

AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD  
AGAINST CORRUPTION

مجلس الاتحاد الأفريقي الاستشاري  
لمكافحة الفساد



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DE L'UNION  
AFRICAINNE CONTRE LA CORRUPTION

CONSELHO CONSULTIVO DA UNIÃO  
AFRICANA CONTRA A CORRUPÇÃO

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual African Anti-Corruption Dialogue

19<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Theme: “Strategies and Mechanisms for the Transparent Management of Covid-19 Funds”.**

### 1. Background

Tackling corruption and misuse of funds during the COVID-19 pandemic became an issue for many countries on the continent as it threatened the governance, accountability and transparency principles in management of public resources. Reports of theft and mismanagement of funds as governments responded to COVID-19 brought to the fore the need to improve transparency and accountability measures during emergencies. The COVID 19 responses revealed that neglecting transparency and accountability norms in the name of dealing with emergencies contributes to the further weakening of the fight against corruption

Though the pandemic has been managed, the effects of mismanaged funds, theft, fraud and wastage will continue to impact countries. Even though many of the countries have now moved on to recovery stages, it will still take a while to surmount the effects of the pandemic. The resources that many of the countries have received to support the recovery efforts need to be subjected to strong accountability and transparency mechanisms so that they are used effectively and not prone to wastage, abuse and corruption. It is therefore imperative that Member States continue putting in place strong strategies and mechanisms that will promote adherence and compliance to policies, regulations and any other mechanisms that enhance transparency ad accountability principles.

In efforts to amplify voices that have called for transparency and accountability in the management of funds earmarked for management and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has dedicated its work in 2022 to highlight the importance of not neglecting transparency and accountability norms during pandemics such as COVID-19 as they impact on the overall progress on the fight against corruption. The 2022 African Anti-Corruption Dialogue therefore is being convened under the theme: “**Strategies and Mechanisms for the Transparent Management of Covid-19 Funds**’.

## **2. Objectives and Expectations**

The 2022 African Anti-Corruption Dialogue will provide a platform to highlight the role of accountability and transparency in management of funds during emergencies and crisis. The country experiences from selected Member States will bring in practical experiences on challenges, success stories and recommendations on how countries can do better during emergencies such as COVID-19. It will bring together the representatives of Member States, International Organizations, National Anti-Corruption Agencies, Civil Society, Academia and other actors.

The Specific objectives of the Dialogue shall be to:-

- a) To highlight the state of play of Anti-corruption efforts during pandemics such as COVID-19;
- b) To share experiences and best practices within Member States on transparency and accountability standards during pandemics and crisis as they contribute to the fight against corruption within the different Countries and RECs;
- c) To increase the awareness of the African Annual Anti- Corruption Dialogue; and
- d) To engage and forge deeper relationships with AUABC, National Anti-Corruption Authorities, Civil Society and other key national actors.

The expected outcomes of the Dialogue are: -

- i. A sharing of experiences and best practices on transparency and accountability standards during emergencies and crisis;
- ii. Recommendations and strategies to be submitted for consideration by the Policy Organs of the African Union and other relevant actors.

## **3. Methodology**

The event will be held in a virtual format via Zoom platform which shall be communicated in due course. It is envisaged that the following activities will be conducted: -

- (a) Launch of the report on the Continental Study on Lessons Learned In the Management and Auditing of COVID-19 Pandemic Funds in Africa;
- (b) A Panel Discussion on country experience on auditing of COVID-19 Funds; and
- (c) A presentation on the COVID-19 Transparency Portal.

Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese. All resources for the event shall be availed on the website of the Advisory Board Against Corruption.

For more information or to share your ideas, please contact the Secretariat of the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption on [AUABCRegistry@africa-union.org](mailto:AUABCRegistry@africa-union.org).