



Concept Note on the 2018 African Anti-Corruption Dialogue

Corruption Measurement

1. Introduction

The adoption of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) on July 11, 2003 was a clear recognition of the negative effects of corruption and its devastating effects on the social, economic and political transformation of the continent. Similarly, Article 4(m) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Aspiration 3¹ of Agenda 2063 illustrate the firm commitment of African leaders to entrench a culture of the rule of law and good governance. Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 even goes to state that by 2063 corruption and impunity will be a thing of the past.

The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption is mandated, as the primary continental body, to follow up and ensure that member States implement anti-corruption measures. Pursuant to Article 20 of the Convention, National Anti-Corruption Agencies are required to cooperate for the purposes of implementing the Convention. Further, pursuant to Article 22(5) (h) national agencies are mandated to report to the Board at least once a year on their implementation of the Convention. As part of its efforts to increase collaboration between and among key players in the fight against corruption, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption seeks to convene the Inaugural edition of the African Anti-Corruption Dialogue.

2. Why an African Anti-Corruption Dialogue

In view of the devastating effects of corruption on the continent, there is need for a comprehensive and continental approach to concretely curb this vice. The close collaboration between States and the relevant African Union institutions and bodies envisioned under Article 22 of the Convention is yet to be developed and materialized as evidenced by the fact that only 13 State reports² have been received at the Board. Increasing evidence also suggests that with growing intra-Africa trade, corrupt practices may also

¹ Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.

² Name the 13 States: *Burkina Faso, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe*

assume a cross-border nature obliging anticorruption agencies to collaborate more effectively to bridge this gap.

National Anti-Corruption agencies which are at the forefront of the fight against corruption are struggling to cope with illicit practices and trends while mutual legal assistance and cooperation remain a challenge. This has led to improper and voracious demands that allow corrupt practises to continue to thrive unhindered.

In light of the challenges the African continent is facing, an experience-sharing platform to facilitate commitment between AUABC and regional and national anticorruption bodies remains critical.

The African Anti-Corruption Dialogue will therefore be a flagship event that will offer a unique avenue for regional and national anticorruption agencies to interact, share and learn from researchers, policymakers and development practitioners from Africa and elsewhere on the latest challenges and solutions to corruption prevention on the continent.

3. 2018 African Anti-Corruption Dialogue

Discussions on corruption measurement have been on the rise over the last decades. Several indices have been developed by various players and institutions in an effort to bring awareness on the devastating effects of corruption. Corruption, being a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that is prevalent in all countries in varying degrees, is conducted clandestinely and, in that regard, a consensus has been reached by scholars and researchers that the measurement of corruption is a challenging task.

Nevertheless, various attempts have been made to come up with estimates of measuring corruption most of which deal with perceptions, broader governance status and state capacities. However, many researchers have also criticized the measurement of corruption as some of them simply reduce the incidence of corruption to some numerical figures while other corruption indicators are very limited in providing policy options whose implementation would help fight the vice. This may be of concern to policy makers in developing countries. In this regard, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) in its' endeavor to develop methodologies for analyzing the nature and extent of corruption in Africa wishes to start the process of consulting national anticorruption agencies with the aim of coming up with an African Methodology of measuring corruption. This will ultimately lead the AUABC to be able to advise Governments appropriately on how to deal with the scourge of corruption. The 2018 Anti-Corruption Dialogue shall therefore focus on exchange of ideas and concepts on corruption measurement through consultations on what Member States are doing to assess and measure corruption.

4. Objectives

The main objectives of the 2018 dialogue are as follows;

- a. To provide a platform for collaboration between and among AUABC and national anticorruption agencies;
- b. To foster dialogue that promotes the exchange of ideas and innovative brainstorming among national anticorruption agencies on corruption measurement
- c. To provide an opportunity for national anticorruption agencies to disseminate their research findings as well as share information and good practices.

- d. To consult with State Parties on accepted corruption measurements and compile all suggestions on possible corruption indicators:

5. Expected Outcomes

This Annual Dialogue will produce the following outcomes:

- **Summary of Key Findings:** A summary of the key findings, good practices and messages from country papers and keynote speeches which will provide a direction to the development of an African corruption measurement;
- **Corruption Measurement Status Report:** On the basis of the country reports presentation, the dialogue will provide a snapshot on the level status of corruption measurement in Africa); and
- **Corruption Measurement - Conceptual and Analytical Framework:** On the basis of the discussions on corruption measurement, and approach on the development of the corruption measurement.

6. Methodology

The Dialogue will comprise country presentations on corruption assessment and measurement as well as plenary sessions which will feature presentations and discussions by resource persons

Break-out sessions will allow for in-depth discussions of salient issues arising from the thematic thrusts of the Dialogue, allowing for deeper and more technical analyses.

7. Dates and venue

The 2018 Annual African Anti-Corruption Dialogue on Corruption Measurement will be held from 2 to 4 October 2018 in Arusha, Tanzania.