

**AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY
BOARD ON CORRUPTION**

المجلس الاستشاري للإتحاد الإفريقي
لمحاربة الفساد



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

**CONSELHO CONSULTIVO DA
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**2018 West and Central Africa Regional Youth Consultation on
the theme: Leveraging Youth Capacities for the Fight Against
Corruption in Africa**

5th – 7th September, 2018

Radisson Hotel Dakar Diamniadio, Dakar, Senegal

Welcome Remarks by Hon. Begoto Miarom

Chairperson – African Union Advisory Board on Corruption

The Minister of Youth affairs,
The Secretary of the African Governance Architecture,
The Youth Representatives,
The Representatives of the public and private sectors,
The Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and International Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen, all protocols duly observed.

1. First and foremost, I am pleased and very excited to stand to address you today at this precise imperative debate. Let me start by extending my thanks to the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the government of Senegal for organizing this momentous occasion intended at providing a collaborative, open and inclusive space to leverage and foster participation of young people in the fight against corruption in Africa.
2. This occasion is of importance due to the fact that preventing and fighting against corruption requires more attention and the inclusion of all segments of the society, including the youth who form the majority of the continent's population and are undoubtedly the leaders in wait.
3. The AU Advisory Board on Corruption focuses on youth to successfully carry out its mission. For Youth is the age of self-construction, on the scale of an individual as on the scale of a generation as a whole. Youths often build their identity outside the frameworks inherited from previous generations. It is up to them to shape their commitments: largely characterized by digital technology. These forms nowadays are more flexible and ephemeral, and less hierarchical than they used to be in the past. If a civil or political institution fails to understand this, and is unable to adapt, no public action will save it from disaffection. However, a break between youth and collective life frameworks would be dangerous for our civil society and political democracy.
4. Needless to remind you that corruption has had an especially severe impact in West and Central Africa. Terrorism in particular and insecurity in general are the direct consequences of corruption. The youths who are direct victims of this plague must be involved in the fight, so as to achieve better results.
5. From the devastating impact of illicit financial flows to the high rate of unemployment to the high cost of credit and the limited access to quality education, healthcare and infrastructure, corruption has contributed to the regions' under development. More effort is required to address this hazardous malady as failing to address it constrains viable long-term growth and undermines development of the African Continent.
6. There may be many specific responses to the problems that corruption brings but it is crystal clear that dialogue, collective action and unity remain central to addressing these challenges. This is what has brought us all here

today to debate. More importantly, this consultation shall serve as a platform to capacitate, and showcase youth initiatives and innovative solutions to foster transparency, accountability and develop a new culture of compliance.

7. This youth consultation is very momentous for all of us. It should help raise our awareness and call on us to join our efforts, so that our leaders' choice to declare 2018 as the African Anti-Corruption Year on the theme "Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation" should be an opportunity to make our voice and viewpoint heard, and position us as key actors in this fight.
8. The role of young people cannot be understated and must not be ignored. This fight cannot be won without the contribution of or without associating the youth. We therefore urge you to speak truthfully and candidly in order to develop new approaches, to propose new strategies as well as new preventive methods to curb this plague.
9. For us and for you the youth of Central and West Africa, Dakar should be an opportunity to reflect on how to achieve, ultimately, our aspirations expressed in the Agenda 2063 of an Africa we must build, the Africa we want, the Africa that must reflect "our desire for shared prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, for a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons, where the full potential of women and youth, boys and girls are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and want."
10. We, the present generations, united in diversity, young and old, men and women, girls and boys from all walks of life, need to realize that the destiny of Africa rests in our hands, and that we must act now to shape the future we want:
 - An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law;
 - An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children;
 - An Africa with engaged and empowered youth.
11. Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope that Dakar, like Gaborone, will enable us to adopt strong resolutions for a continent strongly geared towards its transformation and rebirth.

I thank you all for your kind attention