

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTEGRITY

**REPORT OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE AFRICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY
09 JULY 2021**

BACKGROUND

The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption was adopted on 11 July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique, and entered into force in 2006. To date, the Convention has been ratified by 44 Member States of the African Union.

In recognition of the significant progress made and the need for continued reflection on ending corruption, the African Union has declared 11 July as Africa Anti-Corruption Day.

This year, 2021, marks the fifth edition of Africa Anti-Corruption Day under the theme "Regional Economic Communities: Key Actors in the Implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption".

The day will be an opportunity to highlight the importance of synergies and enhanced collaboration between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and States Parties, as well as key stakeholders in the anti-corruption field, including civil society, the media and international organisations fighting corruption on the continent. Member States, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, the media and citizens across the continent and in the Diaspora are called upon to join forces to celebrate the day. The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption is responsible for leading the commemorative activities on behalf of the African Union

CONTEXT

- 11 July is a Sunday; the celebration will take place on Friday 9 July 2021, with broadcasting of excerpts from the event on Sunday 11 July 2021.
- To respect sanitary measures, no more than 100 people

TITLE

"The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption : Views from the Economic Sector and Civil Society in Madagascar"

FORMAT

- A two-hour conference-debate on African and international anti-corruption mechanisms and the case of Madagascar:

1- 20 minutes presentation with video support on the existing of African mechanisms for fighting corruption (CCUAC point of view).

2- 20 minutes presentation on the problems related to the fight against corruption (private sector point of view)

3- 20 minutes presentation on the obstacles to fighting corruption and how to deal with them (civil society perspective)

4- One hour of questions and answers.

VENUE

Conference room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

GUESTS

- Presidency;
- Primature;
- Ministry of justice;
- Ministry of foreign affairs;
- Ministry of national defence;
- Ministry of the internal affairs;
- State secretariat for the gendarmerie;
- Ambassador of France;
- Embassy south Africa;
- Embassy of the United States of America
- African Union;
- UNDP ;
- OIF;
- Private sector;
- Civil society;
- SAMIFIN;
- PAC ;
- BIANCO;
- CSI

PANELISTS

1. Mr Jean-Louis Andriamifidy, Chairman of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) and former Director General of BIANCO, will be the first panellist. Theme: “*The implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and the place of regional economic communities.*”

REFLECTIONS BY JEAN LOUIS ANDRIAMIFIDY

- What are the most important points to note about the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption?
- How can this convention contribute to the development of regional economic communities?

- As a former Director General of BIANCO, and therefore with extensive knowledge and experience in the fight against corruption, how do you see this convention helping Madagascar in the fight against corruption and for its economic development?
- What is your view on the current situation of the fight against corruption in Madagascar?

2. Ms. Fanja Razakaboana, National President of the Group of Women Entrepreneurs of Madagascar (GFEM).

Theme: “*Economic point of view on the fight against corruption in Madagascar and on a regional and continental level.*”

THOUGHTS FROM FANJA RAZAKABOANA

- In what forms does corruption appear in the economic sector in Madagascar?
- What are the impacts of corruption on economic activities in Madagascar, on economic relations with neighbouring Countries and with Countries on the African Continent?
- How do you see the fight against corruption in Madagascar?
- What measures to improve the fight against corruption would be favourable to the development of economic activities and to the development of economic operators?

3. Ms. Ketakandriana Rafitson, Executive Director of Transparency Initiative Madagascar.

Theme: “*Civil society perspective on the fight against corruption in Madagascar and at the regional and continental level.*”

REFLECTIONS FOR KETAKANDRIANA RAFITOSON

- As Executive Director of the T.I. Initiative Madagascar, you make a lot of inquiries about corruption in Madagascar. Is the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption a legal instrument that you use in your daily work and why is it important for civil society?
- How are the relationships of Civil Society working on the fight against corruption in Madagascar with Countries in the region and at the continental level?
- What would you suggest to improve the fight against corruption in Madagascar?

Moderator: Mr. Raoto Andriamanambe, Editor-in-Chief of Politika magazine (Friedrich Ebert Foundation).

SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS

At the official opening of the ceremony, the Senior Political Advisor of the African Union, Mr. Jean Didier Missilou, representing the Head of the African Union Office in Madagascar, raised in his intervention the "modernization" of corruption practices and the need to adapt the Nations accordingly. He insisted on the rejection of corruption for more transparency and integrity.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Djacoba Tehindrazanarivelo, highlighted the immense financial losses in Africa due to illicit financial flows and the certainty that the fight against corruption is a cement for social peace.

During the conference-debate, Mr. Jean-Louis Andriamifidy explained that only 10 States have not yet ratified the African Union Convention on the fight against corruption. He also highlighted the articles of the Convention that can help each Member State to be more effective in the fight against corruption, and recalled the African Common Position on the fight against illicit financial flows.

Ms Fanja Razakaboana spoke of corruption becoming "professional", cultural and difficult to track. This weakens the economic fabric and leads to problems of competitiveness in the private sector. She called for the promotion of a civic space, the publication of relevant data, and a real will of the leaders.

Mrs. Ketakandriana Rafitson invited everyone not to trivialise corruption, nor to consider it as an incurable evil, because the solution to corruption is none other than the will. As concrete steps, she spoke of the adoption and implementation of the law on access to information, the law on the protection of human rights defenders and whistleblowers, the establishment of the Agency for the Recovery of Illicit Assets and, of course, the application of severe sanctions for corruptors and corrupted.

Other contributions from the floor enriched the debate, such as the existence of significant financial flows out of Africa, most of which come from the extractive sector, including the gold and diamond industry. Members of the private sector also raised the short-term action plans that should be put in place in the fight against corruption. As for the public sector, reflections and questions focused on sensitising members of economic groups so that they are not potential corruptors.

The Heads and representatives of the four institutions of the Anti-Corruption System took the floor in the middle of the debate to give their comments on the different actions carried out by the four bodies, and in relation to the African Union Convention on the fight against corruption.

The conference-debate was recorded and clips were broadcast on the National Television of Madagascar on 11, 12 and 13 July 2021.