



CONCEPT NOTE

THE 15th COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCIES IN AFRICA TO BE HELD IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

5 - 9 MAY 2025

Introduction

Tackling corruption brings multiple benefits; poverty is reduced, economic stability and growth are increased, and standards of living raised. This is why various Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) mandates oblige the Commonwealth Secretariat to support member states to develop and adopt measures and strategies to combat corruption and improve governance. To this end, Commonwealth Secretariat has prioritised anti-corruption work to strengthen good governance through reduction in corruption and thereby promoting accountability and integrity in the Commonwealth.

In pursuit of the above, Commonwealth Secretariat has provided a visible and tangible demonstration of its commitment to support member countries' anti-corruption efforts, through networking, capacity building, policy, research, exchange of best practices and sharing of tools and frameworks.

In 2011, the Commonwealth Secretariat manifested this pursuit by establishing a successful and vibrant Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa (AAACoA). The purpose of this forum is; To promote inter-agency collaboration and learning through the sharing of experiences and best practices; To encourage the sharing of expertise and knowledge in areas where member countries have a comparative advantage; and to promote Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and study trips aimed at sharing of successful and innovative anti-corruption projects.

Every year, the Commonwealth Secretariat organises a Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa to discuss countries experiences in the fight against corruption, challenges encountered, and possible solutions and benchmarking.

In 2024, the Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa held in Ghana Accra, members agreed that the next



Commonwealth Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Africa in 2025 would be hosted by South Africa in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Association is composed of Anti-Corruption Agencies from 21 African countries being Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Ghana, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.

Theme of the Conference

The 15th Commonwealth Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Africa will take place in Cape town, South Africa from 5 - 9 May 2025.

Objectives of the Conference

The objective of the Conference is to bring together the Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa to share and adopt strategies in the fight against corruption under the theme **"Enhancing an Inclusive Participation of State and Non-State Actors to Prevent and Combat Corruption"**. Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa will discuss how inclusive participation of all stakeholders impacts anti-corruption efforts in Africa.

Expected outcomes of the Conference

The Conference is expected to come up with important resolutions useful for the fight against corruption. Sharing best practices will help member states to learn from others to enable them to initiate or update their strategies to fight corruption. Some specific expected outcomes of the Conference shall be:

- Anti-Corruption Agencies strengthened to fight corruption in Commonwealth Africa.
- Improved Ideas, strategies, and solutions for corruption control.
- Corruption control through Innovative strategies.
- Progress towards Achieving SDG 16 through best practices from members countries and experts.
- Strengthened Anti-Corruption Agencies' productive capacities through inclusive participation of state and non-state actors as well as international collaboration and cooperation.
- Enhanced learning through the sharing of country, regional and international experience resulting in significant institutional capacity to deal with corrupt practices.

Conference Duration, Venue, and Sight-seeing



The conference is from Monday 5 - 9 May 2025 to be held at Westin Cape town Hotel, Cape town, South Africa.