



## PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON COMBATING CORRUPTION

[ORGANISED BY THE KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY NOW]

### 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 officials.