

AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD  
AGAINST CORRUPTION



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DE  
L'UNION AFRICAINE CONTRE LA  
CORRUPTION

مجلس الاتحاد الأفريقي الاستشاري  
لمكافحة الفساد

CONSELHO CONSULTIVO DA  
UNIÃO AFRICANA CONTRA A  
CORRUPÇÃO

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## CONCEPT NOTE

### CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION

JULY 11, 2023

**THEME: "AUCPCC, 20 YEARS AFTER: ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROSPECTS"**

#### 1. Background

Adopted on 11 July 2003, and entered into force on 6 August 2006, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) is the main instrument put in place by African States to prevent and combat corruption.

After many years since its entry into force, and despite the ratification of this Convention by 48 States and the main provisions being transposed into domestic legislation, the scourge of corruption continues to grow on the continent, generating devastating effects on the economy, economic development, social cohesion and political order.

11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 marks 20 years since the Convention was adopted and it is essential for States Parties to the Convention to reflect on this journey in order to determine what should be next in the coming 20 years so that State Parties have more appropriate strategies to combat the scourge of corruption on the continent.

The celebration of the 20th Anniversary thus aims to encourage States Parties to the Convention to renew their commitments to the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention, and to reflect on innovations that could facilitate a better functioning of the anti-corruption system for the Africa we want.

The theme of the 20th anniversary will be "**AUCPCC, 20 Years After: Achievements and Prospects**".

The commemoration will draw attention to the values and principles enshrined in the Convention and facilitate the renewed commitment of stakeholders to the achievement of Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063, which calls for "An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law".

## **2. Objectives**

The main objective of the celebration is to commemorate the decisive step taken by the African continent in the fight against corruption by adopting on 11 July 2003, in Maputo, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. It is also to draw the attention of States Parties to the importance of the effective implementation of its provisions in the context of "The Africa We Want".

The specific objective of the celebration is to bring together States Parties to the Convention and other stakeholders, in order to share their experience on how the Convention has contributed to making a difference in the fight against corruption. Further, other objectives are to identify current challenges as well as solutions to eradicate corruption in the continent, and to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention to achieve the objectives of Agenda 2063.

## **3. Expected Results**

This 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary offers Africa an excellent opportunity to renew its shared commitment to preventing and combating corruption through the effective implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. Specifically:

- It will be an opportunity to sensitize the seven (7) Member States that have not yet ratified it to join the rest of African States in the fight against corruption, in accordance with Decisions Nos. EX.CL/Dec.657, EX.CL/Dec.891 and EX.CL/Dec.1085 of the Executive Council of the African Union, and to achieve universal ratification of the Convention;
- It will provide an opportunity to collectively take stock of the achievements of the Convention over the past 20 years, reflect on lessons learned, and identify ways in which current challenges can be addressed;
- Will raise awareness of the Convention among a wider audience and improve the visibility of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption; and
- By bringing together various stakeholders, the event will also strengthen collaborative efforts among States Parties to effectively implement the Convention.

## **4. Date and place**

The Official Event will be held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania at the Arusha International Conference Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023. There will be preceding events as well as after the Official Event.

## **5. Methodology**

Celebration activities will be held from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as follows;

- 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023: Anti-Corruption Walk;
- 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023: Continental Symposium on the theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary;
- 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023: Official Ceremony commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; and
- 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual African Anti-Corruption Dialogue on the theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The celebration will be marked by a series of events and activities organized during the period of the celebration: song competitions, poems, workshops, exhibitions, conferences-debates which will focus on the achievements on the implementation of the Convention and the national anti-corruption systems, highlighting good practices and positive examples based on concrete results.

The challenges of eliminating corruption, including issues of illicit financial flows and asset recovery, as well as obstacles to fully domesticating the provisions of the Convention into practice at the national level, will be particularly highlighted.

## **6. How To Participate**

The African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption invites States Parties, Organs of the African Union, National Anti-Corruption Authorities, Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, Partner Financial Institutions, Academia and other relevant organizations and individuals to organize and participate in this event to share their experiences.

At the country level, all National Anti-Corruption Authorities are encouraged to work with national and local partners to organize special events and undertake actions in particular for youth and women to commemorate the African Anti-Corruption day on 11<sup>th</sup> July. These events will provide an opportunity for States Parties to highlight and advance national priority issues relating to the implementation of the Convention in their respective countries.

Written contributions specifically related to the best practices and achievements of the Convention are strongly encouraged and welcome and will be posted on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary website. All resources for the event shall be availed on the website of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption.

Specifically you can participate in the celebration of the African Anti-Corruption Day which is also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by:-

- Organizing creative activities in your community to mark 11 July;
- Urging your country to ratify, implement and report on its compliance with the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption;
- Raising awareness on the negative impact of corruption in your community;
- Reporting cases of corruption within your respective Countries to the relevant Anti-Corruption Agencies;
- Promoting anti-corruption champions and publicizing stories of success in fighting corruption;
- Using the communication tools on publications and at events;
- Sending a message to your networks about the campaign;
- Tweeting about the day using the hashtag #AfricaAgainstCorruption and tagging @AUABC\_; and
- Committing to an accountable and transparent lifestyle.

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).