

COMMUNIQUE OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AFRICA ASSOCIATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITIES (AAACA)

The 6th Annual General Meeting of Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (AAACA) was held on July 31 and August 01, 2023, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Thirty-two (32) member countries and technical and financial partners, including the African Development Bank, the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption, GIZ, APNAC, UNODC, AUPAPS, GABAC, ARINE, IAACA took part in this meeting.

The official opening ceremony of this General Assembly was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Ronald Lamola, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services.

In his speech, the Minister welcomed the choice of the general theme of the General Assembly "*Promoting citizen engagement in the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows, a guarantee of the holistic development of the African continent*".

He encouraged AAACA member institutions to continue their efforts and stressed the need to strengthen cooperation between all African associations fighting against corruption and illicit financial flows.

At the end of two days of fruitful debates,

We, heads of national Anti-Corruption institutions;

CONSCIOUS that corruption and illicit financial flows undermine the holistic development of the African continent;

CONSIDERING that corruption and illicit financial flows deprive our countries of resources that could finance development activities such as health, education and infrastructure, thereby leading to the impoverishment of our populations;

RECOGNIZING the promotion of citizen engagement in the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows through collaboration between all national institutions engaged in the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows;

WELCOMING the progress already made by the Association, the operationalization of which has been ensured by the General Secretariat;

NOTE WITH SATISFACTION the activities that the General Secretariat has initiated for the implementation of the recommendations of the Annual General Assembly;

BEARING IN MIND that to properly carry out its missions, the General Secretariat needs to be strengthened in terms of human, financial and material resources;

AWARE of the obligation incumbent on each member of the Association to regularly pay their dues;

CONVINCED that strengthening collaboration between member institutions is a prerequisite for winning the battle against corruption and illicit financial flows;

We the members of the General Assembly;

1. **ADOPT** the harmonized Statutes of the French, English and Arabic versions of the AAACA;
2. **ADOPT** the Strategic Plan 2024-2028;
3. **ADOPT** the Administrative and Financial Procedures Manual subject to adjustment with the Financial Regulations;
4. **DEFER** to the next General Assembly the adoption of the Financial Regulations and the analysis of the Code of Ethics and Deontology after incorporating the observations of the Executive committee;
5. **EXPRESS** our gratitude to the Government of South Africa for hosting and organizing the 6th Annual General Meeting of Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities;
6. **EXPRESS** our thanks to the organizers of the meeting as well as all the other partners, for continuing their support in carrying out the actions envisaged;
7. **APPROVE** the action plans for the implementation of the MoUs with PIAC-BAD and AUABC
8. **CREATE** the center for research and studies relating to the fight against corruption;
9. **MANDATE** Professor Augustin MWENDAMBALI to draw up a note on the criteria for selecting countries to host the Center for Research and Anti-Corruption Studies within 30 days;
10. **SET** October 1st, 2023 as the deadline for members to apply to host the Center for Anti-Corruption Research and Studies.

11. **ORGANIZE** within 3 months a virtual meeting of the General Assembly to designate the country which will host the Center for Research and Anti-Corruption Studies;
12. **AWARD** the mission of auditing the AAACA accounts to the lowest bidder;
13. **Approve** the appointment of Mrs. Rose NIZISHEMEYE to act as Secretary General until the election of a new Secretary General, it being up to the President of AAACA to officially seize the Government of Burundi to transmit three candidates for the post of Secretary General.
14. **Approve** the proposal of the Republic of Mali to host the 7th Annual General Meeting of Africa Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities.

Done at Johannesburg, 01 August 2023