technologies empower institutions to uphold transparency, accountability, and trust across both public and private sectors.

iii. Enhanced cross-border cooperation and corporate compliance

In an increasingly globalized economy, fighting corruption requires effective cross-border cooperation and robust corporate compliance frameworks. Digital technologies, particularly those powered by AI, are essential for seamless information sharing, enhancing oversight mechanisms, and promoting collaboration across different jurisdictions. Multinational corporations often operate in complex regulatory environments where the risk of corruption varies significantly across borders. AI-driven tools help businesses navigate these challenges by providing real-time insights, automating compliance processes, and facilitating data integration across multiple countries. By enhancing transparency and streamlining global operations, these technologies reduce the administrative burden and help businesses adhere to international anticorruption standards.

In this context, specific solutions exemplify the transformative potential of AI in corporate compliance. These include cloud-based platforms that integrate third-party approvals and real-time transaction monitoring. The relevant AI algorithms analyze financial transactions and operational data to identify anomalies or patterns indicative of fraud, bribery, or other corrupt practices. Additionally, these platforms allow companies to centralize their compliance activities, making it easier to oversee global operations while adhering to local and international regulatory frameworks. By offering real-time monitoring and an intuitive user interface, these solutions empower businesses to act swiftly on potential red flags, mitigating risks before they escalate into legal or reputational damage.

Similarly, other solutions demonstrate how digital technologies can streamline compliance in the critical area of Know Your Customer (KYC) processes. These solutions provide AI-powered platforms for real-time customer onboarding and identity verification, essential for businesses operating across multiple jurisdictions. The platforms integrate with global data sources to verify identities quickly and accurately, reducing the risk of onboarding fraudulent entities. By automating the traditionally time-consuming KYC process, these solutions help businesses comply with stringent international regulations while improving efficiency and customer experience.

By leveraging AI to facilitate real-time monitoring, identity verification, and transaction oversight, businesses can proactively address corruption risks while maintaining adherence to complex regulatory requirements. In doing so, these tools not only enhance global anticorruption efforts but can also strengthen trust among stakeholders in international markets.

3. A potential AI-Powered Future for Integrity

i. AI as a useful multifaceted tool in the combat against corruption

AI has the potential to revolutionize how anti-corruption and integrity actors identify, predict, and mitigate corruption risks at a scale which was not previously possible. Defined as a machine-based system that can analyze extensive datasets in real-time and generate outputs such as content, recommendations, or decisions based on input, AI can serve as both a preventive and detective tool in the fight against corruption.

As a preventive instrument, AI can help integrity actors by identifying trends and patterns indicative of corruption before they escalate. This is particularly valuable for the public sector, which often represents the demand side of bribery, as AI can predict vulnerabilities in governance systems and highlight high-risk transactions or relationships prone to corruption. For example, Machine Learning (ML) has proven effective in anticipating conflicts of interest in public procurement and detecting cartel behaviors, enabling early intervention to curb malpractice.

As a detective tool, AI can enhance due diligence and oversight by continuously monitoring large datasets, flagging irregularities, and uncovering suspicious activities. In the private sector, where the supply side of bribery often resides, AI can identify fraudulent suppliers, detect collusion between businesses and public officials, and monitor financial transactions for anomalies. For instance, AI's use in public procurement can expose fake suppliers, trace illicit financial flows, and ensure transparency in contract awards.

Emerging AI technologies, such as Natural Language Processing (NLP) and visual recognition tools, can also analyze unstructured data, such as emails or contracts, to identify signs of bribery or corruption. This capability is crucial for uncovering corruption schemes that rely on subtle, hard-to-detect forms of communication.

Focus on Generative AI

Generative AI refers to AI technologies that create content, such as text, images, audio, video, and synthetic data. While AI-powered chatbots have existed since the 1960s, Generative AI gained prominence with the rise of deepfakes in 2017 and the more recent development of Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPTs) and Large Language Models (LLMs). These technologies are widely used in business to enhance creativity, productivity, and customer experience. However, their potential in the fight against corruption remains largely underexplored.

Given its ability to process and generate complex data, Generative AI offers a promising tool for detecting fraud, training personnel, and enhancing transparency in both the public and private sectors. Generative AI could play a critical role in advancing anti-corruption efforts, particularly in education and training. For instance, it can simulate real-world scenarios to educate employees and officials about corruption risks and ethical decision-making. This innovative approach to training has been explored by *Business at OECD* in its report *Shaping the Values for a Sustainable Future: Education for the Fight Against Corruption*.

ii. Principles for the successful use of AI in anti-corruption efforts

While AI holds the potential to transform anti-corruption efforts, its integration should be underpinned by a rule-based and ethical framework. For the deployment of AI to enhance and not undermine integrity, such applications should meet some key principles such as a human-centered approach to AI, placing the well-being and the rights of people at the forefront. Other principles such as fairness, transparency, accountability, and privacy must also guide the design and application of AI systems in anti-corruption efforts, ensuring that these technologies do not exacerbate or introduce new risks. Among other goals, ensuring fairness involves designing algorithms that do not reinforce or exacerbate existing biases, such as those related to race or gender, when analyzing data or making predictions. Transparency entails making the processes and logic behind AI systems interpretable and accessible, allowing stakeholders to understand how decisions are made.

To that end, frameworks like the OECD AI Principles provide critical guidance for embedding these values into AI development and deployment. These principles emphasize the importance of inclusive growth, robust safeguards, accountability, as well as the protection of well-being and individual rights. Concrete implementation of these principles can include embedding bias-detection mechanisms in AI systems, conducting regular audits of algorithmic outputs, and providing clear documentation and explainability features to users and regulators. Privacy safeguards ensure that AI applications in anticorruption do not compromise sensitive information, such as whistleblower identities or proprietary business data. For instance, the OECD principle of robustness and safety mandates that AI systems should be technically robust to avoid unintended outcomes and resilient to cyber threats, a critical consideration when using AI for anti-corruption purposes. The emphasis on accountability ensures that organizations remain responsible for the decisions and actions of AI systems, preventing the abdication of ethical oversight to automated tools.

By following these principles, businesses and governments can ensure responsible AI use, enhance regulatory compliance, and build stakeholder trust — an essential component of sustainable anti-corruption strategies. These principles offer a roadmap for leveraging AI in a manner that aligns with democratic values, protects human rights, and ensures that technological advancements serve the greater good.

II. Business at the Forefront: Leveraging AI to Face Corruption

1. Harnessing AI for Business Success: Key Opportunities

Before exploring how businesses are leveraging AI to combat corruption, it is essential to understand the global costs and interconnected impacts of corruption on governments and businesses, as this provides context for their incentives to address this pervasive issue.

Corruption undermines the rule of law, erodes trust in institutions, and exacerbates social inequalities, creating fertile ground for human rights abuses. Economically, it distorts markets, discourages investment and innovation, and leads to inefficient resource allocation, ultimately hindering global growth and development. It is also worth considering how corruption can obstruct green growth by weakening environmental regulations, diverting funds from vital projects, and undermining sustainable development through poor governance and mismanagement.

On one hand, corruption poses a significant threat to businesses. Companies involved in corrupt practices, or perceived as such, face considerable financial and reputational risks, including scandals, legal actions, and fines. On the other hand, companies with robust anti-corruption efforts cultivate a culture of integrity, which strengthens trust, attracts talent, and enhances relationships with key stakeholders, including customers, investors, and regulators. It is therefore in the private sector's interest to collaborate with governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders to be a key player in detecting, preventing, and addressing corruption, fostering an environment of accountability and sustainable growth.

At the same time, this poses specific challenges to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as they have to face increasing regulatory pressure to comply with anti-corruption standards, yet their capacity to implement AI-driven solutions at scale is often limited. The discussion on AI and anti-corruption must therefore consider the unique needs and limitations of SMEs, as they require additional support in compliance efforts, while also recognizing the potential of tech-focused SMEs to develop innovative digital tools that aid in combating corruption.

2. How Businesses are preparing Anticorruption Efforts for AI

Based on the use cases collected from our questionnaire, this section will highlight how businesses are leveraging or perceive the potential of AI in their anti-corruption strategies, while also addressing the practical challenges and barriers to further AI adoption and integration.

The aim is to demonstrate how AI provides proactive solutions for integrity while also highlighting the expectations and needs of companies.

i. Different AI tools are already implemented by companies at large

Within the private sector at large, many businesses are showing strong interest in using AI technologies to enhance their anti-corruption efforts. According to the results of our questionnaire, Machine Learning (ML) is the most frequently mentioned technology, followed by Natural Language Processing (NLP). Both technologies are widely recognized for their potential to detect fraud, identify misconduct patterns, and predict vulnerabilities, particularly in high-risk areas like public procurement and financial transactions. Among respondents to our questionnaire, organizations and companies such as the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), Snam, and Aeroporti Di Roma are among those that highlight the use of ML and NLP for real-time fraud detection and anomaly identification, emphasizing their effectiveness in uncovering both subtle and large-scale irregularities instantly. The capacity for these systems to analyze and interpret vast sets of data instantly be it text, images or videos, enables them to monitor unusual activities, as noted by Snam.

These efforts are linked with the development of specific AI legislations in many countries, including the European Union Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act that entered into force in August 2024. In this context, companies like Novartis are committed to the responsible development, deployment, and use of AI technologies. The goal is to ensure that artificial intelligence (AI) serves the greater good by advancing medicine, enhancing human capabilities, and creating a positive societal impact while minimizing risks and unintended consequences. With this objective in mind, Novartis has developed and implemented a strong commitment to the ethical and responsible use of AI, which includes four guiding principles that align with the company's Code of Ethics. Throughout this journey, Novartis has established an AI Risk and Compliance Management Framework. As indicated by its name, this framework employs a risk classification approach and is designed to incorporate various legislative requirements, such as the EU AI Act and its associated risk classifications, based on assessments conducted by cross-functional teams .

Generative AI, while less frequently cited, is still seen as a promising tool for enhancing internal controls and improving compliance and its use is being explored by companies. Autostrade per l'Italia's RITA (Risk & Integrity Technical Assistant), mentioned above, sets an example in this regard. Similarly, Intelligent Process Automation (IPA) is gaining traction for automating repetitive tasks, reducing human error, and improving overall compliance processes, as mentioned by SNAM. While Blockchain is only referenced a handful of times, it is still recognized for its potential to enhance transparency and ensure data integrity.

ii. Businesses' investments on AI tend to focus on the early stages of the uptake of these technologies

Businesses are making significant investments in AI technologies and strategies for anti-corruption, though the level of AI readiness and integration varies. This underscores both the vast potential of AI and the need for further development within corporate anti-corruption frameworks, with AI's role still largely in the exploration phase. According to the questionnaire's findings, companies are primarily still focusing on foundational areas of AI integration such as developing AI skills and infrastructure before delving into more advanced applications like creating their own AI tools and partnerships. Interestingly, all companies indicated they are working on only one or two areas for incorporating AI into their anti-corruption strategies. However, businesses could consider adopting a holistic approach to AI and anti-corruption. For instance, investing in skills and tools without the necessary infrastructure could limit the scalability and long-term sustainability of these initiatives. Addressing all components—skills, infrastructure, partnerships, and developing AI tools—is critical to ensuring the effectiveness and success of AI in combating corruption. To achieve this, businesses will require ongoing support and guidance to integrate all of these elements into a comprehensive strategy.

iii. Education related to the use of AI will be critical to ensure its effectiveness in the fight against corruption

In parallel to these corporate efforts, universities and research organizations are also actively exploring the application of AI in the fight against corruption. In its 2023 paper *Shaping the Values for a Sustainable Future: Education for the Fight Against Corruption*, *Business at OECD* emphasized the critical importance of integrating education and anti-corruption initiatives, highlighting that education can reduce societal tolerance for corrupt practices while fostering a culture of integrity. Building on this foundation, education can serve as a powerful tool to support the responsible use of AI in anti-corruption efforts. For example, the Italian National School of Administration has incorporated various programs on AI into its anti-corruption curriculum, aiming not only to provide general literacy on AI that is aligned with the objectives of Article 4 of the AI Act but also to teach how AI tools can be used explicitly for corruption prevention. Notable programs introduced in 2024 include "Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence: The Art of Prompting, AI for Public Administration, Decision-Making Systems and Support for Public Administration", and "The Role of Data and Artificial Intelligence", with an additional course, "Designing with Artificial Intelligence: Examples for Public Administration", planned for 2025.

These collective efforts across sectors emphasize the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing corruption, leveraging both business and academic expertise.

3. Challenges in AI Adoption for Anticorruption by Businesses

While AI offers significant promise in the fight against corruption, including enhanced transparency, automated and faster processes, and real-time risk management, businesses face numerous challenges when adopting these technologies. They range from internal organizational hurdles and technical constraints to external pressures such as complex regulatory landscapes and industry-specific compliance requirements and trustworthy, ethical and transparent AI application. These challenges can impede the seamless integration of AI solutions, limiting their potential to address corruption effectively and sustainably.

Internally, companies often struggle with integrating AI tools into long-standing infrastructures and organizational workflows. Many businesses operate with legacy systems and entrenched processes that can be resistant to change. The implementation of AI requires not only substantial investment in technology but also a shift in organizational culture, workforce training, and governance structures. Strong resistance to change within organizations and a lack of leadership awareness regarding the application of AI in current workflows pose significant challenges. Without these foundational changes, the benefits of AI may remain unrealized, and new tools might even exacerbate inefficiencies.

Externally, businesses must navigate a complex and often fragmented regulatory landscape. The rules governing AI deployment, data privacy, and compliance vary significantly across jurisdictions and industries. In highly regulated sectors such as finance, healthcare, and energy, companies face added scrutiny and must ensure that AI systems align with both local and international regulatory requirements. These challenges are further compounded by the lack of coherence between frameworks for ethical AI use, leaving businesses to balance innovation with the risks of legal and reputational exposure.

In addition to adoption and regulatory hurdles, businesses also face risks inherent to using AI for anticorruption. AI systems rely on data to function effectively, but incomplete, biased, or inaccurate datasets can lead to flawed analyses and decision-making. Recognizing and addressing these risks proactively is essential for organizations seeking to harness the potential of AI for anti-corruption. By adopting a balanced approach that combines technological advancements with human judgment and strong security protocols, businesses can mitigate these challenges and maximize the value of AI-driven solutions.

III. Policy Recommendations for an Integrity-driven Ecosystem

1. Encourage Adherence to OECD Frameworks and International Coordination Efforts

To effectively harness AI in the fight against corruption, policymakers should prioritize alignment with established OECD frameworks and foster international coordination. Aligning national policies to these frameworks will ensure that the deployment of AI tools is ethical and transparent while promoting accountability and consistency across jurisdictions. Key OECD frameworks such as the OECD AI Principles or the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and related Guidance on AI for Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) provide a robust foundation for guiding trustworthy and human-centered AI development. Interoperable anticorruption policies across jurisdictions are therefore essential to guide stakeholders and avoid fragmentation of regulatory environments. The OECD Working Group on Bribery, with the support of *Business at OECD* (BIAC), can further support operationalizing these frameworks by translating their recommendations into actionable, business-friendly language. By encouraging adherence to OECD frameworks and prioritizing international coordination, governments and businesses can collaboratively promote ethical AI use, drive meaningful progress in combating corruption, and strengthen trust in organizations worldwide.

2. Fostering Innovation while Ensuring Accountability

To ensure the effective use of AI technologies, policymakers need to strike a balance between fostering innovation and safeguarding important principles. Encouraging their development and deployment in controlled and supportive environments such as regulatory sandboxes will allow all stakeholders to explore innovative solutions and ensure we unlock the full potential of AI against corruption. Regulatory sandboxes notably provide businesses with the opportunity to experiment with AI applications in real-world scenarios while ensuring compliance with ethical and legal standards. By creating a safe space for innovation, they reduce barriers to entry for smaller firms, encourage cross-sector collaboration, and accelerate the adoption of cutting-edge anticorruption tools. By supporting these efforts and promoting the adoption of adequate ethical frameworks, policymakers and international organizations such as the OECD can effectively mitigate risks such as misuse, bias, and lack of accountability.

3. Building Capacity and Raising Awareness

Maximizing the impact of AI in anticorruption efforts requires robust capacity-building initiatives and widespread awareness of the technology's potential among leaders in the public and private sectors. Policymakers need to invest in targeted training programs to ensure that all stakeholders are equipped with the knowledge and tools to leverage AI effectively while understanding its limitations. Further, initiatives to expand digital infrastructure and improve access to affordable AI tools will ensure that businesses of all sizes, including SMEs which often lack resources and expertise, can participate in the fight against corruption, thereby maximizing societal and economic benefits.

4. Strengthen Public-Private Collaboration

Addressing corruption effectively requires robust collaboration between governments, businesses, and other stakeholders. Strengthening platforms for dialogue and fostering joint initiatives supports the development of innovative AI-driven solutions that detect, prevent, and address corruption. The OECD, as an evidence-based and multistakeholder international organization, should continue to foster a trusted dialogue for stakeholders to identify common challenges and create solutions on ethical AI deployment, data sharing, and strategies to address cross-border corruption cases. Enhanced collaboration between public and private actors is needed to amplify anticorruption efforts, contributing to a more transparent and accountable global landscape.

5. Enhance Communication and Awareness Campaigns

Raising awareness about the potential of AI in combating corruption and promoting a culture of integrity through technology requires dedicated efforts in communication and knowledge dissemination. Policymakers and organizations must implement strategic campaigns and provide accessible resources to engage diverse audiences and build trust in AI-driven solutions. Expanding platforms like the OECD.AI Observatory is a crucial step in this direction. By centralizing communication resources, the Observatory serves as a global hub for information on AI's role in anti-corruption efforts. Communication and awareness campaigns should emphasize the importance of stakeholder engagement, encouraging businesses and governments to act as ambassadors for the responsible use of AI in integrity initiatives. Showcasing the transformative potential of technology and offering practical guidance through targeted campaigns can also inspire action, build public confidence, and foster a global culture that prioritizes transparency and accountability. Through the OECD.AI Observatory and targeted research initiatives, policymakers can establish a more informed and empowered global community. This approach would enhance the effectiveness of AI-driven efforts to combat corruption and foster sustainable, technology-enabled solutions.

Conclusion: A Shared Mission for AI-Driven Integrity

(Written with the help of AI)

In line with the 7th action identified in our *Zero Corruption Manifesto* ("Tech for Trust & Transparency) as well as the 2022 publication of our paper *Stepping Up the Game: Digital Technologies for the Promotion of the Fight Against Corruption - A Business Perspective*, the present paper explores the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in combating corruption. It highlights AI's ability to enhance transparency, accountability, resilience, efficiency, competitiveness, and governance.

Key points discussed include the significant advancements in AI technologies - particularly Generative AI -and their application in both the public and private sectors, playing a multifaceted role in strengthening integrity and anti-corruption efforts:

- **AI as a Digital Solution** – AI enhances compliance capacity by optimizing processes, exploiting and analyzing vast datasets in real time, and improving risk detection and mitigation strategies.
- **AI as a New Stakeholder** – AI must be recognized as a key actor in corporate governance, ensuring the essential balance between business imperatives and ethical values for long-term sustainability.
- **AI as a Digital Colleague** – AI optimizes efforts, streamlines workflows, reduces administrative burdens, and increases efficiency, allowing organizations to focus on strategic integrity goals.
- **AI as a Game-Changer** – AI-driven technologies simplify complex regulatory frameworks and help overcoming bureaucratic obstacles, fostering a more responsible, competitive, and resilient business environment with zero corruption.

To merge these four dimensions effectively, it is essential to adopt a rule-based, ethical framework that ensures fairness, privacy, and human rights in AI deployment for anti-corruption efforts. The framework should be guided by five principles:

- People-centric utility
- Security & safety
- Transparency
- Responsibility & sustainability
- Resilience & innovation

Call to Action

To fully harness AI's potential in combating corruption, stakeholders must act decisively. Governments, businesses, and civil society should act in coherence with OECD frameworks, foster innovation through regulatory sandboxes, and build digital capacity to ensure inclusive access to AI tools. In this context, strengthening public-private collaboration and expanding communication efforts will be key to driving a global culture of integrity through technology. As a multilateral platform, the OECD is uniquely positioned to lead this agenda by providing guidance, fostering dialogue, and supporting the adoption of AI-driven integrity solutions. Now is the time to take collective action and leverage AI responsibly to create a more transparent, responsible and sustainable future.

Annex: Glossary

AI System - An AI system is a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments. Different AI systems vary in their levels of autonomy and adaptiveness after deployment. (OECD, 2024)

AI System Lifecycle - AI system lifecycle phases involve: i) 'design, data and models'; which is a context-dependent sequence encompassing planning and design, data collection and processing, as well as model building; ii) 'verification and validation'; iii) 'deployment'; and iv) 'operation and monitoring'. These phases often take place in an iterative manner and are not necessarily sequential. The decision to retire an AI system from operation may occur at any point during the operation and monitoring phase.

Algorithm – A set of rules or processes followed by a computer in performing problem-solving operations, particularly in AI and machine learning.

Anti-Corruption – Strategies, policies, and measures designed to prevent, detect, and combat corrupt practices in public and private sectors.

Bias – A systematic error or prejudice in data, algorithms, training methods or decision-making processes that can lead to unfair outcomes. This can occur in various forms, such as selection bias, confirmation bias, or algorithmic bias.

Bribery – The offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of something of value to influence the actions of an official or other person in charge of a public or legal duty.

Compliance – The process by which businesses and organizations adhere to laws, regulations, and ethical standards, particularly regarding corruption and fraud prevention.

Corruption – The abuse of entrusted power for private gain, which can take various forms such as bribery, fraud, or embezzlement.

Data Integrity – The accuracy, reliability, and consistency of data throughout its lifecycle.

Digital Transformation – The integration of digital technology into various areas of business and society, fundamentally changing how organizations operate and deliver value to customers.

Due Diligence – The process through which organizations identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for how they address their actual and potential adverse impacts.

E-Government – The use digital technologies by government agencies to improve the delivery of public services, enhance transparency, and increase citizen engagement.

Fraud Detection – The use of various techniques and technologies to identify and prevent fraudulent activities.

Generative AI – A subset of artificial intelligence that involves algorithms capable of generating new content, such as text, images, or music, based on the data they have been trained on.

Integrity Management – The implementation of policies, procedures, and practices aimed at promoting ethical behavior and preventing corruption within organizations.

Know Your Counterparty (KYC) – The process of verifying the identity and assessing the risk of potential business partners or clients.

Machine Learning (ML) – A set of techniques that allows machines to improve their performance and usually generate models in an automated manner through exposure to training data, which can help identify patterns and regularities rather than through explicit instructions from a human. The process of improving a system's performance using machine learning techniques is known as "training".

Natural Language Processing (NLP) – A multidisciplinary field including linguistics, artificial intelligence, and information technologies that uses machine learning to create tools to understand, interpret, and generate human language.

OECD AI Principles – Recommendation established by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to ensure trustworthy AI deployment.

Predictive Analytics – The use of statistical techniques and machine learning algorithms to analyze historical data and make predictions about future events.

Procurement Fraud – Fraudulent activities related to the procurement process, such as bid rigging, kickbacks, and false invoicing.

Public Integrity Indicators (PIIs) – Metrics used to assess the integrity of public institutions and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures.

Regulatory Sandbox – A framework that allows businesses to test innovative products, services, solutions and business models in a controlled environment under regulatory supervision. This allows regulators to understand new technologies and their implications while ensuring consumer protection and market integrity.

Risk Management – The process of identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks associated with corruption and unethical business practices.

Whistleblower Protections – Measures designed to protect individuals who report misconduct, corruption, or other illegal activities within an organization.

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