

The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption applauds UNNGOF efforts in the fight against Corruption

Corruption is undoubtedly the most pressing governance and development challenge that Africa is confronted with today as its debilitating and corrosive effects reverse hard-won



developmental gains and threaten progress, stability and development of the Continent.

In a bid to ensure and sustain the level of commitment of combating corruption, the Assembly of the

African Union declared 2018 as “the African Anti-Corruption Year”. The year will be celebrated under the theme: ‘Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation’

CSO anti-corruption efforts in Uganda

On 12th September 2017, a delegation from the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption met with Mr. Richard Ssewakiryanga the Presiding Officer Economic Social Cultural Council who is also the Executive Director, Uganda National NGO Forum to get acquainted with CSO anti-corruption efforts in Uganda.

In his remarks, Mr Ssewakiryanga noted that over the years UNNGOF has been at the forefront in mobilizing citizens and organizations at national and regional level against corruption. Key initiatives include; citizen organizing on corruption through the Black Monday Movement, regional anti-corruption days, Annual Anti-Corruption Conventions and the Participatory Integrity Assessment among others. He recognized efforts of specific CSOs such as the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group-tracks public expenditure and Transparency International- generates an annual Corruption Indices. He also made mention of the government-CSO partnerships on anti-corruption such as the Inter-Agency Forum on

Anti-Corruption under the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity, Accountability Sector working Group, Annual Anti-Corruption Week among others.

CSOs' appeal

'We appreciate that government reforms on anti-corruption are responding to issues CSOs raise but we still have a long way to go' stated Mr. Ssewakiryanga. He urged the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption to amplify CSO efforts on anti-corruption at regional level. The African Heads of State should pronounce themselves on the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption he emphasized. Further, Mr. Ssewakiryanga pledged commitment to work with the Advisory Board to convene a pre-summit event in preparation for the 31st African Union Summit in January 2018.

On ECOSOCC, Mr Ssewakiryanga noted that the meeting is an opportunity to explore collaboration between the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption and ECOSOCC on efforts to curb corruption in the region.

Advisory Board Commitment

In his remarks, Mr. Miarom Begoto, the Chairperson of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption

appreciated the commitment of Uganda National NGO Forum towards the fight against corruption. In some countries, CSOs are very silent and this has an impact on



governance a member of the Board noted. Uganda National NGO is a critical stakeholder as we move towards the anti-corruption year in 2018.

The delegation pledged to work with the Uganda National NGO Forum and ECOSOCC in preparation of the 2018 project on anti-corruption.

The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption is an autonomous organ established within the African Union in terms of Article 22 of the African Union Convention on Prevention on Combating Corruption.