

**AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY
BOARD ON CORRUPTION**

المجلس الاستشاري للإتحاد الإفريقي
لمحاربة الفساد



**CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DE L'UNION
AFICAINE SUR LA CORRUPTION**

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**STATEMENT BY THE AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION ON
AFRICA DAY**

ARUSHA – 25 MAY, 2017

On the occasion of the 54th anniversary of Africa Day (25th May 2017), the Chairperson of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC), on behalf of the entire Board and its Secretariat wishes all the people of Africa a very enjoyable and corruption-free Africa Day.

The Board further wishes all the African people renewed determination as the continent marches towards the Africa we all want, an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law among other aspirations. Just as the continent marched with purpose towards the liberation of her people from foreign domination, so the continent should march with purpose towards the attainment of its vision of **'An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena'**, as enshrined in Agenda 2063. The attainment of this vision calls for active participation of all the people of Africa, including her youthful population.

This year's theme for the Union, **'Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth'** provides the much needed opportunity for the young people on the continent to fully participate in the march towards attainment of the Pan African vision and the aspirations under Agenda

2063. As the continent celebrates and commemorates Africa Day, it is also a good time to reflect on the great potential that the young people have towards achieving the aspirations under Agenda 2063.

While the continent continues its efforts to harness the demographic dividend through investments in youth, it is imperative that the fight against corruption is also intensified by all stakeholders, especially our political leaders. This is critical because if corruption is allowed to thrive on the continent, the efforts in harnessing the demographic dividend will not bear much fruit. The impact of any measures will be affected by corruption and the efforts will therefore have been wasted.

The Advisory Board on Corruption, therefore, calls upon all Member States of the African Union and especially the State Parties to the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption (AUCPCC) to put in place, programmes and interventions in the area of corruption prevention that the young people on the continent can actively participate in. This investment in corruption prevention activities for the youth will ensure that we have a youth base that is actively involved in the fight against corruption, a youth base that will say no to corruption. Once the youth base is won over in the fight against Corruption, the fight will be half won, as the energies and vitality of the young people will then be fully channelled towards various productive undertakings, including interventions in the fight against corruption.

In conclusion, the Board reiterates the need for the continent to factor in corruption prevention programmes and interventions as it harnesses the demographic dividend through investments in youth. Let corruption prevention be an integral part of the investments in youth. The Board encourages the youth from all walks of life to join the fight against corruption as we march towards the Africa we want.

Happy Africa Day to you all!