

Control network will enhance fight against corruption

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Yesterday morning, institutions from the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary Branches that audit the use of public resources signed a protocol of intentions to develop a Public Administration Control Network. The signature took place in the main office of the Brazilian Court of Audit (TCU) in Brasilia.

The President of the TCU, Ubiratan Aguiar, reaffirmed the importance of joining efforts of the three branches to provide Brazil with effective control of public funds. "This is the right time for us to struggle, hand in hand, against corruption in Brazil. We must get out of this isolation, and only then will we be partners in the fight against the deviation of public resources", he highlighted. According to him, the signature of the protocol is the first step towards effectiveness in the control network. "It is now up to the managing officers to ensure the progress of the proceedings, the concrete portion" he observed.

The control network will seek effectiveness in the Government's actions, arising from strategic partnerships that must reflect directly on the combat against money deviations and corruption. The coordinated operation will also work towards defining common guidelines, and establishing commitments and joint actions to inspect and control public administration.

The protocol's implementation starts in April, by means of workshops, with the participation of representatives from all agencies and organizations involved in the partnership. The organization and implementation of the workshops are initially assigned to TCU.

The protocol was signed by the president of the Brazilian Court of Audit, Minister Ubiratan Aguiar; by ministers of the Superior Electoral Court, Carlos Ayres Brito; of Finance, Guido Mantega; of Justice, Tarso Genro; of Planning, Budget and Management, Paulo Bernardo Silva; of the of the Comptroller General, Jorge Hage Sobrinho; of Social Security, José Pimentel; and by TCU ministers and representatives of the Public Prosecution Council within TCU. Also present were representatives of the Senate, House of Representatives, Electoral Prosecutor's Office, Audit Prosecutor's Office, among others.

Movements – The Northeast region already has movements that are trying to articulate combat to corruption. The efforts began in the state of Paraíba and currently, according to the Regional Attorney-General of the Republic in the state of Pernambuco, Fábio George Cruz da Nóbrega, brings together more than 30 entities. The work of the Forum for Combating Corruption (FOCCO) goes beyond the public sphere, and also involves the population. Society's behavior explains the action strategy.

In 2006, the statistics institute IBOPE pointed out that 75% of the people would practice acts of corruption if they had the chance to do so. Data from the University of Porto, dated two years ago, reveal that in countries where students cheated most in their tests or practiced any kind of fraud in their schools, the rate of corruption is higher. The fora that work to reverse this situation in the Northeast Region meet monthly and operate based on a diagnosis. In the state of Pernambuco, they discovered that NGO's and OSCIPS (public interest civil society organizations) top all cases of corruption. Deviation of resources for education and health and irregular hiring of public services are next on the list.

TCU's Information Technology Secretary, Mauro Giaccobo, also presented yesterday the experience in the IT Control Network. The proposal was made official on March, 2008, and involves authorities of the three branches of the government. The work is organized in thematic groups, and has already developed a model for government hiring for information technology services for public service. In April, the data integration project of the participating agencies should be completed, and in May, the portal LexML will be presented, which will gather legislative and legal information on the theme.