

**AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY
BOARD ON CORRUPTION**

المجلس الاستشاري للإتحاد الإفريقي
لمحاربة الفساد



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

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Remarks of Chairperson of African Union Advisory Board on Corruption Hon. Begoto Miarom at the Swearing-In Ceremony of New Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights at its 50th Ordinary Session

1. Your Excellency Madam Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania;
Your Lordship the President of the African Court;
Honourable Judges of the African Court;
The Registrar of the African Court;
Ambassadors and Representatives of the African Union Commission;
Distinguished guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen. All protocols duly observed.

2. First and foremost, it gives me great pleasure and enthusiasm to address you today, at this very important ceremony.

Let me start by extending my thanks to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for organizing this landmark event aimed at sending forth the outgoing Judges of the African Court after successfully completing their terms of office, and welcoming the incoming Judges of the Court, who will have the onerous responsibility to state the law and defend the rights of our fellow African citizens.

3. May I recall that it is no longer news that human rights are indivisible and interdependent, that the impacts of corrupt governance are numerous and touch on all aspects of human rights. Therefore, failing to address corruption inhibits sustainable growth and undermines human rights and development. While acts tainted by corruption can constitute human rights violations, corruption itself is best seen as a structural obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights.

4. The Preamble to the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption expresses concerns about the negative effects of corruption and impunity on the political, economic, social and cultural stability of African

States and its devastating effects on the economic and social development of African peoples. It also acknowledges that corruption undermines accountability and transparency in the management of public affairs as well as socioeconomic development on the continent.

5. Article 3(3) of the Convention establishes as one of the principles the respect for human rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.
6. The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) that was established in 2009 to ensure proper implementation of the AU Convention is therefore expected to build and maintain partnerships with all stakeholders, including the African Court on Human and People's Rights, in view of putting an end to the negative effects of corruption on human and people's rights.
7. The African Union theme for this year, that is, "***Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation***" is, in my humble view, a clarion call for all Africans and friends of our dearly beloved continent.
8. Corruption impacts development and prevents the universal application of human rights as it distorts relationships. Corruption is therefore a cause of discrimination.
9. Justice is a very sensitive sector where equity, impartiality, independence and transparency must be the watchwords to steer us away from the trap of corruption.
10. Corruption impacts the fair and equitable delivery of public goods and services including healthcare, education and water. Corruption therefore undermines the full realization of socioeconomic rights and impacts the right to development.

11. Lastly, corruption impacts civil and political development especially in electoral and civic processes. Corruption is often used to distort the will of the people through election rigging.
12. However, the situation is not all that bleak, as there are some solutions to these challenges:
 - There is a need to pay greater attention to corruption in the context of human rights and development. To this end, a greater premium must be paid to reorienting our culture and attitude toward corrupt practices, particularly through increased awareness campaigns among our youth;
 - More must be done to strengthen both the norms and institutional linkages between relevant bodies that have mandates over these issues. The challenges are cross-cutting in nature and so should the solutions;
 - Lastly, greater measure should be taken to ensure that there are sanctions for corrupt practices. The Protocol to the Charter of the African Court proposes vesting the Court with jurisdiction over the economic crimes of corruption, money laundering and illicit exploitation of natural resources. It would also have jurisdiction over corporate entities such as multinational entities that engage in destabilizing business practices that are facilitated by corruption. Ratification of this instrument must be sped up.
13. This theme should remind us of our obligation to work collectively as it is our duty to legate to the future generations a peaceful, prosperous and united Africa, founded on inclusive growth and sustainable development; an Africa where good governance, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law are more than a reality.

14. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as I conclude, I congratulate and welcome the incoming Judges on their appointment to the Africa Court on Human and Peoples' Rights here in Arusha, Tanzania, and I wish you the very best in that prestigious and respected role and success in all walks of life. May God bless you and your families with peace, prosperity, good health and happiness!
15. To the outgoing Judges, on behalf of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC), I sincerely thank you for your effort and the job well done. You have all achieved a lot by working in cordial cooperation and harmony. Although your professional duties and responsibility were challenging, they were nevertheless rewarding.
16. Thank you for your attention

I thank you all for your kind attention

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