

“ECA to convene major international conference on corruption in Africa ”

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Addis Ababa - 24 September 2008 – The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in conjunction with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is organizing an international conference on: “ **Institutions, Culture and Corruption in Africa** ” from 13 to 16 October 2008 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa (UNCC-AA). The conference is one of the key events marking the 50th anniversary celebration of UNECA.

The problem of corruption remains intractable in many African countries, and it is widely acknowledged that there is a need for more innovative, creative and strategic approaches to deal with it. The objective of the conference, therefore, is to promote an African led discourse on corruption in Africa , with a view to evolving new policies, strategies and initiatives in tackling the problem of corruption on the continent and engaging the major stakeholders in the anti-corruption agenda. The three day meeting will bring together scholars, policy makers, practitioners, and civil society leaders, from within and outside Africa , as well as regional and international organizations, to deliberate on the issue.

The urgency of the need for the concerted efforts of all major stakeholders on the continent to tackle corruption has been repeatedly expressed by leading African intellectuals and policymakers. It has also resonated in recent discussions and policy decisions of the major policy organs of the ECA, which have mandated the institution to do more work in promoting research, knowledge generation, policy development and advocacy on the problem.

For example, at its most recent meeting in Addis, in November 2007, the Committee on Human Development and Civil Society , which is the policy organ of the ECA on governance, civil society and public sector management, challenged ECA, and specifically the Governance and Public Administration Division (GPAD), to conduct more research, and upscale the discourse on corruption on the continent in order to generate the conception of better policies and strategies for member-states to address the problem. Similarly, the ECA *Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development* , which is the Commission's overall policy, at its meeting in March 2008, reiterated the demand for ECA to actively engage the problem of corruption on the continent.

This international conference on: “ **Institutions, Culture and Corruption in Africa** ” is thus a major response to those demands. Above all, the conference seeks to promote an Africa-led dialogue on the problem of corruption and to forge a consensus among an increasing the stock of stakeholders (including academics, policy institutions, regional organizations, civil society and the international community) on viable new policy options which should be implemented in the fight against corruption.

For more information on the conference go to : <http://www.uneca.org/gpad/codesria.htm>

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