

Africa We Want:

Egyptian Efforts and Anti-Corruption Partnership in the Dark Continent



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The African-Egyptian relations have gone through a new dimension after June 30th, 2013 revolution and the assumption of President Abdelfattah El Sisi of the Presidency in June, 2014, since he paid special attention to combating corruption at both the national and regional levels.

On the sidelines of Addis Ababa summit in June 2017, His Excellency, the President signed the African Union's Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, which was ratified in July, 2017. This convention is considered the fundamental legal document in the African continent for combating corruption and promoting transparency and accountability all over the continent. The AU Member States adopted this convention during the second regular session of the Conference of Heads of States and Governments, which was held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 11 July 2003.

The convention came into effect on 5 August 2006 after 30 days of depositing the instrument of ratification by the fifteenth Member State. To date, the Convention has been signed by 49 States and ratified by 45 States, about 80% of the 55 States Member in the African Union.

The Convention aims to promote and encourage the Member States to develop the necessary mechanisms in Africa to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption and all related offenses in the private and public sectors.

Furthermore, it aims to promote and regulate cooperation among the States Parties to ensure the effectiveness of measures and actions to prevent and punish corruption offenses. Another objective of the Convention is to promote socio-economic and cultural by removing obstacles to the enjoyment of the same, let alone the civil and political rights and establishing the necessary conditions to foster transparency and accountability in the management of the public affairs.

The Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy was established in 2017 as a specialized academy that directly reports to the Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority. It is considered one of the sectors of the Authority that offers knowledge, scientific

and training services to the Egyptian, regional and international communities in preventing and combating corruption domain and the relevant domains via holding training courses, conferences and symposia promoting the values of integrity, transparency and awareness of risks of corruption and the means of preventing it, governance systems, internal audit and other specialized programmes.

As part of Egypt's presidency of the African Union, the Administrative Control Authority held the First African Anti-Corruption Forum in Sharm El Sheikh in 2019 as an Egyptian initiative reflecting the interest in cooperation to share experiences with the African brothers in this domain in which Egypt has attained considerable achievements. It tackled topics relevant to showcasing the Egyptian efforts in combating corruption as well as the national efforts of a number of the African countries in compliance with the continental commitments. It, moreover, presented the continental perspectives



Combating Corruption

A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation



The first Anti-Corruption Forum held in Sharm El Sheikh by the Administrative Control Authority

and efforts of combating corruption, developing and enhancing the potentials of the Anti-Corruption workers and the role of media and community awareness of all aspects of combating corruption, the role of combating corruption in achieving the development and the support of the African intergovernmental coordination in this domain.

More than 200 top-level African officials including Ministers of Justice, Ministers of the Interior and Chairpersons of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Central Auditing and Illicit Gains Organizations in African countries as well as the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption. According to Article 22, Paragraph 5(A) of the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the African Union Board of Advisory on Corruption was established, whose rules of procedure mandate it to carry out a number of functions as follows:

- promote and encourage adoption and application of anti-corruption measures on the level continent.
- collect and document information on the nature and scope of offences in Africa.
- developing methodologies for analyzing the nature and extent of corruption in Africa and disseminate and sensitize the public on the negative effects of corruption and related offences;
- advise governments on how to deal with the scourge of corruption and related offences in their domestic jurisdictions.
- collect information and analyze the conduct and behaviour of multinational corporation operating in Africa and disseminate such information to national authorities designated under Article 18 (1) thereof.
- develop and promote the adoption of harmonized code of conduct of public officials.
- build partnerships with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African civil society, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to facilitate dialogue in the fight against corruption and related offences.
- submit a report to the Executive Council on a

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regular basis on the progress made by each State Party in complying with the provisions hereof;

- perform any other task related to corruption and offences that may be assigned to it by the policy members of the African Union. The Board comprises 11 members elected by the Executive Council from among a list of experts proposed by State Parties for two years renewable once upon election. In 2018, Egypt as well as Algeria became members of the Board for North Africa for the first time after winning the election by 54 votes, out of a total of 55 members. In 2019, Egypt was unanimously elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Board renewable once, which indicates how considerably significant the role of Egypt is in the African Union.

The significance of the year 2018 came due to declaring it as Africa's Anti-Corruption Year, which aimed at the following:

- Assessing the progress made in combating corruption and adopt the best practices since the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption entered into effect.
- Increasing space, use of Information and Communication Technology and new forms of communication, for the participation of civil society and the private sector in combating corruption in Africa.

The Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy offered a traineeship for the honorable members of the AU Advisory Board on Corruption and a number of traineeships for 250 African cadres working in corruption prevention domain from all over the continent.

- Assessing the level of ratification, integration and implementation of relevant regional, continental and international instruments that have a direct impact on combating corruption at the national level and encourage State Parties to develop policies, action plans and programmes to enhance combating corruption in Africa.
- Establishing a common African position on the recovery of African assets in foreign jurisdictions.
- Providing technical support to State Parties in combating corruption, especially those seeking to develop policies, action plans and programmes.
- Contributing to enhancing the implementation of Anti-Corruption policies.
- The Forum concluded with a number of thought-provoking recommendations for all the participating African countries, especially the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption, which considered them a priority for implementation. The recommendations included:

First: Working on preparing a comprehensive strategic plan for preventing and combating corruption on the continent inclusive of education and scientific research, media, judiciary, technical combating and promoting economic and human development via forming a joint committee of relevant organs for monitoring national strategies and experts from African countries.

Second: Concerted efforts to devise an African indicator to measure corruption in Africa that is driven and shaped by the African context, and expresses the unique reality of the situation in the continent taking into consideration the differences among the African countries.

Third: Launching a continental platform via national communication hubs that monitor the development of cases of corruption and the results of combating it to monitor the commitment of the signatory states in taking the necessary measures and actions in accordance with their legal systems and their constitutional principles to guarantee curtailing corruption. They are scheduled to meet annually and to announce the results of their work and their recommendations.

Fourth: Devising a secure electronic mechanism to instantly exchange information on corruption offences, money laundry, financing of terrorism among the states of common interest, while expanding publishing the efforts of anti-corruption organs in combating corruption in African countries to educate the citizens and encourage them to report corruption in all its shapes and forms.

Fifth: Establishing a legal mechanism of cooperation among the African states to recover the proceeds of corruption in the form of a protocol to the Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the decisions of are abiding to all State Parties.

Sixth: The necessity of continuously reviewing the mechanisms of combating corruption in order to further develop them in line with the specificities of the States in which they are to be implemented, emphasizing the common objectives of African States in order to achieve a high level of transparency.

Seventh: Promoting cooperation with international partners to provide funding, technical funding and to achieve common interests.

Eighth: Expanding in concluding cooperation protocols between the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy and training centres in African countries in the areas of preventing and combating corruption and disseminating values of integrity.

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Ninth: To examine the establishment of a regular mechanism for holding the Forum to periodically present the position of implementing the recommendations of the fora.

Tenth: Improving the potentials of anti-corruption institutions to discover innovative ways in laundering of the proceeds of corruption offences while taking serious measures to identify the reasons behind recovering the money in Africa.

In order to implement these recommendations, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy offered a traineeship for the honorable members of the AU Advisory Board on Corruption and a number of traineeships for 250 African cadres working in corruption prevention domain from all over the continent.

The Academy has also sought to promote cooperation with the Board in the field of training so as to reach as many target groups as possible.

Moreover, the Administrative Control Authority and the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy marked the African Anti-Corruption Day on 117/ each year at the invitation of the African Union Advisory Board while addressing the Forum and using the African Union's slogan in solidarity with the African continent to merge the themes – the 2019 theme being “Towards a Common African Position to Recovering Looted Funds”, and the 2020 theme being “Towards Combating Corruption via Effective Judiciary Systems”.

This celebration had a great impact on the dissemination of anti-corruption culture among all public and private means of visual and audio media. It, similarly, emphasized the African solidarity to combat corruption and to achieve Africa's Agenda 2063, under the theme “Africa We Want,” which serves as a basis for the long-term integrated socio-economic transformation of the African continent in order to achieve sustainable development.