

**AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD ON
CORRUPTION**

**المجلس الاستشاري للإتحاد الإفريقي
لمحاربة الفساد**



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

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STATEMENT OF H.E MOUSSA FAKI MAHAMAT

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION,**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMEMMORATION OF
THE 4TH EDITION OF THE AFRICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY**

VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

11 JULY 2020

**Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I am happy to be invited to this first-ever virtual event on the commemoration of the African Anti-Corruption Day holding on this virtual platform;
2. It is very true, that in the face of adversities, we should never back off. Corruption has been a major challenge to our society in Africa from time immemorial. It plunders our economy, weakens our growing democracy and dismantles our cherished institutions;
3. That is exactly why the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption was created through the adoption of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption in 2003, to assist governments in developing and implementing policies aimed at eradicating corruption in the continent;
4. In this regard, it is key for state and non-state actors to jointly and severally achieve Agenda 2063 of the African Union, especially Aspiration 3 that envisions an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. The judiciary is no exception, we have to engage the judiciary in this fight too;
5. **Dear guests and hosts**, without the full, unequivocal and transparent cooperation and determination of the judiciary, perpetrators of acts of corruption cannot be brought to book and if they cannot, then the products of their acts cannot be

returned to their rightful owners and if all of these happen, then our already fragile continent will be left at the brinks of destruction;

6. If you remember the 2015 Thabo Mbeki Report on illicit financial flows, you will realize that over 50 billion US Dollars are lost by the continent yearly, mainly from oil and precious metals/minerals. The absence of justice, due to in part by ineffective and inefficient justice systems, establish the breeding ground that facilitate the theft of Africa's wealth by unscrupulous officials;
7. As the continent is pursuing its development agenda, and as the Covid-19 has struck the world, it is important to hold governments and individuals to account for all funds that are obtained or spent to fight the pandemic;
8. Our desire to silence the guns across the continent cannot be realized if we cannot also address the governance deficits that we are facing in our respective States. It is high time our governments paved the way for the judiciary to be independent, objective, apolitical and pursue the golden goal of doing justice;
9. **Ladies and gentlemen**, no actor is too small or too big to be set aside from the fight against this plague that drains away the continent's wealth. We all have the responsibility to ensure that the judiciary remains steadfast, continue having the thirst to do justice, stick to ethical values and ordain themselves with the rule of law, to combat both petty and grand corruption;

10. The African Union Commission is always ready to provide assistance to its organs and partners in the fight against corruption;
11. I applaud the efforts and resources put in place by the AUABC to ensure that in spite of the present global crisis, its activities are not hindered and its efforts in promoting anti-corruption with Member States and stakeholders are pursued unhampered;
12. It is on this note that I extend to you all, on behalf of the African Union Commission, the very best wishes of health and prosperity especially on the accession of the African Anti-Corruption Day;
13. Thank you very much.