



## **Report of the Board's Advocacy Mission to Mauritius from 16th to 17th November 2016**

**by Stephane Ndilmbaye (Documentalist)**

The Board undertook a mission with anti-corruption authorities and organisations from 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The delegation for this mission was comprised of the Chairperson of the Board, Hon. Batidam, Hon. Jean Baptiste Elias, a member of the Board, and the Documentalist Stephane Ndilmbaye who was representing the Secretariat in this mission.

The objective of this mission was to lobby with the Mauritian authorities who signed the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2004 to ratify it like the majority of the Member States of the Union.

On the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> November, the delegation went to the headquarters of the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) which is a national anti-corruption agency. The delegation met with the heads of the institution who introduced their agency. ICAC was created in 2002 in accordance with the Prevention of Corruption Act (PoCA) of 2002.

As its name suggests, ICAC is an organ that acts with independence, impartiality, justice and in the interest of the public. For this reason, the head of the agency, the Director General, cannot be under the supervision of any other person or authority. He is independent but reports.

After the introduction, the Chairperson of the Board informed the Director of ICAC that his organization is fully working towards domestication of the Convention and thus it would be good to see the country (Mauritius) ratify the continental convention. The Director committed to liaise with the relevant authorities as soon as possible in order to follow in the footsteps of the other States who have already ratified the document.

In the afternoon, the Mauritian Minister of financial services, good governance and institutional reform, Mr. Roshi Bhadain, received the delegation in his office.

The Minister informed the delegation that his department was created in 2014 and became operational in January 2015. For 15 years the Minister was the ICAC Director of Investigations. This shows his sound knowledge of anti-corruption matters in the country.

The Minister reviewed the prosecution procedures for people accused of corruption in the country.

After presenting on the work of the Board, the Chairperson thanked the Minister for being available to receive the delegation despite his full calendar and requested him to lobby with the

higher authorities of the country for the ratification of the African Union Convention of Preventing and Combating Corruption. The Minister promised to do this as soon as possible.

After the meeting with the heads of ICAC and the relevant Minister, the delegation organized a sensitization workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016, held in Le Sirius Hall at Labourdonnais Waterfront hotel.

This workshop had many participants from different classes of Mauritian society such as non-governmental organisations, students, teachers and others. Once again the Chairperson of the Board presented the mission, mandate and work that the Board undertakes to fight against the plague of corruption on the continent.

Very rich discussions ensued between the delegation and the participants who volunteered to assist the Board in accomplishing its mission in the country (Mauritius). The participants asked the Board to count on their good will to encourage the authorities to ratify the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

The workshop ended with lunch provided by the Board, and the delegation returned to their hotel.

The mission was concluded on a satisfactory note because the delegation was able to obtain the commitment of the authorities and civil society actors in the country to work towards the ratification of the Convention.