



## **STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE ON ACTIVISM AGAINST CORRUPTION IN AFRICA**

**BIRCHWOOD HOTEL & OR TAMBO CONFERENCE CENTRE  
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA**

**NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> 2016**

*Corruption is at the heart of so many of the world's problems. We must overcome it, if our efforts to end poverty, promote prosperity and defeat terrorism and extremism are to succeed.*

Global Declaration against Corruption, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Corruption remains one of the greatest threats to Africa's social, political, legal and economic development.

It is against this backdrop that the Rule of Law Program for Sub-Saharan Africa of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in conjunction with the Accountability Now (IFAISA) will be convening a conference on 'Activism against Corruption in Africa' in a bid to identifying, exchanging best practices and experiences, and ultimately, charting a practical road map towards successful implementation of the strategies identified therein.

This is a follow-up conference to the one that was held last year (2015) in Cape Town on 'Combating Corruption in Africa'. The resolutions taken at the Cape Town conference inform the agenda for this Conference (*Refer to appendix B hereinafter*).

Undoubtedly, there is need throughout Africa and the world to generate the necessary political will to deal with corruption effectively and efficiently. All too often the forms of corruption prevalent in Africa involve the misappropriation of public money. In short, corruption is theft from the poor.

The generation of political will to take a serious, principled and properly resourced stand against corruption involves persuading politicians that it is in their own self-interest to promote measures, structures and operational environments in which corruption is dealt with appropriately.

Among the key practical steps necessary to achieve the aforementioned desire involves,

- a. Mobilizing the masses from the grass roots level through educational and advocacy work by the civil society, commerce and industry, faith-based organisations and

- political parties whether or not they are in government, in order to give impetus to the striving for governance informed by integrity;
- b. Use of the media to give focus to the longing of ordinary people for government with integrity that is aimed at serving their needs rather than enriching their representatives.

The objective of this conference is to move masses from being merely “anti-corrupt” (*everyone is at least nominally against corruption whether by way of lip-service or by way of genuine concern*) to concentrating activism on a country by country basis in a way that focuses on what is needed on the ground in each country.

The conference will draw on the experience of the delegates, the expertise of speakers and the energy generated in the crucible of debate to devise a resolution that is capable of taking the war on the corrupt forward to victory.

A first draft of the resolution of the conference, which will be debated and refined during the closing sessions of the conference, is set out below:

#### **APPENDIX A: DRAFT RESOLUTION**

- A. *Conference takes note of the resolutions passed by the Cape Town Combating Corruption Conference in November 2015,*
- B. *Conference acknowledges that generating the political will to tackle corruption effectively is vital to the success of anti-corruption initiatives,*
- C. *Empowering ordinary citizens to create the ripple effect necessary to conquer corruption is at the core of activism against corruption,*
- D. *It is the work of political parties, civil society organisations, commerce and industry and the faith-based communities in Africa to devise programs and strategies that will ensure the fight against corruption is everyone’s business,*
- E. *The media plays a pivotal role in popularising the struggle against corruption,*
- F. *Properly focussed campaigns on a country by country basis are the most efficient way of taking on the corrupt.*
- G. *Without machinery of state that complies with the criteria for effective corruption busting there will be no victory over corruption.*

**CONFERENCE ACCORDINGLY RESOLVES THAT:**

1. *National audits of the anti-corruption machinery of state should be encouraged to ensure that the OECD criteria are universally complied with in Africa;*

2. *Media campaigns on a country by country basis designed to create awareness of the criteria and the need to create compliant machinery of state need to be organised;*
3. *Faith-based organisations, civil society and political parties all have an active role to play in campaigning against corruption;*
4. *Steps must be devised and popularised at country level to secure implementation of the strategies set out in resolutions f, g and h of the Cape Town Conference. Politicians and public servants must be encouraged to champion one or more or all of the said strategies.*

## **APPENDIX B: CAPE TOWN RESOLUTION**

### **PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON COMBATING CORRUPTION**

#### **CAPE TOWN DECLARATION OF 5 NOVEMBER 2015**

1. **Noting** *the corrosive and pervasive nature of corruption in the world today, both in the private and in the public sectors.*
2. **Identifying** *corruption as a symptom of moral depravity, inimical to respect for and promotion of human rights, especially those of the poor and marginalised.*
3. **Recognizing** *that it is the duty of states, commercial enterprises and all right thinking people to prevent and combat corruption because corruption is generally a serious and deplorable crime.*
4. **Appreciating** *that constitutional democracy under the rule of law and social stability are not served when corruption is endemic.*
5. **Noting** *that the widely accepted criteria for effective and successful anti-corruption entities include specialization by, training of, independence for, guaranteed resources for and security of tenure of staff of anti-corruption entities.*
6. **Acknowledging** *that corruption in Africa has reached levels that threaten and undermine economic progress and growth throughout the continent despite the adoption and domestication of international, continental and regional instruments of international law that commit most countries in Africa to prevent , combat, investigate and prosecute corruption.*
7. **Concluding that** *corruption with impunity is inhibiting investment, increasing the cost of conducting business, undermining service delivery and exacerbating poverty in Africa and that corruption must be curbed to facilitate higher and more equitable economic growth.*

#### **CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT:**

- a. *Governments should establish, strengthen, promote and, where appropriate, constitutionally entrench anti-corruption entities that comply with the criteria noted in clause 5 above, both structurally and operationally.*
- b. *In the formulation of policy and laws, corruption should universally be regarded as an infringement of human rights, which is both immoral and unethical.*
- c. *Existing anti-corruption entities should be assessed and reviewed for their structural and*

*operational compliance with the criteria noted in clause 5 above for the purpose of making adjustments and reforms where they are required.*

- d. Greater protection and incentivising of whistle-blowers, whether or not they are employees, should be considered in order to fortify this important aspect of the combating of corruption through appropriate investigation, prosecution and punishment of the corrupt in both the private and public sectors.*
- e. The nurturing of anti-corruption entities, both in the state and in civil society, through public education and the stimulation of the necessary political will to regard corruption as immoral, unethical and as a crime that violates human rights and undermines constitutionalism, should be encouraged through all means available in all forms of media.*
- f. A sanctions system, such as that developed by the World Bank, should be considered for implementation at the level of national jurisdiction in relation to all public procurement in whatever sphere of government, including procurement by state owned enterprises.*
- g. The private sector and civil society organisations should be encouraged to adopt and implement anti-corruption compliance programmes as contemplated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.*
- h. Governments should establish a framework for the open and comprehensive declaration of assets and interests by all political office bearers and public*