Daniel Kaufmann

Daniel Kaufmann is the president and CEO of the Natural Resource Governance Institute. A recognized innovator and expert on governance and anticorruption around the world, he is currently a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative international board and serves in various international advisory boards, including the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Group on Anticorruption and Integrity and the Inter-American Development Bank’s President High-Level Advisory Group on Transparency.

Kaufmann is regarded as a leading expert, researcher, and policy adviser on governance and development. With his teams, he has pioneered new approaches to construct indicators for country governance and designed survey methodologies for good governance and anticorruption programs. He has also provided practical advice to countries based on his research and experience in various fields. He has published in academic and policy journals on economic development, governance, the unofficial economy, macro-economics, investment, corruption, privatization, and urban and labor economics.

At the World Bank Institute he led work on global governance and anticorruption. He was a senior economist for Africa, working on trade, industry and macro-economy. He also authored the World Development Report, which distilled key lessons from his development experience. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, he became the first chief of mission of the World Bank to Ukraine, and thereafter was a visiting scholar at Harvard. Upon resuming his career at the World Bank, he served as lead economist in the research department. Then he was a manager of the finance, regulation and governance unit at the World Bank Institute.

Kaufmann is a frequent keynote speaker at global and country specific fora, including meetings of multilateral organizations, international financial institutions, private sector conferences, and civil society and data community events.

He is often featured as a guest expert in major media outlets, and has authored articles in the Financial Times, Finance & Development and other leading publications.

Most recently, he has written about how East Asia and Latin America's economic prospects hinge crucially on good governance and corruption control; another piece focused on the U.S. withdrawal from EITI and what it means for global governance. He has also written about the global fight against corruption in the wake of the repeal in the U.S. of Section 1504 of the Dodd-Frank Act; subnational governance in extractives; state capture and legal and illegal corruption; and corruption trends in Latin America, among other topics. His work is extensively cited, as in last year’s World Bank Development Report: Governance and the Law.

Kaufmann, a Chilean, received an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics at Harvard, and a B.A. in economics and statistics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Follow him on Twitter.