



Call for Essays

Covid-19, Crime and Corruption in a Connected World

(Submission Deadline: February 28, 2021)

On the eve of the **International Anti-Corruption Day (December 9, 2020)**, New Development Bank (NDB) invites you to submit reflection pieces in the form of short essays on the topic, "***Covid-19, Crime and Corruption in a Connected World***". Essays submitted shall be considered for awards for best three submissions.

Topics and possible perspectives

The COVID-19 pandemic gives rise to very significant risks of corruption. Massive resources mobilized to respond to the health and economic crises create opportunities for corruption, while many corruption prevention and enforcement mechanisms are suspended due to the emergency. While the risk of corruption is high in the context of the pandemic, it is not inevitable. Lessons learned from past emergencies can inform smart strategies for preventing corruption. Anti-corruption laws, regulations, and best practices provide guidance for taking swift action without compromising integrity. Technology and principles of open and accountable governance can provide invaluable checks and hold corrupt actors to account. In order to engage in an informed debate in these areas, NDB invites you to submit original contributions that address any one of the following topics:

1. How did Covid-19 disrupt the anti-corruption policy landscape globally?
2. What are the innovative ways of addressing corruption risks related to during Covid-19?
3. How can technology support the fight against corruption in the context of Covid-19?
4. In what way the capacity building to handle the challenges of anti-corruption be enhanced to ensure that the pandemic recovery is equitable and sustainable?

NDB is particularly interested in essays (authored either individually or jointly) in any of the above areas but with practical orientation comprising a) case studies b) public policies in different country contexts c) proposals for reform and d) technology applications for the stated purpose. This listing is not exhaustive, though the scope of essays should be with reference to the areas listed above.

Format Guidelines

1. The essays should:
 - Be written in English;
 - Represent the original work of the author(s);
 - Not exceed 2,500 words in length (can be of any length within this limit);
 - Use Harvard Referencing System (in-text citation with a reference list at the end viz., scholarly research, books, online articles);
 - Not infringe any applicable laws or regulations (including those relating to confidentiality or copyright aspects) in respect of the material used in the essay;
2. Submit your text for the competition as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx);
3. If you intend to use images in your essay, please make sure they are of good quality (high resolution). Please indicate in the text where the images should be placed and make sure you submit the images separately in the email together with your submission.

Eligibility and Submission

1. The competition is open to nationals of all BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and countries that are members of the EAG¹ (Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering viz., Belarus, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) but can be residing anywhere in the world.
2. The essays should be addressed to the email ID fintecgrity@ndb.int.
3. The name of the author, institutional affiliation and the nationality/residential status should be provided in the covering email. The covering email should also contain a declaration that the submission is the original work of the author(s) and does not infringe any applicable laws or regulations in respect of the material used in the essay.
4. All entries are final. No revisions are accepted once submitted for the competition.
5. The essays once submitted will become the copyright of NDB.
6. In case of any further questions, applicants can reach out to the email ID fintecgrity@ndb.int.

Awards

1. From the essays submitted, NDB will select three best essays for the awards. Authors of each of the three best essays shall receive USD 1,500. If a winning paper has more than one author, the prize will be split equally among the co-authors.
2. Awards will be announced in early 2021 on the NDB social media platform. NDB will also inform all applicants whether or not their essay has won a prize.
3. Award winners shall be felicitated to a virtual workshop to be organized by NDB during April / May 2021.

¹ NDB is currently an Observer organization at the Plenary Meetings of the EAG – a regional FATF Style Body.