

**EKURHULENI DECLARATION ON FIGHTING CORRUPTION
2 MARCH 2007
SOUTH AFRICA**

We, representatives of African governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society organisations attending the first Africa Forum on Fighting Corruption held in Ekurhuleni, South Africa 28 February to 2 March 2007;

Recognise that corruption is a systemic and institutional global phenomenon involving all sectors of society, which prevails in both developed and developing countries and undermines social cohesion and values, erodes the social fabric of African societies and impacts most profoundly on the poor and on governance globally;

Urge the global community to recognise that corruption is embedded in relationships between individuals and organizations in the developed and developing world, involving practices including theft, fraud, bribery, extortion, nepotism, patronage, and laundering of illicit proceeds that stem from the interface between the private and public sectors;

Concerned that corruption impedes development, undermines democratic processes and corporate governance and **further concerned** about negative perceptions of corruption in African States, often depicted as institutionalized corruption and the inability of such States to control corruption;

Call upon the African people to reassert traditional communal, egalitarian and democratic values and ensure that these values are infused in all the institutions of government and form the basis of a national integrity system in order to counter the rampant pursuit of individual gain;

Further call upon African leaders at all levels and in all sectors of society to lead by example the campaign against corruption by prioritising prevention strategies, and by mobilizing all sectors of civil society including the private sector, the professions, youth, women, trade unions, intellectuals, cultural workers, sportsmen and women and faith-based organisations in a comprehensive attack on corruption in all its manifestations;

Assert the importance of strengthening the integrity and independence of the courts and oversight bodies including Parliaments, Inspectors-General, Public Protectors, Auditors-General and Public Service Commissions in the fight against corruption;

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

Acknowledge that Africa is responsible for its destiny and that of her peoples as evidenced in the creation of the New Partnership for African Development

(NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and that African nations have implemented numerous measures to prevent and combat corruption;

Affirm the need for mutual support and cooperation among African States and between African and other States;

Welcome the adoption of the African Union Charter on Democracy, Governance and Elections and the coming into force of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

Recommend the following to the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, to our Governments, to the business community and to the civil society organizations, all involved in the fight against corruption:

1. The acknowledgement by African leaders of the challenges of fighting corruption collectively and individually;
2. The speedy ratification and accession to the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the regional anti-corruption instruments and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC);
3. The effective coordination and harmonisation of reporting responsibilities with respect to all the multilateral instruments on preventing and combating corruption;
4. The establishment, implementation and application of laws that will give practical effect to the letter and spirit of all the above anti-corruption instruments;
5. The prioritization of prevention and awareness-raising programmes including the adoption of an African Anti-corruption Day;
6. Increased support to independent national anti-corruption bodies and related law enforcement bodies, including judicial bodies and where national anti-corruption bodies do not exist, the speedy establishment of such bodies;
7. The establishment of the Advisory Board envisaged in Article 22 of the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption as soon as feasible, but within one year after adoption of this Declaration;
8. The creation of national compacts between Governments, business, the media and civil society organizations, which define the roles and responsibilities of all parties in the fight against corruption;
9. Strengthening the capacity of Regional Economic Communities to support Member States in the fight against corruption through advice on harmonisation of legal instruments, facilitation of mutual support, training, the exchange of information and law enforcement;

10. The improvement of the capacity of national legislatures to provide oversight, ensure accountability and establish appropriate laws to fight corruption;
11. The need for African interstate cooperation as well as the need for developed states and their corporations to cooperate in the recovery and return of unlawfully appropriated public resources and assets to African states from which they were plundered;
12. The need for developed states to assist the fight against corruption by facilitating access to witnesses, documents and companies within their jurisdictions;
13. The establishment of protocols for improved coordination and cooperation with respect to interstate corruption;
14. The establishment of a common system for measuring integrity, which goes beyond perceptions of corruption;
15. The creation of a national integrity framework based on good practices across the continent;
16. The establishment of protocols between governments and the legal, banking, accounting and auditing professions to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat corruption;
17. The establishment of Financial Intelligence Units as mechanisms for preventing and combating corruption;
18. The adoption of the Plan of Action (Annexure 1).

Recognising the limitations of the current dominant discourse on corruption and the significance of the African perspective on corruption and anti-corruption, **request** that this declaration be presented to the Global Forum V meeting in Johannesburg April 2-5 2007;

Urge all states, which have not yet ratified the UNCAC, do so urgently and in particular give effect to the provisions of Chapter 5 in order to enhance Africa's efforts to recover its plundered assets;

Recommend to Global Forum V that all OECD member states implement and enforce provisions of the OECD Convention on the Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions;

Submit this declaration for endorsement at the next Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

**ANNEXURE 1: PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED AT THE AFRICA FORUM
ON FIGHTING CORRUPTION ON 2 MARCH 2007 IN EKURHULENI,
SOUTH AFRICA**

The success of this plan of action is dependent on mutual responsibility and between the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, African Member States and Civil Society.

Action	Time Frame	Responsibility
Ratification of AU Anti-corruption Convention	December 2007	African States
Self-assessment by African States on compliance with the requirements of all anti-corruption instruments	December 2007	African States NEPAD UNECA African Union Commission UNODC
Prevention and Awareness Campaigns including the African Anti-corruption Day	December 2007	African States African Union Commission
Coordinated reporting framework for multilateral anti-corruption instruments	December 2007	African Union Commission Regional Economic Communities African States
The establishment of the Advisory Board	February 2008	African Union Commission
Creation of a national integrity framework	April 2008	African Union Commission Regional Economic Communities African States
Establishment of an African Asset recovery programme	July 2008	African Union Commission Regional Economic Communities Member States African Development Bank (ADB) UNODC
Establishment of protocols for improved coordination and cooperation with respect to interstate corruption	July 2008	African Union Commission
Establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system and the creation of baseline data	July 2008	African Union Commission African Union Advisory Board Regional Economic Communities African States UNECA
Establishment of dedicated systems in Regional Economic Communities to provide anti-corruption support to Member States	December 2008	Regional Economic Communities
Establishment of laws that give effect to the requirements of all anti-corruption instruments	December 2008	African States