

**9TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCIES IN
COMMONWEALTH AFRICA, LAKE VICTORIA SERENA GOLF RESORT & SPA, KIGO,
KAMPALA, UGANDA**

**THEME: TIME TO ACT: PREVENT CORRUPTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNIQUE**

WE, the Heads and Representatives of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa, meeting at the Ninth Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa (the Conference) hosted by the Inspectorate of Government (IG), Uganda, sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat at the Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa, Kigo, Kampala from the 6th -10th May 2019,

NOTING with gratitude the invaluable support and warm hospitality provided by the Government of the Republic of Uganda, the IG and the people of Uganda, the honour of the presence of His Excellency General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, who opened the Conference,

INSPIRED by the presence, participation and commitment of the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, at the Conference,

CONCERNED ABOUT the heavy losses that Africa suffers as a result of illegal transfers of proceeds of corruption and crime out of Africa,

RECOGNISING the need to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among the Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa for purposes of facilitating asset recovery and return,

ACKNOWLEDGING the benefits of a platform for discussing emerging issues and sharing good practices and country innovations in the fight against corruption,

HAVING made presentations on the theme of the Conference, discussed innovative measures employed by Anti-Corruption Agencies and explored other aspects of the programme of the Conference,

SATISFIED that a full exchange of views and innovative experiences among Anti-Corruption Agencies and other participants has taken place at the Conference,

1. **CALL** upon the Commonwealth Secretary General and the Government of Rwanda to include Anti-Corruption as a side event of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Rwanda in 2020;

2. **FURTHER CALL** upon Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to include the issue of Anti-Corruption as part of the communique for its meeting to be held in Rwanda in 2020;
3. **APPEAL** to the Heads of Government in Commonwealth Africa to consider ways of providing adequate resources to Anti-Corruption Agencies;
4. **ENCOURAGE** Commonwealth African countries to pursue the enactment of legislation on civil asset forfeiture;
5. **FURTHER ENCOURAGE** Anti-Corruption Agencies to pursue both preventive and enforcement measures in the fight against corruption within the unique context of each country;
6. **CALL** upon Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa to strengthen co-operation and partnership with local, regional and international Civil Society and media;
7. **WELCOME** the initiatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat to establish Commonwealth benchmarks package on Anti-Corruption and integrity standards.
8. **ADVISE** Anti-Corruption Agencies to acquire polygraph technology as part of their investigative and integrity testing process;
9. **ENCOURAGE** Anti-Corruption Agencies to convey to their respective governments the importance of having Integrity Officers within government ministries, departments and agencies;
10. **FURTHER ENCOURAGE** Anti-Corruption Agencies to consider the Multi-Agency Team approach in the implementation of Anti-Corruption strategies;
11. **URGE** the Commonwealth Secretariat through the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre in Botswana to develop a training calendar based on the training needs of the Anti-Corruption Agencies;
12. **CALL** upon the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Agencies to adopt a strategy of engagement with their political elites based on their country context;

13. **FURTHER CALL** upon Heads of Government and Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Agencies to engage and empower the citizens to demand transparency, accountability and effective service delivery;
14. **REQUEST** Heads of Government in Europe, America and other jurisdictions to work towards speedy and unfettered repatriation of recovered assets to African countries;
15. **EXPRESS** appreciation to the President of the Republic of Uganda and the Inspectorate of Government for the hospitality extended to the delegates during their stay in Uganda;
16. **FURTHER EXPRESS** profound appreciation to the Commonwealth Secretariat for the continued efforts in supporting the Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa and co-sponsoring and co-organizing the ninth conference in succession;
17. **AGREE** that the next Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa in 2020 will be hosted by Rwanda in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat;
18. **ELECT** Uganda (Inspector General of Government) as the Chair and Rwanda (Chief Ombudsman) as the Vice-Chair of the Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa.

THIS COMMUNIQUE IS ISSUED IN KAMPALA, UGANDA,

ON THE

10TH DAY OF MAY 2019