



Headquarters of the Advisory Board of the African Union on Anti-Corruption - Arusha, Tanzania



Fighting Corruption: The Scourge of Nations The Battle for Sustainable Development in the African Continent

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Corruption is a scourge that undermines the economies of countries around the world, particularly those in Africa. Concerned about the negative impact of this phenomenon and its detrimental consequences on the economic and social development of African peoples, the heads of state adopted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption on July 11, 2003, in Maputo, Mozambique, during the 2nd ordinary session of the Assembly of States Parties of the African Union

The Convention came into force on August 5, 2006, 30 days after the deposit of the 15th instrument of ratification. To date, 48 states have ratified it.

The goal of the Convention is to make good governance a significant lever for the development of the African continent.

Article 22(5) of the said Convention established a monitoring mechanism called the African Union Advisory Council on Corruption, tasked among other things with promoting and encouraging the adoption and implementation of measures to combat corruption on the continent, advising governments on how to combat corruption and related offenses, and carrying out any other task that may be assigned to it by the Union's deliberative bodies.

To successfully fulfill its mission, the Council has taken a number of initiatives:

Legal tools have been established (evaluation guides and questionnaires sent to member states to facilitate evaluation missions of the conformity of states' legal and institutional

frameworks with the Convention); About ten countries have been evaluated, the latest being Egypt.

Institutional cooperation frameworks have been developed with stakeholders such as technical and financial partners, associations, etc.

Strategies and plans to combat corruption have been adopted (**strategic plan 2011 – 2015**); it is structured around the following axes:

- Support for the implementation of the Convention, with major objectives related to the ratification of the Convention, the promotion of harmonized codes of conduct for state agents, and the development of methodologies designed to analyze the nature and extent of corruption in Africa;
- Raising awareness of the Convention and increasing the visibility of the Council and other mechanisms of the Convention;
- Establishing partnerships, through which the Council will consolidate its relations with stakeholders for better coordination and effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives;
- Operational effectiveness of the Council, monitoring and



Meeting of the Prime Minister with the Delegation of the Advisory Board of the African Union in the presence of the Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority

evaluation intended to establish appropriate work systems.

A second strategic plan for 2018-2022 was developed after evaluating the first plan. The Plan aims to achieve 4 objectives:

- Provide a roadmap that clearly defines the Council's actions;
- Provide a strategic framework and common standards of accountability that allow the Council, stakeholders, and partners to align on how the goals are achieved, and the flexibility to respond to rapid and unexpected developments;
- Create a strong link between the Council, partners, and stakeholders who will assist it in its mission (short term), measure the level of progress in the fight against corruption in Africa (medium term), and significantly reduce the effects of corruption on good governance and development in Africa (long term).
- Provide a platform to align the Council's activities with the AU's Agenda 2063 and the framework for the African Governance Architecture.

The Council has also sponsored studies aimed at reviewing the implementation of the Convention and identifying best practices as well as the methodology and measurement of corruption.

On a continental level, since 2017, the Council celebrates July 11th as African Anti-Corruption Day followed by the

annual dialogue between anti-corruption bodies and other stakeholders engaged in this fight.

In line with its mission, the council has engaged with the Regional Economic Communities (COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS) in partnerships and is finalizing a cooperation agreement with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, another organ of the African Union located in Banjul, in accordance with the recommendations of the Convention.

In 2021, the Council focused on promoting closer collaboration and harmonization of efforts among the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

As a reminder, the fifth African dialogue on the fight against corruption was focused on the theme: "Regional Economic Communities: Key Players in the Implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption," held virtually from November 9 to 11, 2021.

This event brought together representatives from Member States, International Organizations, National Anti-Corruption Agencies (NACA), Civil Society, and other actors.

A significant step was taken with the commemoration of the African Year of Anti-Corruption in 2018 on the theme "Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation," which led to the Nouakchott Declaration.



Visit of the Delegation of the Advisory Board of the African Union on Anti-Corruption to the Academy Headquarters - May 2023

Advisory Council against Corruption plays a fundamental role in the fight for the eradication of corruption on the African continent.

This fight, whose ultimate goal is the sustainable development of African countries, requires not only political will from leaders but also, and above all, sustained commitment on their part.

In 2015, during the ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State, a special declaration regarding illicit financial flows was adopted, followed by the adoption in 2020 of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR).

The Executive Council charged the Advisory Council, in partnership with the African Union's Department of Peace and Security, to follow up and implement the decision on CAPAR and to regularly submit reports to the Conference.

The African Union Advisory Council on Corruption thus plays a crucial role in the implementation of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery.

In conclusion, we can say that the African Union Advisory Council against Corruption plays a fundamental role in the fight for the eradication

of corruption on the African continent.

This fight, whose ultimate goal is the sustainable development of African countries, requires not only political will from leaders but also, and above all, sustained commitment on their part.

It also requires that the body I have the honor to lead has sufficient human and financial resources to fulfill the mission entrusted to it.

Such is the price to pay to rid ourselves of this insidious evil and have the Africa we want.