

**DECLARATION OF THE FIFTH GLOBAL FORUM ON
FIGHTING CORRUPTION AND SAFEGUARDING
INTEGRITY
ADOPTED IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
4 APRIL 2007**

We, representatives of Governments, International Organisations, the Private Sector and other Non-state Actor Organisations attending the 5th Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity held in South Africa from 2 to 5 April 2007;

Express our sincere gratitude to the Government of South Africa for hosting a successful Global Forum;

Recognise that the root causes of corruption need to be addressed and that corruption is a structural global phenomenon involving all sectors of society, which affects both developed and developing countries;

Urge the global community to recognise that corruption is rooted in relationships between individuals and organisations, involving practices that include theft, fraud, bribery, extortion, kleptocracy, embezzlement, nepotism, patronage, and laundering of illicit proceeds;

Agree that corruption involving officials from the private and public sectors is a grave and corrosive abuse of power;

Note that corruption debilitates development, undermines human rights, democratic processes and corporate governance and impacts most profoundly on the poor by denying them access to opportunities, fair allocation of resources and the right to participate fully in political and economic processes;

Express concern that corruption frequently emanates from the interface between the private and public sectors and that the quest for personal wealth through corrupt means has widened the gap between rich and poor globally, regionally and nationally, while undermining democratic values;

Call for ethical and democratic values including accountability and transparency to be infused in all public and private sector institutions and in other organisations of non-state actors in order to build national integrity systems to counter the corrupt pursuit of individual gain;

Encourage leaders at all levels and in all sectors of society to lead by example the campaign against corruption by mobilising all sectors of society in tackling corruption in all its manifestations;

Affirm the importance of strengthening the integrity and independence of the judiciary and investigative and prosecution services as well as parliaments in the fight against corruption;

Reaffirm the importance of preventing corruption through, *inter alia*, the establishment of independent national agencies;

Recognise that the recovery and return of stolen assets to their legitimate owners are fundamental principles in the fight against corruption;

Further recognise that integrity is core to a secure and clean international supply chain and that corruption undermines international trade and development and that collaboration in preventing and fighting corruption by all parties is crucial;

Note the important role of the media to both inform and educate the public as well as to expose corruption;

Assert the need for transparent, objective methodologies including those which go beyond perceptions to assess the prevalence of corruption;

Advocate the responsible and fair use of such assessment methodologies in preventing and fighting corruption;

Emphasise the need for co-operation, mutual legal and technical assistance among all States and Multilateral bodies;

Welcome the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, (UNCAC), the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the decision on the venue of the Second Session of the Conference in Bali, Indonesia January 2008 and the invitation by the host country to attend the conference;

Cognisant of the positive inter-relationship between global, regional, and sub-regional legal instruments against corruption but **equally cognisant** that implementation of these instruments in countries with limited resources requires appropriate financial and technical assistance free of preconditions;

Recognise the accomplishments of all past Global Forums on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity as forums for the global exchange of good practice and information and support the emergence of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption as the primary global framework for action and co-operation among governments and between governments, the private sector and other non-state actors;

Recommend the following to governments, international organisations, the private sector and to other non-state actors, where appropriate, involved in the prevention and fight against corruption:

1. The prompt ratification and accession to the UNCAC and where appropriate, regional anti-corruption instruments;
2. The development where appropriate of regional anti-corruption instruments and initiatives by regional organisations;
3. The implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the OECD Convention on the Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions by all OECD member states and parties;
4. The strengthening of international, regional and sub-regional bodies and organisations that have responsibilities to prevent and fight corruption;
5. The design and implementation of national integrity systems that are underpinned by values of accountability, transparency, the rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms;
6. The creation of inclusive partnerships between the public and private sector as well as other non-state actors which define the roles and responsibilities of all

parties and build linkages among them in the prevention and the fight against corruption;

7. The effective coordination and harmonisation of reporting requirements and responsibilities with respect to all the multilateral and regional instruments on preventing and combating corruption in order to reduce the burden on states and highlight synergies and complementarities;
8. The prioritisation of the enactment, implementation and application of laws that will give practical effect to the letter and spirit of the above anti-corruption instruments;
9. The facilitation of cooperation and assistance among all states and non-state actors in dealing with corrupt individuals and/or their illicitly acquired assets and in the return of unlawfully appropriated resources and assets to their legitimate owners;
10. The commitment by states to the creation of legal and institutional frameworks that prohibit and deter the concealment of illicitly acquired assets and the importance of adopting multi-lateral, bilateral and other arrangements to facilitate international cooperation with respect to asset recovery consistent with the provisions of the UNCAC;
11. The need for all states to co-operate in the fight against corruption by facilitating access within the framework of existing domestic legislation to *inter alia* witnesses, documents, entities and companies within their jurisdictions;
12. The creation and strengthening, as necessary, of national agencies that have anti-corruption responsibilities including specialised prevention, investigative, prosecutorial and anti-money laundering agencies in order to carry out their functions effectively and independently without undue influence;
13. The initiation, development or improvement of training and research programmes and of international, regional, sub-regional and national training facilities specialising in preventing and combating corruption;
14. The provision of appropriate financial and technical assistance without preconditions to countries with limited resources seeking to implement legal instruments to prevent and fight corruption;
15. The strengthening of commitment and capacity of national legislatures to provide oversight, ensure accountability and enact appropriate laws to fight corruption;
16. The establishment of transparent, objective methods which go beyond perceptions to assess the prevalence of corruption and anti-corruption efforts, such as standardised self-assessment, peer reviews and or other mechanisms; and
17. The convening of the International Organising Committee (IOC) with broader regional and non-state representation that would undertake consultations and make recommendations regarding the future of the global forum process as well as its relationship to the UNCAC and other cooperative frameworks;

With this Declaration, our resolve in the prevention and fight against corruption has been strengthened. We wish Global Forum VI, those organisations associated with it, and its host every success in this worthy endeavour.