

NAIROBI, 11 July 2025

AN ECUMENICAL CALL ON THE OCCASION OF AFRICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition... Consider others first” (Philippians 2:3)

The AACC joins the people of Africa in commemorating the African Anti-Corruption Day. On the 11th July 2003, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) was adopted in Maputo, Mozambique, and came into force in 2006. Thus, today, we take a moment to reflect on the impact of corruption on our society and the effectiveness of our collective efforts to prevent and combat corruption in all its manifestations, knowing that corruption affects our collective wellbeing and militates against human dignity.

Recognizing that the AUCPCC represents regional consensus on what African states should do in the areas of prevention, criminalization, international cooperation, and asset recovery, the AACC has continued to partner with the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC) in advocating for a society free of corruption. Together, we have amplified faith voices against all acts of corruption within our society. In this regard, we also appreciate the sustained efforts of our Ecumenical Economic Justice Champions across the continent who have remained resolute in campaigning against corruption and other corrupt practices in their respective countries through collaborative initiatives with anti-corruption institutions, civil society, and other stakeholders.

As we commemorate this year's African Anti-Corruption Day, we take note and support the AUABC theme, *“Promoting Human Dignity in the Fight Against Corruption”*, which resonates with our belief in the promotion and protection of human dignity at all times. We further appreciate the African Union's pursuit of justice for Africans and People of African Descent through reparations. The impact of corruption on human dignity manifests through poor public service delivery, ballooning African public debt, ecological injustices, illicit financial flows, and erosion of trust in public and private institutions across Africa. This reality is linked to the effects of slavery, colonialism, and systematic discrimination against Africans and people of African descent.

SUB OFFICES:

African Union Liaison Office: Ledta Sub-City, Woreda 03,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 113 851171 / +251 113 851158
E-mail: aulliaison@aacc-ceta.org

Lomé Régional Office: 01 B.P. 2268 - Lomé 01, 1235, Rue de la
Paix Bè-Château, Lomé, Togo
Tel: +228 93501626
Email: bureauregional@aacc-ceta.org

While the AACC acknowledges the efforts made by the African Union and other stakeholders to prevent and combat corruption at national and continental levels, we are concerned about the continued loss of resources through systemic corruption, including illicit financial flows within the continent. These enormous resources could have enhanced Africa's fiscal capacities to address service delivery challenges, supporting communities' climate adaptive measures, and promoting the general social and economic development of the various countries.

Therefore, the AACC calls on

1. The African Union to:
 - Mobilize the remaining countries that are yet to ratify the Maputo Convention on Anti-Corruption to do so as a demonstration of member states' commitment to prevent, combat, and criminalize corrupt practices in the continent.
 - Through the AUABC, to motivate member states to embrace and utilize the Africa Peer Review Mechanism to strengthen good governance within the continent.
2. African governments to:
 - Be intentional in their actions to prevent and combat corruption and to ensure that corrupt leaders are named and shamed.
 - Uphold and implement the principles of separation of powers as enshrined in their national constitutions to support the independence of the judiciary and the anti-corruption commissions, including the Auditor General's offices.
3. The national law enforcement agents to execute their constitutional duties without fear or favor in response to corruption cases.

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4. Individuals and institutions to exercise moral and ethical responsibility by shunning corrupt practices in society.

We commit to continuing to create platforms for our members and other faith actors to cultivate a culture of transparency and accountability by openly speaking against corruption at all available formal and informal platforms.

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