

**WELCOME REMARKS BY COP MAAME YAA TIWAA ADDO-DANQUAH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EOCO AT THE 14TH COMMONWEALTH
REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
HEADS OF ANTI CORRUPTION AGENCIES IN COMMONWEALTH
AFRICA – KEMPISKI GOLD COAST HOTEL, ACCRA 5TH – 12TH MAY 2023**

Your Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the President of the Republic of Ghana and Commander in Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces.

The Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana, Her Ladyship Mrs Gertrude Torkonoo

Hon. Godfred Yeboah Dame, Attorney-General & Minister of Justice,

Honourable Ministers of State

Senior Government officials present.

Your Excellency Mr Keith McMahon, Deputy High Commissioner to Ghana representing the High Commissioner Mrs Harriet Thompson

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corp present,

Prof. Luis Franceschi, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

Dr Roger Oppong Koranteng, Head, Public Sector Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Chairperson of the Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa & Commissioner, Seychelles Anti-Corruption Commission, Ms May Di Silva.

The Board Chairman of the Economic and Organised Crime Office,
Mr Raymond Steven Dapaah -Addo and members of the Board.

The Special Prosecutor, Mr Kissi Adjabeng

Commissioner for Human Rights and Administrative Justice
represented by the Deputy Commissioner Mrs Mercy Larbi.

Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa,

The Auditor-General, Mr Johnson Akuamoah Asiedu

The Director General Internal Audit Agency Dr Eric Oduro Osae

Heads and members of Civil Society Organisations. (Ghana
Integrity Initiative, (Local Chapter of Transparency International)
Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition, Centre for Democratic
Development)

The President of the Ghana Journalist Association.

Members of the Media,

Distinguished delegates, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honour for the Economic and Organized
Crime Office (EOCO), to host on behalf of Government of Ghana
this esteemed gathering of distinguished leaders and experts. As the
Executive Director of EOCO, I welcome you all to the 14th
Commonwealth Regional Conference and Annual General Meeting

of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa under the theme “Strengthening Institutions and Promoting Transparency; A means of fighting Corruption in Commonwealth Africa.”. This conference brings together representatives of twenty-four (24) Anti-Corruption Institutions from twenty (20) Commonwealth Africa Countries in our shared quest to combat corruption.

It is worthy to note that Ghana was originally scheduled to host this conference in 2026. However, due to circumstances beyond the control of the two countries which should have preceded Ghana, the mantel fell on us to host the Conference in 2024. I am therefore grateful for the unwavering support of the Government of Ghana, which recognized the urgency of our mission and graciously provided the necessary funding to expedite this conference. This gesture is a testament to the President's commitment of tackling corruption head-on with the view to creating a more just and equitable Africa society. We are deeply appreciative of this support, which has enabled us to convene this critical gathering two years ahead of schedule. The President is here in person today to Grace the Opening Ceremony and be part of the conversation.

Mr President, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to recognise our own Dr Roger Oppong Koranteng, Head, Public Sector Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat. This annual

conferences across the commonwealth regions are his brainchild. His numerous achievements include the establishment of vibrant Associations of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa and other Commonwealth Regions to promote interagency collaboration and learning through capacity building, sharing of experiences and best practices. He has received many global awards for his work in governance and anti-corruption within the Commonwealth. Dr Koranteng, your tireless efforts in leading the fight against corruption, your dedication and expertise are the driving forces behind this Association. We are proud of you.

This conference represents a pivotal moment for our collective efforts to address one of the most pressing challenges facing our nations. Corruption undermines the very fabric of our societies, corrodes public confidence in our institutions, and suppresses economic development. As representatives of anti-corruption Agencies from across the Commonwealth Africa, we bear a solemn duty to confront this menace head-on and uphold the principles of integrity, rule of law, transparency, and accountability.

Over the next few days, we have a unique opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue, share experiences, and forge meaningful partnerships which will strengthen our capacity to combat corruption effectively. The exchange of ideas and best practices will be invaluable as we seek to identify innovative strategies and

solutions to the complex and evolving nature of corruption in our respective countries and learn from each other's successes and setbacks.

I urge each of you to actively participate in the discussions, listen with open mind, and contribute your perspectives and knowledge towards our common goal. Together, we can leverage the collective wisdom and experiences of this esteemed assembly to chart a course towards a future free from the shackles of corruption.

As we embark on this journey, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to uphold the values of integrity, accountability, and justice. Let us work tirelessly to restore public trust in our Institutions and build a brighter, more prosperous future for all our citizens.

Once again, I extend my warmest welcome to every one of you to our beautiful country. May our deliberations be rewarding, our bonds strengthened, and our resolve fortified in the pursuit of a corruption-free Commonwealth Africa Let us embark on this crucial journey together! let the conversations begin!"

Thank you.