

*République Algérienne Démocratique et populaire*  
Organe national de prévention et de lutte contre la corruption

**REPORT ON THE CELEBRATION, BY ALGERIA, OF THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE  
AFRICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY 2021**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, (CIC), ABDELLATIF RAHAL-ALGER**

**11 JULY 2021**



*National and African Union Anthems*



*participants*

- ❖ **Object of celebration: Commemoration of Africa Anti-Corruption**
- ❖ **Day. Référence : Note Verbale of the AU-ABC - 2021**
- ❖ **Organiser : The National Organ for the Prevention and Combating against Corruption.**
- ❖ **Patronage: The President of the Republic,  
HE Abdelmadjid TEBBOUNE.**
- ❖ **Venue: International Conference Centre (CIC), Algiers.**
- ❖ **Audience: :300 participants.**
- ❖ **Media coverage : wide.**
- ❖ **Impact assessment: excellent.**

## **Background**

11 July is celebrated since 2017, following the adoption of the African Union (AU) Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption by the Heads of State of the African Union on 11 July 2003.

This year's edition is a follow-up to the terms of the Note Verbale of the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption under the theme "Regional Economic Communities : Key Actors in the Implementation of the African Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption".

## **Objectives of the day :**

To make the day a solemn event, marking Algeria's willingness to participate in the effective implementation of the African Convention as well as its full commitment to effectively fight corruption at the national and regional levels.

In this context, the theme of promoting integrity in the economic sector was chosen as a focus for discussion and study, which is also in line with the objectives of Articles 2 and 11 of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and in line with strategic goal No. 2 of the draft national strategy for transparency, prevention and the fight against corruption, which relates to strengthening integrity in the economic sector.



The 5th edition of the African Anti-Corruption Day was celebrated on 11 July 2021 at the International Conference Centre (CIC) by a workshop under the theme: "Promoting integrity in the economic sector", organised by the National Organ for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption (ONPLC), in partnership with the national electricity and gas company "SONELGAZ".

The event was attended by the President of the ONPLC, Mr Tarek Kour, His Excellency, the Dean of the African diplomatic corps Algeria, Mr Jean Pierre Louyedo, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville), Mr Chaher Boulakhras, CEO of Sonelgaz, and Mr Saïd Maandi, Director General of the Africa Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The attendance of nearly 300 participants is composed of high-level government officials, executives of public and private sector companies, international organisations represented in Algeria, national control and advisory bodies, representatives of civil society and the media, as well as experts, researchers and university .

### ***Opening Ceremony***



### ***Mr. Jean pierreLouyebo, ambassador of the Republicof Congo (Congo-Brazzaville).***

The opening of the workshop was addressed by Mr. Jean Pierre Louyebo, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville), in his quality of doyen of the African diplomatic corps in Algeria, who congratulated the organisers of this workshop, which contributes to individual and joint efforts and initiatives, and to the putting in place of the necessary resources to fight against corruption.

He stressed that it has become urgent to implement everything so that Africa stands up to other continents, because we have the capacity, Financial and human resources, and the will," he added, warning that "as long as corruption dominates, development will be difficult

He did not forget to acknowledge the "**unceasing efforts**" undertaken by the Algerian authorities for good governance and the strengthening of democracy and development of the country, stressing, in this regard, that "**the President of the Republic,HE Abdelmadjid Tebboune has made democracy and development the priority of his action**"

According to Said Maandi, Director General of the Africa Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria played a decisive role in the negotiations that led to the adoption of regional and international conventions on the fight against corruption.

Convinced of the serious effects of corruption on development and stability efforts, "Algeria has been from the beginning a stakeholder and a force of proposal in the negotiations that led to the adoption of regional and international conventions on the fight against corruption and related offenses," said Maandi. ,



*Figure 1 Mr. Said Maandi, Director Général Africa Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Reaffirming the willingness of Algeria to continue its efforts in this direction to consolidate international cooperation in the fight against this scourge that burdens the black continent more than other regions of the world.

In particular, he stressed the need to "enshrine the principles of transparency and integrity and to strengthen control mechanisms at national and international level", in order to eradicate this scourge which constitutes a real obstacle to the development of African.Countries' economies



*Mr. Chaher Boulakhras, CEO of Sonelgaz*

In his speech, delivered on this occasion, the CEO of Sonelgaz expressed the importance that the SONELGAZ Group attaches to the theme and its commitment to this approach. He also outlined the actions taken by his group in this regard, particularly at the regulatory and organisational levels and by adopting a code of ethics for the companies of the Group.

In addition, he stressed that "***the mechanisms for reproducing our ethical principles and our public service values are daily challenges so that Sonelgaz remains "a jewel of the***

*republic*" thanks to its collective performance, its culture and its social responsibility.



*M. Tarek KOUR, Chairperson of ONPLC*

In his speech, Tarek Kour, President of the ONPLC, highlighted Algeria's active role in the process of combating corruption initiated by the African Union, not without reaffirming Algeria's willingness to continue its efforts in this direction in order to consolidate cooperation with African Union member states in the fight against this scourge.

He pointed out that "the fight against the phenomenon of corruption, which is above all an ethical issue, cannot succeed without a strong, integrated and homogeneous institutional system and a clearly defined national strategy".

He also stressed the importance of involving citizens in the fight against this scourge through a participatory approach, which requires public officials with integrity, and noted that administrations and public services must ensure that they offer quality services through the digitisation and simplification of procedures and the guarantee of their right to information.

The president of the ONPLC considers that the new Algeria, whose milestones the President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, has set and to which everyone aspires, is built by joining efforts of all actors involved in the fight against corruption, through a participatory approach.

A participatory approach that 'begins within civil society through the citizen who must participate in all actions related to the moralisation of the public life and the promotion of the principles of citizenship through the banishment and rejection of all negative phenomena that contribute to the spread of corruption, such as bureaucracy, nepotism and impunity.

:

## Continuation of the day's activities.



*Panel of experts*

*The afternoon session was dedicated to expert presentations on the promotion of integrity as a value in the economic sector and the need to strengthen the fight against corruption.*

*Four themes were addressed in this respect, namely*

- *The communication of Mr KHEDDAM Mohamed, Anti-Corruption Management System Expert, belonging to the Algerian Institute of Standardisation (IANOR), entitled: **"ISO 37001, version 2016 (NA ISO 37001), anti-corruption management systems, requirements and recommendations for implementation"**;*
- *The paper by Mr BOUNAH Brahim, Legal Advisor to the CEO of SONEGAS, entitled: **"Ethics within SONEGAS Group companies: From formalisation to practice"**;*
- *The paper by Mr SABRI Mouloud, ex-Magistrate and ex-Central Director, Expert, certified trainer in public procurement, entitled **"the company facing the public order: what ethical commitment?"***
- *The communication of Mr HADJ ALI Nacereddine, head of the division of integration of heritage within the ONPLC, entitled: **"Moralisation of public life, the problem of conflicts of interest and incompatibilities"***

*The first presentation focused on the anti-corruption management system, the implementation of which is an effective way of promoting an anti-corruption culture within organisations and of implementing appropriate control measures, thereby increasing the probability of detecting acts of corruption and reducing their impact from the outset.*

*The speaker pointed out that anti-corruption management systems are increasingly becoming universal through the adoption in many countries of the ISO 37001 standard, given the advantages of the flexibility that this system offers according to the nature and needs of organisations.*

*In his presentation, the SONEGAS representative, former Chairman of the SONEGAS Ethics Committee and currently Legal Advisor to the Group's CEO, emphasised ethics within*

SONELGAZ Group companies. He outlined SONELGAZ'S efforts in the fight against corruption and informed about the adoption of a code of ethics and the elaboration of a questionnaire on the situation of ethics within SONELGAZ in order to evaluate the level of knowledge of ethical values and practices. This questionnaire, according to him, is in the phase of exploitation and the results will be available in the third quarter of 2021.

The issue of integrity in the corporate sector in relation to public procurement was discussed in the third paper, in which the speaker highlighted the obligations of probity incumbent on companies, as set out in the national legal provisions governing public procurement.

The expert also listed, in the face of non-compliance with these obligations, the penalties applicable to companies and contracting parties, including administrative measures in the form of temporary or definitive exclusion of economic operators from participation in public procurement contracts, and criminal penalties in the form of convictions for misdemeanours and/or crimes.

In the last presentation, the intervening expert dealt with issues related to the problem of incompatibilities and conflicts of interest through its definitions and the actions to be taken to improve the national legislative framework governing this field.

He noted the scattered nature of the management of this issue, which is spread over several regulatory texts, making it difficult to manage.

In this respect, and in order to better apprehend this issue, it suggests strengthening and improving the current legislative framework by including the issue in the framework of the national strategy for transparency, prevention and the fight against corruption and the adoption of a unique law governing conflicts of interest and incompatibilities with a digital mechanism for the declaration of assets.



#### *Speakers*

The discussion that ensued focused on several aspects of the fight against corruption, including the enhancement of existing laws and the promulgation of application texts, the difficulty of applying these laws on the field, the role of civil society, ethics and the need for accountability and responsibility of public officials.

After the experts' answers to the questions raised by the audience, the President of the ONPLC and the CEO of SONELGAZ expressed their satisfaction with the day's activities and the quality of the presentations and the ensuing debate. They also thanked the participants for having attended the meeting, reaffirming once again that the new Algeria to which everyone aspires requires the joint efforts and mobilization of all energies. The challenge is

not to punish by law, but much more to raise awareness and prevent wrongdoing, and to develop through a solid economic sector, in an environment of ethics and integrity

***Evaluation of the conference:***

The celebration of this day witnessed a high level of participation of many national actors including key partners involved in the actions and implementation of awareness and prevention of corruption programmes initiated by the national body for the prevention and fight against corruption.

In this respect, nearly 300 guests took part in this event, including representatives of ministerial departments, control and advisory bodies, high-level executives of public and private economic enterprises, professional organisations, university lecturers and researchers and civil society actors.

An evaluation form was established at the end of the day in order to assess the impact of this day in terms of the thematic choice and the terms of its organisation.

To do this, out of 250 forms distributed, 94 forms were filled in as follows.

<i>Items</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>insufficient</i>
<i>Topic choice</i>					
<i>Choice of theme in relation to participants' profiles</i>	61	32	04	00	01
<i>Clarity of the content</i>					
<i>Educational quality of the message transmitted by the speakers</i>	44	41	10	02	01
<i>Adherence and interest of the participants in the proposed theme</i>	30	35	21	03	02
<i>Quality of the pedagogical documentation</i>	29	30	24	05	06
<i>Material conditions</i>					
<i>Welcome, organisation</i>	65	27	02	01	03