

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Livingstone Statement

2nd Commonwealth Regional Conference for Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Africa, 21st – 25th May 2012

1. **We**, the HEADS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCIES IN Commonwealth Africa, meeting in Livingstone, Zambia from 21st to 25th May 2012,
2. **Aim to:**
 - Provide heads of Anti- Corruption Agencies with a regional network to establish operational contacts and for the exchange of international best practices, new thinking and regional knowledge and experiences;
 - Strengthen relations between anti-corruption agencies in the Commonwealth and appreciate the level of individual country performance and challenges in dealing with corruption;
 - Advance “whole of the community” approach for improving anti-corruption efforts; and
 - Provide an opportunity to examine the complexities of the role of Anti-Corruption agencies in the context of national and international development goals.
3. **Commending** the government of the Republic of Zambia through the Zambia Anti-Corruption Commission and the Commonwealth Secretariat for hosting the 2nd conference bringing together the Commonwealth Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies,
4. **Recognizing** with deep gratitude the invaluable support and the warm hospitality provided by the host government of Zambia, not least the honour of the presence of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Zambia Honourable Kennedy Sakeni, MP, on behalf of the President of Zambia, His Excellency Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata, at the opening ceremony,
5. **Having** considered the magnitude of the problems confronting anti-corruption agencies generally,
6. **Noting** the need to take more practical measures in combating corruption on the continent,
7. **Having** exhaustively discussed the objectives and being satisfied that a full exchange of views has taken place on the goals of the conference,
8. **Agreed** and adopted the following resolutions, that;
 - Delegates urge member countries to increase the involvement of Civil Society Organisations in the fight against corruption in order to enhance accountability in the implementation of public projects;
 - The Commonwealth, working with the United Nations and other international organizations, plays an active role in supporting the Anti-Corruption Agencies in Africa;

- Citizens of Commonwealth Africa are urged to increase institutional and community efforts in order to take full advantage of political will in the fight against corruption; and
- All Commonwealth African countries are urged to enact or enhance legislation that secures the tenure of office of the heads of anti-corruption agencies.

9. **Noting** further and welcoming the variety and diversity of experiences shared agree:

- To support anti-corruption work based on the highest ethical principles aligned with practices of good governance, poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth and political stability;
- To continue the capacity building programme for ACA's investigators in Commonwealth Africa on sub-regional basis;
- To enhance collaborative strategies in sharing expertise in ACAs' comparative advantage, emerging practices and country innovations in the fight against corruption.
- To conduct public opinion surveys of corruption levels in Commonwealth Africa
- To enhance collaboration on Mutual Legal Assistance;
- To strengthen existing special courts for corruption cases and encourage their setting up where they do not currently exist for the speedy disposal of corruption cases
- To conduct research on how to achieve speedy disposal of corruption cases.
- To finalise the development of a draft AACACA constitution for tabling at the next AGM.

10. **Further agree:**

- To conduct a review of institutional arrangements (laws, procedures, etc.) to identify gaps in fighting corruption
- To develop or enhance Anti-Corruption Curricular in schools
- To promote the formation of national umbrella civil society groups with action plan to partner with ACAs to fight corruption
- To engage appropriate Judicial authorities about speedier corruption trials;
- To engage the National Communication Authorities and telephone service providers to put in place an effective hotline system and reporting channels with short and easy to memorize uniform numbers for stress-free access by the public; and

- To accept the offer by **Mauritius** to host the next Conference in 2013 in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

11. The conference resolved to have **Zambia** as the Interim Chair with membership of the following countries as the Interim Committee, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Mauritius and The Gambia

Dated the 25th Day of May, 2012 at Livingstone, Zambia.