

# REPORT OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> AAACA's EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ANTANANARIVO/ REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR ON 19 AND 20 NOVEMBER 2019

## I. INTRODUCTION

The 7th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities of Africa (AAACA) took place in Antananarivo, Republic of Madagascar, on 19 and 20 November 2019.

Were present at the meeting:

- Mr. Emmanuel OLLITA ONDONGO, President;
- Mr. Isaac CHILANGA, Representing Ms Rose Marry NKONDE the 2nd Vice President;
- Mr. Khaled Abdelrahman, Member;
- Mr. Augustin MWENDAMBALI MWETAMINWA, member;
- Mr. George Nathan BAMUGEMEREIRE, Member;
- Mr. Laza Eric Donat ANDRIANIRINA, Director General of BIANCO, the host Country;
- Mr. George WILLIAM BARASA, Representative of the Director General of the PCCB/Tanzania/Member
- Mr. Jean Claude BIZIMANA, Technical Advisor to the President and who hadowcumulatively full powers to participate as acting Secretary General of the AAACA;
- Mrs. Rose NIZISHEMEYE, Administrative Assistant.

Absent with apologize : Mrs. Seynabou NDIAYE DIAKHATE, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President



*Group photo of Executive Committee members*

**Seven (07) topics that were on the agenda were as follows:**

1. The situation of the implementation of the recommendations of the 4th Annual General Assembly (AGM);
2. The role and contribution of AAACA member institutions in promoting the Association and in implementing the recommendations of the 4th Annual General Assembly (AGM);
3. The situation of the accreditation procedure with regional and international bodies as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the 1st African Anti-Corruption Forum;
4. Updating the AAACA's Constitution and Strategic Plan;
5. Strengthening AAACA's partnership with international bodies such as UNODC, OLAF, FIGE, the African Development Bank, AU-ABC, UNECA, GIZ, etc.)
6. Measures to be taken on preparations for the fifth (5th) Annual General Assembly of (AAACA);
7. Preparations of elections for a new Executive Committee planned for 2020.

## **II. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

### **II.1 Welcome remarks by the BIANCO Director General**

The meeting began with a welcome address by the Director General of the Independent Anti-Corruption Bureau (BIANCO/MADAGASCAR), Mr Laza Eric Donat ANDRIANIRINA. In his welcoming address, he thanked the members of the Executive Committee for choosing Madagascar to host the seven Executive Committee Meeting. For him, this is a judicious choice and was well appreciated by BIANCO.



*Mr Laza Eric Donat ANDRIANIRINA, Director General du BIANCO, during his opening remarks*

He also indicated that BIANCO was ready to host the Annual General Assembly of the Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities of Africa (AAACA) in the modalities that will be agreed with the Executive Committee. He also promised to contribute to cleaning up the association so that it can really be a continental platform in the fight against corruption.

He concluded his remarks by wishing the different delegations a pleasant stay in Antananarivo.

## **II.2. Opening speech by the President of the AAACA**

In his opening remarks, the President of the AAACA, Mr Emmanuel OLLITA ONDONGO, first expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Madagascar for having authorized the convening of the 7th Executive Committee Meeting on its territory. This testified the political will of the Government of Madagascar to fight corruption.

According to him, the fight against corruption requires Governments to banish the impunity that has become so prevalent in the administrative system of African countries. And for that to be possible, it is necessary to ensure the independence of African anti-corruption agencies.



*Mr Emmanuel OLLITA ONDONGO, President of Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities in Africa*

The content of his speech was focused mainly on the negative effects of corruption and the strategies to be taken to combat this scourge that threatens Africa. He then gave a brief overview of what had been achieved by the AAACA during its mandate, the implementation of some of the recommendations of the 4th AGM, the challenges etc.

He also congratulated the Executive Committee members and the Secretariat's staff who continue to work hard to fill the human resources gap despite the budgetary constraints faced by the Association.

In addition, the President informed the members that he had been informed by the Burundian Minister of Good Governance that the Secretary General of the AAACA had been appointed to other functions. Not letting this sensitive position remain vacant, the Government of Burundi has given the full powers to Mr Jean Claude BIZIMANA to act in place of the Secretary General.

### **III. The Meeting**

The meeting was a good opportunity for the President to present to the members of the Executive Committee the new position of the Secretary General of the AAACA, where the former CP NKESHIMANA Jean Damascène was called to other functions, and this created a vacancy in this very sensitive position.

Thus, the President decided to submit this question to the members of the Executive Committee for consideration.

This is why, after the two speeches, the Executive Committee members who were informed of the situation after having considered it in full detail, came up with a very thorough analysis of the issue, which finally led to a unanimous decision, in particular the appointment as Acting Secretary General of Mr Jean Claude BIZIMANA, who was until then Technical Advisor to the President, pending approval of the next Annual General Assembly scheduled to take place in Antananarivo in 2020.



*Executive Committee members during the meeting*

### **III.1. Overview of the implementation of the recommendations of the 4th Annual General Assembly (AGM) of the AAACA**

This point was presented by the Acting Secretary General Mr Jean Claude BIZIMANA. He briefly outlined the activities carried out by the Secretariat, the role it plays in sharing information among AAACA members.



*1Mr Jean Claude BIZIMANA, Acting General Secretary of AAACA*

He called upon Executive Committee members to serve as an example by regularly paying their dues and also gave an update on the situation of Executive Committee members' dues.

The Acting Secretary General was pleased with the Secretariat's coordinating role through the activities organized by the partners. He gave the example of the organization of training workshops on the implementation of the provisions of the African Charter on Public Service and the fight against corruption in Administration by the Department of Political Affairs in African Union.

### **III.2. The role and contribution of AAACA member bodies and the implementation of the AGA recommendations**

The Secretariat noted the lack of interest of the Institutions in implementing the recommendations. For the Secretariat, three reasons could explain this situation:

- The absence of an operational Secretariat and an appropriate number of staff assigned to this secretariat;;
- The absence of direct interest in the Association;



- The insufficient financial resources of AAACA Members for the implementation of the recommendations of the AGMs.

To meet these challenges, the Executive Committee as the governing body of the Association must adopt strategies to encourage members to be more active and he also deplored the fact that the commissions that were set up to implement the recommendations of the 1st African Anti-Corruption Forum and the accreditation AAACA are not being put into effect.

To remedy this problem, the ACA/Egypt was asked to make a detailed analysis of each of the recommendations from the 1st African Anti-Corruption Forum and forward them to the other members of the Executive Committee for their comments before the 5th AGA.



*Gnl/ Khaled Abdelrahman, lors de son intervention*

### **III.3. The accreditation of the AAACA to regional and international bodies as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the 1st African Anti-Corruption Forum**

This point was introduced by Professor St Augustin MWENDAMBALI MWETAMINWA.



*Prof. St Augustin MWENDAMBALI MWETAMINWA, during his presentation*

In his view, it would be useful for the association to be legally recognized by Burundi as a non-profit organization and for the Secretariat to sign a memorandum of understanding with the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption and so that it would not be necessary for the AAACA to undertake other procedures to be recognized by the African Union and other international bodies.

#### **III.4. Preparations for the 5th AGM**

Concerning the preparations of the 5th AGM, the Executive Committee was informed that the Secretariat is in constant contact with BIANCO and that a letter addressed to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Madagascar for the request of the authorization to hold the 5th AGM in Antannarivo/ Madagascar is being sent and that BIANCO has been informed for the follow-up.



*Mr Laza Eric Donat ANDRIANIRINA, Director General of BIANCO, informing the participants the situation of preparation of the 5th AGM of AAACA*





*ExcomMembers during lunch break*

### **III.5.Meeting with the African Union Advisory Council on Corruption**

In the side-lines of the 7th Executive Committee meeting, the AAACA President had an interaction meeting with the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AU-ACB). During this meeting, the two authorities exchanged views on the modalities of cooperation with the AU-ABC and the AAACA.

### **III.6.The 2020 elections**

The Acting General Secretary announced to the participants at the 7th meeting of the Executive Committee that the term of office is three years and that this Executive Committee elected in 2017 ends its term of office in 2020 so the new Executive Committee will be elected during the next Annual General Assembly scheduled to take place in Madagascar in 2020.

### **III.6. TheMeeting with the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC)**

The Chairman of the Board indicated that a memorandum of understanding had been sent to the President of the AAACA for observation and that once signed, the two institutions could work together.

It was also expressed the wish to see the 5th Annual General Assembly of the AAACA and the 4<sup>th</sup>African Dialogue on Corruption organised at the same time for the year 2020.

#### IV. Sightseeing visit to BIANCO Headquarters

During the 7th meeting of the Executive Committee, the members had the opportunity to visit the headquarters of the Independent Anti-Corruption Office/ Madagascar



*AAACA Excom members with BIANCO staff at the Headquarter*

During this visit, BIANCO's Director General, Mr Laza Eric Donat ANDRIANIRINA, welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to BIANCO's Headquarter and informed them that this Institution was created on 05 October 2004 by Decree N°2004-937 establishing BIANCO.



*AAACA's Executive members with BIANCO's staff at the Headquarter*

Then, BIANCO's Director General outlined the Institution's missions, which include:

- Enforcement of anti-corruption legislation;
- Prevention by eliminating opportunities for corruption in the performance of public and private sector systems;

-Public awareness of the harmful effects of corruption and the community's encouragement to fight corruption;

Regarding BIANCO's activities, these are mainly:

**a. Investigation**

- Receipt and processing of complaints, including the transmission to the judiciary after investigation of the investigateable complaints and deliberation by the Consultative Committee on Investigations;
- Dynamic administration of asset declarations by collecting, auditing, analysing and recording asset declarations.

**b. Education**

- Promotion of the culture of honesty and integrity of young people and students through the establishment and operationalization of the "RHI" (Network of Honesty and Integrity) school and out-of-school networks;
- Awareness-raising and mobilization of the general public, the public sector and the private sector, in particular through meeting sessions, media coverage of educational messages (distributed media, radio and TV messages launched, social networks) and educational sessions with future public officials.



*Executive members in the investigation room*

### c. Prevention

- Safeguarding of administrative exams, in particular through the assistance of the various phases of implementation and the design of manuals and texts (ENMG, ENAM, police, gendarmerie, MEN, customs, etc.);
- Implementation of service standards, particularly at the level of decentralized technical services and territorial decentralized collectivities and target sectors such as road traffic safety;
- Combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources, in particular through the establishment of a whistle-blower mechanism, awareness-raising and education activities and the development of action plans with the relevant actors;
- Analysing systems and procedures to identify corruption risks and propose recommendations, for example in terms of road safety and natural resources...

The visit to BIANCO's headquarters ended with the signature in the guestbook by the President of the AAACA and a cocktail hosted by the Director General of BIANCO.



*Mr Emmanuel OLLITA ONDONGO, President of AAACA signing in the Guestbook*



*A cocktail hosted by the Director General of BIANCO*



## **V. Acknowledgements**

Our gratitude is particularly addressed:

### **1°. To the Government of Madagascar**

For agreeing to grant free entry visas to its territory and facilitating the holding of the 7th meeting of the Executive Committee.



*BIANCO's Staff offering a dinner to the delegation of AUABC and AAACA*

### **2° To the BIANCO authorities**

For having agreed to host the 7th meeting of the Executive Committee and their availability during this meeting as well as for the warm welcome extended to the members of the Executive Committee.



**Bujumbura the 04 of December 2019**

**Jean Claude BIZIMANA**

**Acting General Secretary**

## APPENDIX: MADAGASCAR DECLARATION