

**AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD
AGAINST CORRUPTION**



مجلس الاتحاد الأفريقي الاستشاري
لمكافحة الفساد

**CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DE
L'UNION AFRICAINE CONTRE LA
CORRUPTION**

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**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE AFRICAN ANTI CORRUPTION
DAY
11 July, 2023**

The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) was adopted on the 11 of July 2003 and therefore today marks 20 years since its adoption. This Convention was developed to encourage and assist Member States on the continent, to fight corruption and to promote good governance. The Government of Tanzania together with the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC) have jointly launched the 20th Anniversary celebrations in Arusha, Tanzania and brought together stakeholders under the theme: ***AUCPCC, 20 Years After: Achievements and Prospects***. This momentous occasion provides stakeholders across the continent from various sectors including state and non-state actors, not only an important platform to highlight the gains made or successes achieved, but critically to also consider the debilitating effect of corruption on the economic growth and development of the 55 countries of our continent and what we ought to do much better 20 years on.

This year's commemoration therefore provides us with a unique opportunity for deep and sober reflection, learning, re-strategizing and action. The AU Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC) therefore takes this opportunity to encourage all stakeholders in the anti-corruption space across the continent of Africa, to use the occasion and subsequent weeks and months till the end of 2023, to organise events that consider the progress made and challenges faced and focus on the prospects and what new strategies need to be deployed for accelerated and substantive results relating to minimizing corruption on the continent over the next two (2) decades.

It is important to note that 48 African countries have so far ratified the AUCPCC and therefore subscribe to it. This demonstrates their national commitment to the convention and is highly commendable. We encourage the remaining seven (7) countries including Cape Verde, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Somalia and South Sudan to take urgent steps and actions to ratify and domesticate the Convention.

What largely remains, is the full domestication of all aspects or relevant articles in the Convention, by providing local legislation and policies that cover all the key articles of the Convention including criminalizing activities such as illicit enrichment, diversion of state property, gift taking and having laws that cover Asset Declaration, Witness Protection, Anti-Money Laundering, Bribery, Political Party Funding and more.

The AUABC therefore calls on State Parties that have ratified the Convention, as a matter of urgency, to speed up processes to enact legislations that will bring their countries into full compliance with the Convention and we pledge our support to extending the necessary technical assistance where required to make this happen in the best interest of the African continent.

We use this occasion to call on all stakeholders, to re-commit themselves to the fight against corruption, and we emphasize that by working together, we can win this fight, and that includes Citizens, CSOs, Media, Private Sector, Government and more. There can be no surrender! We appeal to African governments to display stronger political resolve and to allocate adequate funding to bolster the effectiveness of their various national anti-corruption agencies. We also encourage stakeholders within the continental and national space to seek greater collaboration and use partnership frameworks to expand their scope of outreach and impact, aligning with the 20th year celebration theme of **"AUCPCC, 20 Years After: Achievements and Prospects."**

The AUABC takes this opportunity to emphasize that corruption remains a reality and to encourage all of us to reinforce our cultural values that prohibit corrupt conduct of all forms. We are convinced that African countries, can research and look up to African indigenous models of success, and use locally appropriate strategies and solutions to tackle and overcome corruption more effectively. We are certain that if we employ research and evidence based approaches in crafting the strategies that define our anti-corruption activities for the next two (2) decades, we will achieve greater success for our continent and for our people. God bless Africa.

#AfricaAgainstCorruption

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