



**Communique of the Second Civil Society Forum on the African Union Advisory Board on  
Corruption (AUABC)  
Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), Arusha, Tanzania  
Friday 9 December 2016**

We, representatives of African social movements, youth and faith based organisations, civil society organisations, the academia and research institutions, members of parliament, government officials, African constitutional bodies, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) and the African Union Commission (AUC), met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania on 7-9 December 2016, for the Second Civil Society Forum on Combating Corruption in Africa themed: ***“United against Corruption for Development, Peace and Security.”*** After extensive deliberations, we adopted the following communiqué:

**Concerned** that the rise of the practice of term elongation is rapidly becoming a threat to Africa’s peace, security and developmental aspirations; whereby corrupt practices are being employed to manipulate constitutions and electoral laws to subvert the will of the people;

**Further concerned** that corruption in Africa has reached crisis proportions with extremely harmful effects that negatively impact on the African polity, economy, society and culture and in the process also contributing to the violation and abuse of the fundamental rights of African citizens;

**Alarmed** that the African continent is haemorrhaging at least 100 billion US dollars a year to rampant corruption, abuse of state resources, and illicit financial flows;

**Acknowledge** that the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) are strong normative frameworks designed to promote the culture of democracy and curb impunity and corruption on the African continent; yet implementation of these two normative frameworks and other shared values instruments remains a challenge;

**Applaud** the 24 AU Member States that ratified the **ACDEG** and the 37 Member States that ratified the AUCPCC respectively;

**Call** upon the remaining 30 Member States that have **not** ratified ACDEG, and remaining 17 Member States that have not ratified the AUCPCC to do so within the next twelve (12) months, and endeavour to domesticate the respective treaty instruments;

**Recognise** that the African Governance Architecture (AGA) provides a platform and measures to address the pervasive effects of corruption impacting on governance, democracy and human rights;

**Urge** all stakeholders to effectively utilize the AGA platform;

**Further urge** all stakeholders to enhance the implementation and strengthen collaboration with regard to these mechanisms and measures and also recognise the opportunity for the ***Ten Year Action and Implementation Plan of Human Rights in Africa***, to focus attention on corruption as a key obstacle to the respect and protection of human rights and development in Africa;

**Call** upon the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU to include a chapter on corruption in the report of the state of democracy, governance and elections in Africa as well as ensure that corruption is included as a thematic focus area in the African Peer Review Mechanism questionnaire and make those reports/amendments public;

**Further call** upon AU Member States to revise the two-year term of AUABC members to SIX in line with other AU organs, like the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);

**Appeal** to state parties to the AUCPCC to each contribute \$250,000 annually to finance the mandate of the AUABC as is the practice for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to the tune of \$100,000 annually, by every acceding state;

**Urge AUCPCC** state parties to submit implementation reports to the AUABC on a regular and timely basis, as well as implement the fundamental elements of the Convention- Art 5.3 effective and independent Anti-Corruption Agencies; Art 5.5 whistle blower protection laws; Art 7.1 asset declaration and an asset register for public officials; Art 9 access to information laws and their operationalization;

**Call** upon the AUABC to revise the AUCPCC questionnaire so as to ensure it remains relevant to the challenges of the day, by ensuring that it is living tool for appropriate benchmarking and gauging results for progress;

**Further call** upon the AUABC to promote a culture of an Access to Information policy and culture within the AU Commission and its organs at all times;

As civil society we:

**Reiterate** that not only does corruption endanger the very existence of our continent, our regions and our countries, but also the lives of all Africans, as well as our future generations;

**Commit** to, therefore, combat corruption in all its manifestations;

**Fully support** the call by the AUABC for the AU to declare 2018 the "***Year of Combatting Corruption in Africa***";

**Pledge** to support the continuation and sustained engagement with the AUABC through platforms such as the Multi Sectoral Working Group on Combatting Corruption in Eastern Africa, the Civil Society Forum (CSF), and state verification exercises of reports on AUCPCC implementation.

**Done on 9 December, 2016 at the Arusha International Convention Centre, Arusha, Republic of Tanzania.**