

African Dialogue against Corruption

Theme:

"Towards an African Methodology to Fight against Corruption"

2 October 2018

Arusha; Tanzania

Opening Remarks

Mr Begoto Miarom

CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD ON
CORRUPTION

- **Hon. George Huruma Mkuchika, (MP) Minister for State, President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance**
- **Honourable Lesjongard Georges Pierre**
- **The Governor of the Arusha Region**
- **The Vice-Chairperson of the Board**
- **Honourable Board Members**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests

- 1- I am pleased that you accepted the invitation of the Board to participate in this important activity here in Arusha, at the headquarters of our institution. You are welcome to this beautiful tourist town.
- 2- I thank the Minister of Good Governance of the United Republic of Tanzania who, despite his busy schedule, agreed to make the trip to chair the opening of our meeting. It should be recalled that the Minister has always been present whenever we organize activities of such magnitude and we wish to thank him for the special attention he pays to the Board.
- 3- Ladies and Gentlemen, the Dialogue with national anti-corruption agencies is an offshoot of Article 22.g of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption which calls on the Board to "establish partnerships with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African civil society organizations, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to facilitate dialogue on the fight against corruption and related offenses". This is the second edition of the Dialogue that the Board is organizing, after the inaugural edition held from 12 to 14 November 2017.

- 4- This Dialogue should be a platform for the Board and national anti-corruption agencies to discuss achievements in the fight against corruption and make recommendations to the AU Executive Council to move forward in the fight against this plague. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of national stakeholders to contribute in the fight against corruption because societies cannot achieve any development without this struggle. That is why we need to pool forces and develop good governance strategies to improve the living conditions of our populations.
- 5- It is no coincidence that the year 2018 is declared an anti-corruption year with the theme: "Overcoming corruption: a viable option for the transformation of Africa." It is a high-level realization of our leaders that the development of the continent can be achieved only through the fight against corruption and we, gathered here, will have to contribute thereto.
- 6- The Dialogue should allow us to share our experiences and develop new strategies to effectively carry out this mission entrusted to us. That is why the contribution of all is expected. We welcome the presence, among us, of delegates from countries that have not yet ratified the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. This does not mean that efforts in this connection are not made in such countries, but certainly that they want to know more about the work that we are already doing before joining us. We would like to tell them that we need them in order to move forward and we ask these delegates to be ambassadors of the Board to their respective countries and advocate for the ratification of the Convention. We will be more effective if all the countries of the continent ratify the Convention.

- 7- Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues, let us seize this opportunity that the Heads of State have given us by declaring 2018 an anti-corruption year, to make concrete proposals on winning the fight against this scourge of corruption. The recommendations of our three days of deliberations should also be included in the report on the theme of the year.

- 8- We must also acknowledge the remarkable work being done by the African Governance Architecture (AGA), which organized three regional youth consultations on the continent this year, under the theme: "Harnessing the capacities of young people to fight corruption in Africa". The consultation, in connection with the theme of the year, was an opportunity for our young people to renew their commitment to invest in the prevention and fight against corruption. The fight against corruption is a struggle for change and begins with the training of young citizens.

- 9- Young people are often more creative in seeking solutions to problems. Their efforts to fight corruption can be more innovative, more daring and make better use of modern technologies such as social networks and others.

- 10- Lastly, I would like to thank, once again, the Tanzanian authorities for all the facilities and support they have given us in the organization of this workshop and especially the warm welcome that the Tanzanian people have given us. We are very grateful and say THANK YOU.

Thank you for your kind attention.