



## **2024 AFRICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY**

### **THEME: "EFFECTIVE WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION MECHANISM: A CRITICAL TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION"**

#### **1. Background**

The African Union adopted 11<sup>th</sup> July as the African Anti-Corruption Day to commemorate the adoption of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) or the Convention. To date, Forty-Eight (48) Member States of the African Union have ratified the Convention and have proceeded to put in place measures to tackle corruption such as criminalizing corruption through various legislation, establishing institutions as well as engaging in corruption prevention initiatives.

The year 2023 marked twenty (20) years since the AUCPCC was adopted and a review of the journey of the AUCPCC highlighted the progress, strides and achievements made so far in its implementation. The review also highlighted key challenges being faced and also proposed the areas of focus for the next decade to effectively implement the Convention. One of the challenges identified was the inadequate whistleblowing system that hinders citizens to report and 'blow' the whistle in instances of corruption. In recognizing the role of whistleblowers, the 2024 African Anti-Corruption Day will be commemorated under the theme **"Effective Whistleblowers Protection Mechanism: A Critical Tool in the Fight Against Corruption"**.

#### **2. The Role of Whistle-blowing in the fight against corruption**

Recognizing whistleblowing as a critical tool for combatting corruption, Article 5 (5) of the Convention obligated State Parties to adopt legislative and other measures to protect informants and witnesses in corruption and related offences, including protection of their identities. Further, Article 5 (6) obligates State Parties to adopt measures that ensure citizens report instances of corruption without fear of consequent reprisals. Whistle blowers promote the exposition of corruption hence posing as anti-corruption defenders and promoting corruption prevention. The Country Reviews have revealed that State Parties have put in place various initiatives such as legislation to promote whistleblowing. Some countries have further put in place whistleblower protection regulations. However, there is little evidence on presence of effective whistleblowing measures. Media is always awash with stories of whistleblowers who are facing retaliation.

The 2024 African Anti-Corruption Day will therefore provide a platform to highlight the significance of whistleblowing in the combatting of corruption and also provide a space for stakeholders to reflect on the challenges, good practices and recommendations to enhance whistleblowing in African Union Member

States. The call is therefore to the Members States, Civil Society, Media, International Organizations, Academia and Research Institutions to join the AUABC in commemorating the 2024 African Anti-Corruption Day under the adopted theme.

The Specific objectives of the 2024 African Anti-Corruption Day are to:-

- a) Highlight the state of play and promotion of whistleblowing in Africa;
- b) To increase the awareness of the African Anti-Corruption Day; and
- c) To raise awareness and promote the African Union Convention on preventing and Combating Corruption.

### **How to Participate**

You can participate in the celebration of the African Anti-Corruption Day by:-

- Organizing creative activities in your community to mark 11 July;
- Urging your Country to ratify, implement and report on its compliance with provisions of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption;
- Raising awareness on the need to have strong whistleblower protection system and mechanisms in your country;
- Reporting cases of corruption within your respective Countries to the relevant Anti-Corruption Agencies;
- Promoting anti-corruption champions, whistleblowers 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.

### **3. Methodology**

The African Anti-corruption Day will be held in a State Party to be communicated later. A series of Webinars and Panel Discussions on whistleblower protection will be held. All resources for the event shall be availed on the website and social media accounts of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption.

### **4. Key Messages**

- Governments must work on putting in place effective whistleblower legislation.
- Whistleblowers must be protected at all costs.
- Effective anonymous reporting systems crucial to combatting corruption.
- Citizens must support whistleblower to promote the fight against corruption.
- Let's all blow the whistle to combat corruption for the Africa we want.

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).