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CALL FOR PAPERS

A. Introduction

The Member States of the African Union adopted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC/The Convention) at the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Maputo (Mozambique), on 11th July 2003. The adoption was a commitment by African Member States to launch a continental fight against corruption. Following the said adoption, the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC) was formed to ensure the implementation of the AUCCPC, among other mandates.

The AU Advisory Board against Corruption has the broad mandate to:

1. Document and analyze corrupt activities.
2. Advise the AU and Member States on all matters relating to corruption;
3. Monitor and report on implementation and compliance with the Convention through receipt of State Reports; and
4. Engage in advocacy and outreach to prevent corruption.

B. The Call

The African Union (AU) Assembly declared the 11th of July of every year as the “**African Anti-Corruption Day**”. The African Union Advisory Board against Corruption has been celebrating the day with different themes and activities, including **Dialogue sessions on Anti-Corruption**. This year, 2024 the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption will be having the 8th Edition of the Anti-Corruption Dialogue followed by the celebration of the African Anti-Corruption Day under the theme: ‘**Effective Whistleblower Protection Mechanism: A Critical Tool in the Fight against Corruption**’. In this regard, the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption issues this ‘**Call for Papers**’ from Researchers, Academicians, and Think Tanks across the continent.

Recognizing whistleblowing as a critical tool for combatting corruption, Article 5 (5) of the Convention obligates State Parties to adopt legislative and other measures to protect informants and witnesses in corruption and related offenses, including protecting their identities. Further, Article 5 (6) obligates State Parties to adopt measures that ensure citizens report instances of corruption without fear of consequent reprisals. Whistleblowers 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 of the presence of effective whistleblowing measures. The 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 effectively combatting corruption and 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 individuals in AU Member States, Civil Society, Media, International Organizations, Academia, and Research Institutions to join the AUABC in commemorating the 2024 African Anti-Corruption Day through the submission of papers on the adopted theme.

The main topic of interest for the papers is Whistleblowing in the confines of corruption. Specifically, the paper can be on any of the following topics (but not limited to):

1. Effective Whistleblower Mechanisms in African Union Member States and Anti-Corruption Authorities.
2. Government's work on putting in place Effective Whistleblower Protection Legislation.
3. Existing Whistleblower Protection Mechanisms in AU Member States.
4. Hinderances to Whistleblowing and Recommendations for Effective Whistleblowing in Africa.

C. Submission Guidelines

1. Submission of papers of not more than **1500** words can be made in **English** or **French**
2. Submissions are to be made by **21st June 2024**.
3. Authors of accepted papers will be allowed to present the papers during the African Anti-Corruption Day/Dialogue sessions and different Webinars in June and July 2024.
4. Specific references can be made to AU Agenda 2063, AUCPCC, and Regional and National Anti-Corruption Strategies.
5. All submissions should be original works of authors and submitted in Word (docx) format.

All submissions are to be sent to Phirik@Africa-union.org and copy auabcregistry@africa-union.org and munthalim@africa-union.org by **21st June 2024**.