



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Report

Meeting of the Bureau of the Network of Anti-Corruption Stakeholders in Southern Africa

13-14 February 2019

Livingstone, Zambia

Acknowledgements

This meeting was the second of the Bureau of the Network of Anti-Corruption Stakeholders in Southern Africa established in June 2018 during the Consultative Meeting of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in Southern Africa, jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Subregional Office for Southern Africa, the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office and the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime of Botswana, and hosted by the Government of Botswana. The main purpose of the Network is to build a coalition and mobilize different stakeholders and constituencies in the fight against corruption in the region. The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office facilitated the first meeting of the Bureau, while ECA facilitated the second. Special thanks and appreciation go to the ECA team led by its Director, Said Adejumobi, and also comprising Mzwanele Mfunwa (focal point) and Dailes Matoka, who facilitated the hosting of the meeting. Appreciation also goes to the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office, led by Auguste Ngomo. The fight against corruption must be multidimensional and concerted for it to have any meaningful impact. Corruption deprives the region of development opportunities and decelerates the living standards of its people. The support of everyone will be required to upscale the fight against corruption in our region and countries.

Background

In accordance with the decision taken by the Bureau of the Network of Anti-Corruption Institutions in Southern Africa (Network Bureau) at its previous meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 9 October 2018, the ECA Subregional Office for Southern Africa held a meeting of the Network Bureau in Livingstone, Zambia, on 13 and 14 February 2019. The first objective of the meeting was to discuss options with regard to the Network's statute, registration, legal status and fundraising. A consultant provided relevant information and advice on those options and other issues. The second objective was to discuss Network programmes and activities for 2019, including how different Network pillars would contribute to their formulation. The third objective was to discuss the role of ECA, the African Union Commission and other development partners in facilitating the establishment of the Network and supporting its work. The final objective was to discuss operational modalities for the functioning of the Network.

All elected members of the Network Bureau were in attendance¹: Mr. Victor Paledi, Director General of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes of Botswana and Chair of the Network Bureau; Ms. Jabulile Phakathi, Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Eswatini and Vice-Chair of the Network Bureau; Mr. Rueben Lifuka, Chapter President of Transparency International Zambia, representing civil society organizations; Ms. Touria Prayag, Editor-in-Chief of the Mauritius newspaper *Express Weekly*, representing the media; Mr. Auguste Ngomo, African Union regional delegate for Southern Africa, representing the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office as an ex officio member; Mr. Said Adejumobi, Director of the ECA Subregional Office for Southern Africa, representing the ECA Subregional Office for Southern Africa as an ex-officio member; Ms. Charity Hanene Nchimunya, Executive Secretary of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption; Mr. Tsholofelo Bareetsi, Staff Officer from the Botswana Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime; Mr. Andre Mangu, consultant and head of the academic pillar; and Mr. Mzwanele Mfunwa and Ms. Dailes Matoka, both representing ECA.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Overview and objectives of the meeting; and summary of the outcome of the national consultative meeting of national anti-corruption institutions, presented by the Director of the ECA Subregional Office for Southern Africa
3. Report of the first Bureau meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 9 October 2018
4. Presentation and discussion of the Network's statute, legal options, registration, fundraising and other issues

¹ See annex 2 for the attendance register.

5. Discussion of the Network's 2019 programmes and activities
6. Discussion of the Network's operational modalities
7. Discussions on the role of ECA, the African Union Commission and other development partners in supporting the work of the Network
8. Closing of the meeting

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Paledi, Chair of the Network Bureau. He observed that fighting corruption was a multi-stakeholder project and could not be left to national anti-corruption institutions alone. Civil society, the media, academia, research institutions, the private sector and regional and international institutions all had roles to play in addressing the scourge of corruption in Southern Africa. The Network was therefore imperative and needed to function well.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Adejumbi, Director of the ECA Subregional Office for Southern Africa, said that he was delighted that the Network was finally taking off and welcomed its follow-up work as an offshoot of the regional consultative meeting of national anti-corruption institutions in Southern Africa, which was organized jointly by the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office, the ECA Subregional Office for Southern Africa and the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crimes of Botswana in June 2018 in Gaborone. It was important for all stakeholders to do their part in combating corruption, a serious malaise that afflicts States, impacts societies and undermines socioeconomic development in the region.

Mr. Ngomo, the African Union regional delegate for Southern Africa, said that the meeting constituted a major milestone in the work of the Network. He reiterated the support of the African Union for the Network and hoped that it would fill an important gap in the region's anti-corruption crusade.

Summary of key discussions and observations

In the ensuing discussions, the following key issues were raised:

- Corruption had worsened in Southern Africa, as indicated by the latest Transparency International report (despite disagreements on the methodology employed).
- The Network's particular strength was that it brought together all key stakeholders (both State and non-State actors) and was unencumbered by officialdom. Accordingly, its work could prove more credible.
- The contribution made by the Network's stakeholders would be critical to its success.
- As those engaged in corrupt practices were both imaginative and innovative, the approach to combating corruption would need to be even more imaginative, creative and innovative in order to succeed.

- Members agreed with the decision taken in Gaborone to elect Mr. Mangu as head of the academia pillar; it was also agreed that the mandate of each pillar leader should come from each constituency under the pillar.
- It was agreed that the Network’s secretariat should be located in the country where the Network would be registered, in order to save on costs and consolidate institutional memory.
- The private sector representative body, to the extent that it was focused on fighting corruption, should be allowed to join the Network as a member.
- For strategic reasons, it was agreed that the African Development Bank should be included as an ex-officio member, particularly as the Bank had a large anti-corruption portfolio.
- The media pillar had done well since the meeting in Johannesburg, having published several articles and cartoons highlighting the fight against corruption and the harmful impact of corruption on society; the pillar had already established a WhatsApp group.
- The media pillar had also made clear that there should be no impunity in the fight against corruption. Everyone corrupt should be identified and prosecuted, regardless of social standing.
- Members welcomed the draft statute compiled by the consultant.
- The following comments were made in connection with the draft statute as submitted: (a) Membership should be welcome from both individuals and groups; (b) The Network should have a secretariat to ensure its smooth operation; (c) The highest decision-making body should be called the “General Assembly” (rather than “Congress”); (d) Network champions’ terms of office should be limited to one year (renewable); (e) The preamble should include a reference to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; (f) A decision should be taken to register the Network either as a non-governmental organization or as a trust; and (g) Transition clauses should be decided while the Network was being established.
- The Network’s programme of work for 2019 and 2020² was approved.
- The draft statute was signed.

Summary of key decisions and recommendations

Ms. Phakathi, Vice-Chair of the Bureau, having presented the report of the first Bureau meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 9 October 2018, was commended for her work accomplished to date.

² See annex 1.

The following decisions were taken by the Bureau: (a) The proposed amendments to the statute were adopted unanimously; (b) The Network would be registered as either a public trust or public charity, depending on the legal advice received from the consultant; and (c) The Network would be registered in either Botswana, Mauritius or South Africa, depending on ease of registration and banking facilities.

The Bureau approved the following programmes for the Network in 2019:

- For the Bureau: 11 programmes (eight in 2019 and three in 2020)
- For the academia pillar: five programmes (two in 2019 and three in 2020)
- For the media pillar: five programmes (one in 2019 and four in 2020)
- For civil society/non-governmental organizations: five programmes (three in 2019 and two in 2020)
- For the Anti-Corruption Bureau pillar: two programmes (one in 2019 and one in 2020)
- Cross-cutting programmes: two programmes (one in 2019 and one in 2020)

The Bureau also designated the following tasks:

- Setting up social media and a website: assigned to the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office
- Design of communication tools and logo: assigned to the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office
- Curriculum development and ethics education: assigned to Transparency International and the Africa Union Southern Africa Regional Office
- Fundraising and research: assigned to ECA, the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office and other Bureau members who could support the process.

Members discussed the Network's operational modalities and agreed that standard operating procedures would be developed and presented for discussion and adoption at the next Bureau meeting.

Lastly, members decided that the role to be played by ECA, the African Union Commission and other development partners in support of the Network would be clearly defined in the standard operating procedures.

Way forward

Members agreed that:

- Bureau meetings should be held at least three times a year.
- Bureau members should submit names for consideration as Network champions; two such names were put forward for election: President Masisi of Botswana and former Liberian President Amos Sawyer.

Closing remarks

In closing, the Director of the ECA Subregional Office for Southern Africa welcomed the fact that the Network now had a road map. ECA remained committed to combating corruption and the Bureau must be relentless in its pursuit of that phenomenon.

For his part, the African Union regional delegate for Southern Africa expressed his gratitude to members for their commitment to a noble cause and said that the Bureau must do its best to ensure that the Network succeeded.

The Chair declared the session closed.

Annex 1

The Network's programme of work for 2019 and 2020

Pillar	Activity	Time frame	Responsibility
Bureau	Register the Network as a non-governmental organization or trust	2019	
	Open a bank account	2019	
	Develop an operation manual for the Network	2019	
	Create a social media page (and brochures, application forms, flyers, cards, etc.)	2019	
	Develop the Network's communication strategy	2019	
	Develop a plan for fundraising	2019	
	Nominate a Network champion	2019	
	Conduct the country launch of the Network	2019	
	Conduct a membership campaign	2019	
Identify cross-sectorial issues	Done		
Academia	Facilitate a conference on combating corruption	2019	
	Carry out a membership campaign	2019	
	Introduce a special edition of an academic journal on anti-corruption research and papers	2019	
Media	Provide coverage to give visibility to the Network and its activities	2019	
	Conduct a membership campaign	2019	
	Conduct capacity-building and training	2019	
	Organize a competition on investigative journalism into corruption	2020	
	Give support to a continent-wide ranking of countries for corruption	2020	
	Compile a database on journalists who have worked to combat corruption	2020	
Civil society organizations/non-governmental organizations	Map out/create a database of civil society organizations working to combat corruption	2019	
	Set up communication channels for civil society organizations or non-governmental organizations working to combat corruption	2019	
	Compile research already done by civil society organizations or non-	2019-2020	

	governmental organizations on corruption to avoid duplication		
	Hold a meeting of civil society organizations/non-governmental organizations (for example as a side-event at Mining Indaba).	2019-2020	
	Identify joint activities (across sectors or pillars)	2019-2020	
Anti-Corruption Bureau	Facilitate meetings/events on Africa Anti-Corruption Day (11 July) and International Anti-Corruption Day (9 December)	2019	
	Write to the heads of all national anti-corruption institutions in the region and update them on what the Network has done since inception in Gaborone in June 2018	2019-2020	
	Special journal edition on anti-corruption research	2019	
	Seminar on anti-corruption		
Cross-sectoral activities	Dialogue of stakeholders on anti-corruption	2020	
	Create a website for the Network		

Annex 2

Attendance register

Name	Institution	Email Address	Mobile No.
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