



Centre for Democracy & Development
Centre pour la démocratie et le développement



PANAFRICAN STRATEGIC AND POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

COMMUNIQUE ON THE 2ND AU ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE (12-13, JULY 2019)

PanAfrican Strategic and Policy Research Group-PANAFSTRAG in collaboration with and support from the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) organised the 2nd of its five-year commitment with the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa to AU Anti-Corruption Day Commemoration and Colloquium from the 11-13th, July 2019 in Abuja. The commemoration was marked by Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and Presidential Advisory Committee on Corruption (PACAC) with CDD and PANAFSTRAG. The Commemoration on 11th July brought together Experts in two Panels to deliberate on the challenges faced by FG institutions in recovering assets of Kleptocrats and corrupt individuals. There is a separate Communique for the event to be released by ICPC.

The Colloquium was on 12 and 13 July at the Chelsea Hotel, Abuja.

The Keynote speaker was Prof. Pregala Pillay of Stellenbosch University in South Africa. She was accompanied by Dr. Chris Jones who organised the 1st Commemoration Day and Colloquium in Stellenbosch in July, 2018 and Dr. Donald Katts.

Other Participants including Paper-Presenters were the Director of CDD; Registrar, JAMB; Rep. from Thabo Mbeki Africa Leadership Institute of South Africa, Faculty members from some Nigerian Universities, a Professor from London South Bank University, a rep from the private sector, CEO of Yintab Strategy Consults (YSC), Retired Ambassador; Architect, Post-graduate students and a sustainable development Specialist.

The participants identified corruption with a focus on how tolerance for **IMPUNITY** can continue to make it a global scourge but with different degrees of impact on each continent with Africa being the worst hit. They further observed as follows:

- Corruption abound in public and private governance as well as in the social sectors.
- Corruption destroys human dignity while impunity compounds this destruction
- Corruption is a human rights issue
- It is a global issue which requires holistic and collective action
- We must give emphasis to INTOLERANCE FOR IMPUNITY through responsible citizenship

- Weakness in accountable and transparent governance has its roots in weak structures and irregular audits at all levels of governance with rare or no follow-up action on **audit queries and recommendations by the appropriate bodies.**
- Few Public Organizations, Private sectors and CSOs in Africa are yet to see the above as the cornerstone of transparency and accountability in Governance.
- Gender equity is key in anti-corruption crusade

The Colloquium made the following recommendations:

- All stakeholders from Primary to Tertiary levels as well as CSOs must be empowered and engaged in monitoring and evaluating follow-up action on all aspects of audits in the public sector in reducing corruption and impunity
- Religious organizations must do some in-house cleansing and then re-strategize their roles in this cause
- We must engage African cultural and traditional institutions for fighting corruption and eliminating impunity
- Anti-Corruption Agencies and cultural institutions have to work together and not in silos for more gains in rebuilding intolerance for corruption and impunity on the Continent.
- Beyond prosecution, a holistic approach, including popular mobilization against the scourge is necessary and could involve a determined crafting and implementation of National Anti-Corruption Strategies in sync with the UN Convention Against Corruption.
- The Colloquium saw the need for the development of an African Impunity Index.
- The above led to a workshop of TMALI, CDD, Stellenbosch University and PANAFSTRAG; which concluded that the Index be started in West Africa by CDD and PANAFSTRAG with other partners in West Africa; yet to be confirmed.

13, July 2019