

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON CORRUPTION

and the Challenge of Economic Transformation
in Southern Africa



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

18-20 JUNE 2018
GABORONE

1. Preamble

The Subregional Office for Southern Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office, in collaboration with the Botswana Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime, organized a regional conference on corruption and the challenge of economic transformation in Southern Africa, in Gaborone from 18 to 20 June 2018. The African Union had declared 2018 as the year of anti-corruption under the theme “Winning the fight against corruption: a sustainable path to Africa’s transformation”. The conference was centred on this declaration. The debates focused on the realization that the goal of economic transformation remains elusive, even though African leaders have crafted economic development blueprints, such as the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and Agenda 2063. These initiatives are bolstered by national development plans in different African countries. Some of the issues that have stalled African efforts at radical economic transformation are policy inconsistency, governance challenges, leadership inertia and, more importantly, corruption. There is mounting evidence that corruption, labelled in its varied forms as state capture and grand and petty corruption, is the root of the resource haemorrhage from Africa, engendering rent-seeking and unproductive behaviour, capital flight, misallocation and misappropriation of scarce resources, missed investment opportunities, retarded growth, deteriorating social services, worsening inequalities and a poor governance culture in African economies. All of these undermine the goal of economic transformation in Southern Africa and in Africa, in general.

The regional conference has provided a platform for rigorous intellectual debate and policy dialogue on the issue of corruption in Southern Africa and how it could be addressed. The conference brought together high-calibre scholars, policymakers, political leaders, civil-society organizations, and regional and international

institutions, with the objective to synthesize workable solutions to reduce if not eliminate corruption in order to foster inclusive economic transformation capable of addressing the socioeconomic problems brought about by corruption.

2. Attendance

The regional conference was attended by academics and researchers from universities and research institutions from the following countries: Botswana; Congo; Kenya; Lesotho; Liberia; Mauritius; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Nigeria; Seychelles; South Africa; Uganda; United Republic of Tanzania; Zambia and Zimbabwe. The participants and delegates included representatives of national anti-corruption institutions from the following member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC): Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following organizations were represented at the conference: African Peer Review Mechanism; African Union Commission; African Women’s Development and Communication Network; Anti-Corruption Trust of Southern Africa; Botswana Centre for Public Integrity; Botswana Institute of Development and Policy Analysis; Center for Excellence International Consult; Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre; Deloitte; Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries; International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance; Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (Lesotho); German Agency for International Cooperation; International Organization for Migration (IOM); Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München; Malawi Revenue Authority; New African magazine; Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa; Pan-African Citizens Network; Ports Management Authority for Eastern and Southern Africa; Ministry of Public Enterprises (Namibia); Produce Africa; SADC; SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organizations; Southern Africa Research and Documentation Centre, Transparency International (Zambia);

Tyedo Investments; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Botswana); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); (Botswana), as well as representatives of media houses from Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia.

Representatives of the following ministries and departments of the Government of Botswana attended the conference: Auditor General's Office; Bank of Botswana; Botswana Unified Revenue Service; Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services; Competition Authority of Botswana; Directorate of Public Prosecutions; Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime; House of Chiefs; International Affairs and Cooperation; International Law Enforcement Academy; Investment, Trade and Industry; Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security; Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services; Office of the Ombudsman; Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration; Transport and Communications; and Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board

The list of participants is in the annex.

3. Programme of work

The proceedings of the regional conference were guided by the following agenda:

- i. Official opening
- ii. Media briefing
- iii. Plenary session I: Conceptual and theoretical issues
- iv. Plenary session II: Governance, politics and corruption
- v. Round table discussion: Strengthening the media in the anti-corruption crusade: constraints, opportunities and challenges
- vi. Round table discussion: Building coalitions in the fight against corruption: lessons and policy

options

- vii. Parallel sessions I, II and III: The economics of corruption
- viii. Parallel session IV: Illicit financial flows
- ix. Parallel session IV: Public information and the public sphere
- x. Plenary session: Regional and national institutions
- xi. Plenary session: Future perspectives
- xii. Presentation of outcome statement
- xiii. Closing ceremony

4. Account of proceedings

i. Official opening

The opening session included: introductions of the dignitaries sitting at the main table; delivery of opening remarks by Nonfo Molefhi, Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration; remarks by Said Adejumobi, Director of the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for Southern Africa and Auguste Ngomo, African Union Regional Delegate for Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi, the President of the Republic of Botswana, officially opened the regional conference before the delivery of the keynote address by Amos Sawyer, former President of the Republic of Liberia.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation, Gaeimelwe Goitseman, introduced the guests: Mr. Molefhi; Mr. Masisi; Slumber Tsogwane, Vice-President of the Republic of Botswana; Mr. Sawyer; the Chief Justice and; the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security; Mr. Ngomo and Mr. Adejumobi. He also acknowledged the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the Presidential Affairs Ministry, the Director General of the Botswana Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime, diplomatic missions, regional heads of anti-corruption institutions in Southern Africa, permanent secretaries for various ministries in Botswana, senior

academics, former Director Generals of Botswana Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime, and other distinguished guests and participants

In his remarks, Mr. Molefhi emphasized that it was an honour for the Government of Botswana to host such a high-level regional event. He observed that the presence of diverse stakeholders at the meeting would help in setting targets in the fight against corruption in the region, and would facilitate the sharing and exchange of views, counsel, guidance and direction in addressing its economic costs. The Minister advised that Botswana was open to hosting such meetings as they enabled the country to learn from its peers. He implored participants to be candid, objective and truthful as they discussed corruption in their own countries and encouraged participants to visit Gaborone and explore not only tourism facilities but also business opportunities.

Mr. Adejumbi thanked the President and the Government of Botswana for accepting to host the two meetings, which were jointly organized by the African Union Southern African Regional Office, the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for Southern Africa and the Botswana Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime. He also thanked Mr. Sawyer for accepting to be the keynote speaker. The Director highlighted that Botswana had remained a beacon of hope in the fight against corruption because of its well-governed institutions and resources. The African Union declaration of 2018 as the year of anti-corruption meant that the meetings had a key function to spotlight the scourge of corruption and its effects on growth and social welfare, in order to map workable solutions. Corruption accounted for poor development, accentuated poverty, ignited conflicts, retarded economic growth, undermined public and social services, and devalued the State and the people. In addition, good and progressive leadership can help in building strong institutions, diffuse the tensions and risk-premium associated with the struggle for power and curb corruption in the State and society. The promotion of fiscal transparency, open financial governance, budget monitoring, capacity and relative autonomy for anti-corruption bodies and horizontal accountability institutions, a decent and honest

judiciary system, and active media, civil society and citizenry underpin the development of a corruption-free society. He said the regional conference sought to generate fresh ideas, perspectives and policy recommendations in addressing corruption in Southern Africa and the consultative meeting sought to provide a platform for sharing experiences, best practices and lessons learned. The goal was to increase the capacity of national anti-corruption institutions in Southern Africa. Furthermore, the consultative meeting also sought to consider the establishment of a network of anti-corruption institutions in the region as a platform to strengthen the fight against corruption.

Mr. Ngomo thanked the President and the Botswana people for the warm hospitality and for hosting the conference and the meeting and for Botswana's outstanding record in fighting corruption. He noted that, although corruption had continued unabated, notable progress had been made in combating it by Governments and non-State actors since the introduction of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. He reminded the meeting that the African Union Assembly had declared 2018 as the "African year of anti-corruption" based on the theme "Winning the fight against corruption: a sustainable path to Africa's transformation". He emphasized that corruption eroded the development of a universal culture of good governance, democratic values, gender equality and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law and that addressing corruption would support the development of Africa and accelerate the goal of economic transformation. The two meetings had promoted the pollination of knowledge, policy debate and new recommendations on addressing the problem of corruption in Southern Africa. The events also promoted the sharing of experiences, lessons learned, best practices and the establishment of a network of national anti-corruption institutions in Southern Africa. Mr. Ngomo noted that, whereas 73 per cent of SADC member States were globally ranked in the "low and medium corruption" perceptions group in Africa, 87 per cent of the States had declining rankings and only 13 per cent were "stable" or better off. Corruption was a man-made problem and

required the reinforcement of current tools, a changed mindset and strengthened institutions. There is a need for awareness as a way of creating active citizens' participation in the fight against corruption.

As he officially opened the regional conference, the President of the Republic of Botswana commended the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for Southern Africa and the African Union Southern African Regional Office for organizing the conference and for involving the Government of Botswana in bringing together the participants. He expressed appreciation for the collaboration with the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime and for the participation of anti-corruption institutions from the rest of the SADC member States. The President stressed that the diverse participation enabled stakeholders to share knowledge and experience in the fight against corruption and pledged his country's zero tolerance on corruption, while noting that corruption impeded the ability of Governments to carry out their mandate of facilitating social and economic development effectively and efficiently. The formation of national anti-corruption institutions in Africa had shown the strides made by African Governments in combating the misallocation of resources and the distortion of incentives, among other inefficiencies. SADC, through the SADC Protocol, was also committed to the fight against corruption through the strengthening of mechanisms to detect, punish and eradicate corruption; and promote cooperation among the States parties to ensure the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives in the public and private sectors. The heads of the anti-corruption agencies in Southern Africa had established a forum, the Southern African Forum on Anti-Corruption, with the purpose of collaborating and implementing the provisions of the SADC Protocol on Corruption. The President reiterated that Governments were expected to nurture sound policies on governance, accountability, internal and audit controls and adherence to the rule of law and prosecution of perpetrators of corruption. He further advised that the fight against corruption must involve all stakeholders including State and non-State actors, such as the private sector, civil-society organizations, academia and the media. The President advised that provision of expert advice was essential in the fight

against corruption through capacity-building and exchanging information on best practices in anti-corruption policies. Government ministries had established anti-corruption committees, a sign of their seriousness to fight corruption. Furthermore, the enactment of the Proceeds and Instruments of Crime Act and of the Whistle-Blowing Act had strengthened the anti-corruption framework in Botswana. Botswana had established a Specialized Corruption Court and was in the process of tabling a bill on the declaration of assets and liabilities by top government officials. The meeting that Botswana was host to the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre, serving Commonwealth countries in Africa. He concluded by welcoming expert advice to the Botswana Government on public-sector reform with the view of achieving meaningful economic transformation, while declaring the conference officially open.

Mr. Sawyer commended the Government of Botswana for hosting the conference and congratulated President Masi on his ascendency to the Presidency. He also thanked the President for officially opening the conference and for the warm hospitality. He observed the progress made in Africa in ending autocratic Governments, entrenching constitutionalism, establishing independent legislatures and judiciaries, introducing electoral democracy and creating space for civil-society activism. He noted the positive and uneven results, but added that Africa had also introduced market reforms and was seeking to transform economies through industrialization to raise the living standards of the people. He indicated that the conference has presented an opportunity for the discussion of a major obstacle to economic transformation – corruption and had noted that corruption affected institutions and processes of governance. Its ugly head had undermined economic development initiatives, perverted decision-making processes, shifted resources away from productive uses and contributed to the resilience of poverty and disease in societies. Studies on corruption had recommended a holistic approach to the fight against corruption through understanding institutional flaws and their effect in creating perverse incentives as well as how people who acted badly perverted weak

institutions. The synergies of weak institutions across government departments had created a culture of corruption. Accordingly, the fight against corruption had to revamp governance in all levels of government. Good-quality governance had ensured that processes and actors performed their duties with accountability, transparency and in an inclusive manner. The conference would discuss ways of improving institutions and key individuals. He explained the critical role of political parties, the legislature and the executive in the fight against corruption, but he also said that the public service had specific undesirable traits which had perpetuated corruption and must be managed.

Mr. Sawyer observed that the accountability, transparency and the inclusive nature of political parties were all important in dealing with corruption and inculcating the values of a corruption-free society. This was because of the critical role that political parties played in governance, including their internal governance, the selection of leaders and candidates, the role of women in governance, how the parties nurture young members and activists, the nature of party ideology, their strategies for mobilizing funds and their transparency in expenditure of funds.

Mr. Sawyer emphasized that the legislature was an important institution for promoting accountability and good governance and implementing public policy in countries with democratic systems of governance that were characterized by the separation of powers. He underscored that an independent legislature free from partisan politics was adept in promoting sound governance structures capable of observing commendable transparency and accountability.

Mr. Sawyer then underscored the importance of the executive in the anti-corruption crusade, noting that the executive must act to promote good governance and remain ethical in the conduct of its duties to build a culture of reduced corruption. Failures and perversities that could result if the institutional and individual prerogatives of the executive were abused and misused could do greater harm in the governance system than failures and perversities caused in any other single source of governance authority.

Finally, Mr. Sawyer highlighted that the challenge for the public service was to strengthen professionalism, autonomy and merit-based structures in the civil service and to instil them, through knowledge and demonstrated leadership, a developmental ideology or mindset, and a commitment to the execution of the development agenda without demanding unflinching partisan loyalty from civil servants. A partisan public service was susceptible to corruption and deterioration of standards in the public service, which would afflict poor people.

The former President underscored the importance of civil-society organizations in the fight against corruption and argued that African civil-society organizations needed to be given more space and responsibility in that fight. They should be empowered to take the lead in building the knowledge base and skills of Africans so that the population would be more informed as they participate in ensuring accountability and transparency in governance. The media were equally important in the fight against corruption.

He observed that the African Peer Review Mechanism was an important platform in the fight against corruption and had potential to improve the quality of governance on the continent further than the solid contribution it was currently making. The Forum of Heads of State and Government under the African Peer Review Mechanism was a unique platform for critical but respectful and collegial review of the performance of African Governments from which issues of corruption could be discussed and tackled

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Sawyer observed that weak institutions and weak processes of State governance produced perversities that cultivated corrupt acts. He emphasized, as a result, that leaders must respect the rule of law and maintain strength of character, the vision and the will to do the right thing in ensuring that institutions were strengthened. It would take the combined and sustained efforts of actors at the local, national, subregional and regional levels and in all domains of governance, including the political, cultural and social realms, to develop a culture of good governance and to sustain the fight against corruption.

After the official opening, the conference proceeded into plenary and parallel sessions (based on specific themes) and round table discussions on various matters around corruption. The details of these sessions follow.

ii. Media briefing

A media briefing was organized so that representatives from the media houses could pose questions to the high-level delegates present, including from the Government of Botswana and the organizers of the meeting from the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for Southern Africa and the African Union Southern African Regional Office.

iii. Plenary session I: Conceptual and theoretical issues on corruption

Two papers were presented during this session, which was chaired by an officer from the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for Southern Africa. The papers included outlines on, the conceptual issues around corruption and its effects on development and good governance analyses of the impact of corruption using theoretical settings regarding reinforcement, punishment and extinction ideology. The presentations showed that corruption was worsening in the region based on various corruption metrics and the dimensions and magnitudes of corruption scandals in most Southern African countries. During the session, it was noted that the most common causes of corruption were to maximize one's own well-being, the "grabbing hand" theory¹, rent appropriation, implicit rules, lack of transparency, and unrestrained power or power concentration.

The discussants, Mr. Gideon G. Jalata and Mr. Garth Le Pere, stressed the need to define corruption as a plague not only in the public sector but also in the private sector. They both noted that corruption had had a negative effect on the socioeconomic status of African countries and was a global threat to

governance and the business environment. In line with the reinforcement, punishment and extinction ideology, the discussants called for strong institutions and legislation that could help in the fight against corruption. They said that a lasting reduction could be made in corruption if there were more resources for the fight against it, better political will, mapping of the sectors affected by corruption, lessons drawn from best performers, and engaging of a unified, inclusive and comprehensive force in the harmonization and localization of the fight against corruption. They emphasized that the promotion of accountability, transparency, rule of law and the participation of citizens remained key in levelling the business playing field, promoting regional integration and cutting the cost of doing business.

In the ensuing discussions, the participants emphasized that measurements of corruption needed to be revisited to incorporate new forms of the vice. Anti-corruption institutions needed to be properly resourced and empowered to deliver their mandate and they should be insulated from interference by politicians.

iv. Plenary session II: Governance, politics and corruption

The session was chaired by a professor from the University of Mauritius, Sheila Bunware, and included the presentation of four papers anchored by two discussant interventions.

The four papers dealt with the politics associated with governance and corruption and contained lessons pertaining to the subject matter from Lesotho, South Africa and Zambia. The institutionalization of corruption in Lesotho was noted to be a result of partisan politics and abuse of executive powers. Institutionalized corruption was labelled as the prime cause of poor service delivery in the civil service. Presentations about South Africa showed the negative effect of the dominance of one political outfit on local governance, the shortfalls of the Zuma administration

¹ A branch of public-choice theory advanced by Andrei Shleifer (Harvard University) and Robert Vishny (University of Chicago) in 1998 which portrays Government not as a "helping hand" to development but as controlled by politicians who "do not maximize social welfare and instead pursue their own selfish objectives".

with respect to the abuse of executive powers and its effect on entrenched corrupt tendencies in all facets of governance, as well as the case of “state capture” by the Gupta family. During the session, it was also noted that corrupt leadership affected investment ratings, and in that way corruption took its toll on the economy and stock markets. Partisan appointments devoid of merit also undermined efficiency in all levels of governance. Using the example of widespread land acquisition in Zambia, it was observed that weak governance structures and poor information dissemination sustained land corruption in Zambia, whereas corrupt tendencies in Lesotho were linked to politicized public-service staffing.

The discussants, Mr. Abdul Lamin and Mr. Munetsi Madakufamba, echoed the need for apt governance as the solution to institutionalized corruption.

The participants echoed the observations of the discussants and called for the development of another measure or metric for measuring corruption that captured areas that had not been incorporated in the existing measures of corruption, as corruption had continued to become more complicated. They noted that corruption was costly for countries struggling with inadequate resources to finance socioeconomic development and that it needed to be rooted out. They said that people found to be corrupt should be punished and that the punishment should be severe enough to be a deterrent. They alluded to a continued rise in corruption, despite the creation of numerous institutional frameworks and institutions in all countries.

v. Plenary round-table discussion on strengthening the media in the anti-corruption crusade: constraints, opportunities and challenges

This round table discussion was chaired by Mr. Anver Versi, Editor of New African Magazine. It included six media practitioners from media houses in Southern Africa. The participants discussed the key role the media played in exposing corruption and the challenges associated with that role. The panel

members reflected on the constraints faced by the media in different countries, identified opportunities to remedy the challenges and explored new ways and means of investigating and reporting corruption. The following questions were used to guide the round-table discussion:

- i. How do you assess the role and performance of the media in fighting corruption?
- ii. What challenges confront the media in fighting corruption?
- iii. How does media ownership affect the actions or inactions of media practitioners in the fight against corruption?
- iv. How do you see State media relations in your country and how does this affect the media’s role in fighting corruption?
- v. How does corruption affect the media internally? Are there cases of corrupt media practitioners, and how are these handled?
- vi. What kind of partnership is necessary for the media to strengthen its capacity in fighting corruption?
- vii. What are your preferred policy recommendations for strengthening media capacity in the fight against corruption?

The panel members stated that the primary role of the media was to inform, educate and provide a platform for debating issues of national interest and checks and balances on issues around politics, public service, corruption and governance. Although the outcome of such reporting varied from one country to another, the panellists noted that ministers, presidents and other public officials were either dismissed from their jobs or had voluntarily vacated their offices after the media had publicized financial, bribery or corruption scandals involving them. They shared a list of examples of ministers, prime ministers and former presidents who either were let go or resigned because of the media. The measures by which people could judge whether the media made a fair contribution in the fight against corruption were unbiased reporting on

corruption and investigative work done by journalists. The media kept the public informed through daily and weekly newspapers, online platforms, web, radio and videos, and through media houses' active presence on all social media platforms. In that way, journalists and media houses could keep the pressure on until public opinion joined in and demanded the resignation of those involved in alleged acts of corruption.

Despite the good work by the media in fighting corruption, panellists identified common challenges that the media faced, including: harassment, intimidation, denial of government advertising opportunities, defamation of journalists, and exhausting journalists through court cases that were often dismissed by the justice system as frivolous. Furthermore, government interference often compromised corruption investigations by the media, as did criminalizing searches by journalists and others looking for incriminating information. However, potential whistle-blowers were motivated to supply leads if a journalist established a reputation for being candid and showed that he or she had the ability to protect his or her sources. In addition, corrupt media personnel had remained a major challenge and stalled objective reporting that was free of bias. The panellists hinted that corruption should be restrained from creeping into the media as it distorted objective and authentic reporting, and breached media ethics and best practices, thereby concealing corruption and its consequences. Panellists stressed the need for fearless reporting that would be devoid of bias and favouritism in order to expose corruption. They said that major threats remained political and economic ostracization from the political parties, stringent media laws, culture and tradition, and inadequate funding. The panellists narrated case-studies of governments harassing journalists or subjecting them to intimidation and false allegations designed to silence them. Despite that, the media had remained strong and resolute in exposing corruption in most countries in Southern Africa.

With regards to funding or ownership, the panellists emphasized that the integrity of the media was

affected by the form of ownership, including whether it was publicly or privately owned. Private media owners and practitioners were criminalized if their media houses reported corruption in the Government. In addition, death threats had been issued to journalists, and in most African countries, there were cases when journalists were actually killed. That had pressured some journalists towards self-censorship and exile. By contrast, when Government had owned the media, journalists had tended to be more aligned with the Government and mostly biased against exposing corruption in the public sector, although that was not always the case. Effectively, public and private media played different roles in the fight against corruption, with privately owned media being more active.

Major opportunities in reporting corruption had risen from collaborating with law-enforcement agents and the judiciary through using skills in investigative journalism to unearth corrupt actions. It was important that journalists coordinated their work, as corruption crossed national frontiers, for example in the case of "the platinum card scandal",² which involved various Southern African players and led the former President of Mauritius to resign. Publishing articles on specific corruption cases simultaneously in different countries helped to pressurize Governments in various parts of the region and Africa to act. Such evidence is shared with law-enforcement agencies in cases where legal action is appropriate.

The panellists reiterated that the contribution of the media could best be harnessed if the media were independent, observed professionalism, avoided bribes and formed coalitions with law-enforcement agents and the judiciary. They noted that the source of funding of the media had the potential to skew reporting. The panellists recommended that security should be provided to investigative journalists, especially in volatile and violent environments. The media could also push for independent institutions that could take a stand against corruption if the media reported malpractices in the way government institutions were constituted.

² The scandal was around spending on a platinum credit card given to former Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim by a science foundation linked to an Angolan businessman, Alvaro Sobrinho. It led to her resignation as President.

Participants observed that independent media institutions were in a better position to expose corruption compared to partisan institutions. They called for strengthened independence of the media. They also argued that Governments must demand transparency in the way media were owned to strike a balance in the reporting. Media regulators should be independent. The meeting encouraged media houses to have internal ethical and integrity systems with clear code of conduct and ways of addressing conflicts of interest and treatment of gifts and presents, in order to build credibility and ensure fair and unbiased reporting on corruption. The participants reiterated the important role of the media in reporting cases of corruption and in fighting the vice.

vi. Round-table discussion: Building coalitions in the fight against corruption, lessons and policy options

This round table was chaired by Mr. Adebayo Olukoshi from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. The panellists were drawn from a wide spectrum of organizations engaged in fighting corruption, including Transparency International (Zambia), and also included top experts from sociology and citizen networks. They noted the remarks from Mr. Sawyer on the need to wield a consolidated front to fight corruption and discussed key coalitions that could be forged and the various forms such coalitions could take, as a new way of fighting corruption. The gist of the discussion was that fighting corruption while operating in separate silos had failed to yield the needed result, namely an environment free of corruption.

The panel members stressed that corruption was becoming more complex as many sectors had become intertwined. Corruption had spread into the judiciary, management of the environment, the financial sector, including money laundering and illicit financial flows, pharmaceuticals, the police service and the education sector. It was not limited to those sectors. As new forms of corruption were developed that were previously unknown to authorities, anti-corruption bodies were always lagging behind the new developments.

Forming inclusive coalitions was the only way to curb corruption under those circumstances. The participation of the general public, political parties, Governments and civil-society organizations could enhance the fight against corruption. Such coalitions could be formal or informal, communicated or uncommunicated. However, it was noted that it was sometimes not easy to forge coalitions because economies were normally divided into the private and the public sectors and civil-society organizations. Organizations in each of these sectors had pursued different, and sometimes opposing, objectives, which made it difficult to design and implement a common agenda for fighting corruption.

The panellists raised the need to raise resources to fund coalitions. They said that joining coalitions should be an informed decision for all the parties involved. Coalitions remained critical, as some sectors of society were not informed on issues related to corruption and they needed to be educated about corruption and become more aware of it before they would participate in the fight against corruption. Looking forward, because corruption had become multifaceted, coalitions consisting of citizens, the media, civil-society organizations, the Government and the legal system might do better at fighting the vice. It was noted in the round-table discussion that coalitions could also involve other Governments and anti-corruption institutions, given the need to stop transnational corruption, including cross-border money laundering, illicit financial flows and smuggling of goods. It had then become the prerogative of the stakeholders in the fight against corruption to determine the form and type of coalition that was relevant to their own circumstances.

In the ensuing discussions, the participants reiterated the importance of the collaboration of all stakeholders at national and regional levels to intensify the fight against corruption. Although building coalitions against corruption could be expensive, participants were of the view that by facilitating the pooling of resources and expertise, coalitions could efficiently and effectively tackle corruption in the private and public sectors.

vii. Parallel session I: The economics of corruption

The panel, chaired by Mr. Garth Le Pere, was informed by four papers, which were focused on: corruption and economic development in the Southern African Development Community (SADC); corruption, public investment and economic growth; public spending on governance institutions and development effectiveness; as well as the causality dynamics of corruption and economic growth in Zimbabwe.

In one of the papers, it was noted that using the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)³ had improved the understanding of corruption significantly as the Index indicated how a lower level of perceived corruption could be linked to better economic growth. It could show that low levels of corruption enhance the attractiveness of a country to foreign direct investment (FDI) and that a Government's oversight had to be aimed at lowering corruption at all levels of governance in order to boost growth as a result of foreign investment.

A key point underlined in the paper on public spending on governance underlined that insufficient expenditure on those institutions undermined their effectiveness. The key message of the paper was that, while transparency in budget allocations did not guarantee better outcomes, better quality governance institutions could create an enabling environment for efficient utilization of public funds.

The paper on corruption, public investment, and economic growth showed that corruption was most prevalent in cases in which other forms of institutional inefficiency were present, such as bureaucratic red tape and weak legislative and judicial systems. Such inefficiencies had affected not only investment but also economic growth. The paper on the causality dynamics of corruption in Zimbabwe showed the short-term relationship between corruption and economic growth. It was also notable that past corruption affected current economic growth, so the Government needed to stamp out corruption today if leaders want the economy to flourish in the future.

³ Published by Transparency International.

The discussants commended the efforts of the authors, though they requested more insight into the methodologies used as a way to improve the quality of the findings. Various measures of corruption were also recommended as a way of validating the studies, which had been based on the Corruption Perceptions Index. Participants took the view that, although the index was indicative, more rigorous methodologies were needed to measure the levels of corruption in both the public and private sectors. They concurred that corruption adversely affected economic growth and development both directly and indirectly.

Parallel session II: The economics of corruption

The session was informed by four papers, which explored the link between corruption and economic performance. Ms. Maureen Achieng Akena chaired the session, and Mr. Ghebre Meskel and Ms. Delice Zakeyo were the discussants.

The papers were focused on: taxation, foreign aid and governance; corruption and unemployment; foreign aid and corruption in Malawi; and the determinants of corrupt practices in public procurement in the United Republic of Tanzania. The emerging issues and general observations from those presentations emphasized the need for new laws or better enforcement of existing tax policies and strategies. The presenters observed that the subregion had sufficient instruments and frameworks, including whistle-blower policies, to fight corruption, but it had lacked capacity to effectively implement them. They added that anti-corruption institutions across the SADC region were not effective because of apparent executive interference. They also observed that the stringent conditions tied to foreign aid bred corruption as authorities tried to "beat the system".

After the presentations, the discussion covered the need to evaluate the role of aid in the fight against corruption in order to avoid perverse incentives which block mobilization of domestic resources. In other words, aid should not discourage local taxation but complement it. Given the abuse of aid by government officials, during the ongoing discussion, public officials were called upon to declare assets and income

truthfully before and after serving public office. Where government officials were complicit in corrupt acts, penalties should be strengthened, while ensuring that proceeds of crime were forfeited to the State through asset recovery. Other divergent views aired during this session were premised on factors that impeded SADC member States from implementing conventions on corruption. It was stated that it was necessary to incorporate not only legal perspectives but also ethical dimensions when fighting corruption. The participants emphasized that citizens, local communities and the media should be empowered to engage effectively in the fight against corruption. They said that women should be included in all strategies for combating corruption in order that effective outcomes could be realized. Participants lamented the inability of anti-corruption institutions to discharge their functions fully and ascribed that to such factors as interference from the political establishment and the general lack of technical and financial capacity.

viii. Parallel session III: The economics of corruption

This session was chaired by Ms. Louise Penna Shixwameni and was informed by five papers. The discussants were Mr. Karuti Kayinga and Mr. Festus Odubajo. The papers included in-depth discussions on following: the evidence on corruption and economic progress in sub-Saharan Africa; tax administration and corruption in Malawi; exploring the directives of ethics and accountability in supply-chain management; corruption and its connection with exploitation of mineral resources and economic development; and the relevance of African sociocultural values in curbing corruption. Given the controversy⁴ as to whether corruption has a “sanding” or “greasing” effect on the wheels of economic growth, reviews of evidence from sub-Saharan Africa showed that corruption adversely affected growth despite the varying degrees of corruption among the countries. The costs linked to investigating, monitoring and punishing corruption,

as well as the use of technology, were matched with a resultant decline in corruption levels. The author of the paper on tax administration and corruption in Malawi noted that political interference, neopatrimonialism⁵ and weak legislation were key factors fuelling corruption in tax administration.

The paper on ethics and accountability in supply-chain management indicated that there were inadequate systems to identify and disclose irregular expenditure, and the performances of providers and contractors were not monitored. As a result, allegations had remained rampant of fraud, corruption and improper conduct in supply-chain processes and internal controls were ineffective, thereby weakening economies. The presenter recommended that ethical conduct and accountability be promoted in supply-chain management to underpin economic transformation. The presenter of the paper on corruption and mineral exploitation in Mozambique highlighted that the mineral “blessing” remained a “curse” because secrecy around mining rights meant that individuals could accumulate wealth, but there was less benefit to the general development of the country. The author on the relevance of African sociocultural values in the fight against corruption emphasized that social values, cultural values and self-efficacy were significant factors in influencing transparency, accountability and ethical compliance in curbing corruption in public procurement.

The discussants echoed the need to enact and enforce strict laws on public procurement, management of value chains, taxation and contracting in order to promote transparency and accountability. Participants reiterated the link between poverty and tendencies to carry out corrupt practices and argued that raising standards of living required that the incidence of corruption in the region be minimized. They called for the efficient allocation of resources to sectors, which can underpin development and create jobs.

⁴ It has been suggested by some authors that corruption “greases the wheels” of growth in situations of bad governance, by facilitating trade that otherwise may not have happened and helping people to overcome obstructive regulations. However, many studies claim that corruption “sands the wheels” and has a negative impact on investment, human capital accumulation, growth and other measures of progress.

⁵ Neopatrimonialism occurs when patrons use State resources to win loyalty from clients who are part of the general public.

ix. Parallel session: Illicit financial flows

Mr. Andre Mangu chaired this session, in which five papers were presented. The discussants were Mr. Check Achu and Ms. Margaret Sengwaketse. The following topics were covered in the papers: causes and economic links; assessment of the effect of illicit financial flows in the diamond and platinum mining sectors; domestic resource mobilization through curbing illegal financial flows; addressing money laundering in Kenya; and the future of corruption in Africa.

In the papers, it was noted that corruption and money laundering were not mutually exclusive but that they reinforced each other. Accordingly, people could not effectively tackle one without the other. It was also argued that the fight against illegal financial flows should not be focused only on the public sector but it also be directed to the private sector. Furthermore, it was noted that the channels of transmission and the destination of those flows, including existing tax havens, should be identified in order to reduce the flows. The authors noted that, at a practical level, the proceeds from illegal financial flows were not ploughed into communities through donations or so-called support to community projects. In the paper on diamond and platinum mining, it was shown that Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe were affected by the misinvoicing of diamonds and platinum. Coordination at the country level was identified as a potent tool in fighting illegal financial flows. In that regard, enabling interministerial coordination was mooted as a way of engaging stakeholders in curbing illegal financial flows and promoting transparency around mineral investment.

In their interventions, the discussants noted that illegal financial flows were caused by corruption, illegal exploitation of national resources and tax evasion. They said that plugging loopholes would help curb illegal financial flows and that the region was increasingly losing resources through illegal financial flows, which had negatively affected economic growth. The discussants noted that going forward, Governments need to gain an understanding about “cyber-laundering” not only because it was a new

arsenal of tools for executing illegal financial flows, but also because that technology would remain and would forever be used in “laundering” money across borders.

Participants commended the authors for the focus on illegal financial flows and observed that African countries were being denied development opportunities because of the illegal outflow of financial resources. They called for collaboration in fighting this vice. They also observed that the illegal outflow of financial resources from resource-rich countries continued to be more complicated and accordingly, countries needed to enhance their capacity to detect and prosecute such crimes.

x. Parallel session: Public information and the public sphere

Mr. Innocent Bayai from the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for Southern Africa chaired the session, in which five papers were presented and discussed by Mr. Alouis Chaumba and Mr. Botho Seboko. The papers were mainly centred on the use of information in exposing corruption and using the evidence in prosecutions of corrupt people. They contained supporting evidence that corruption generated a trail of information, which could be used to initiate investigations and to build strong cases against corrupt individuals.

The presenters observed that citizen journalism and the use of social media had enabled the powerless to express their concerns and share information about corruption wherever they were, and that this was important in the fight against corruption. They also highlighted the importance of keeping records and advised that appropriate management of records in government offices enhanced good governance and should be promoted. Suggestions were made on how to ensure that the records were kept in formats that were not easily destroyed. The presenters further highlighted that good governance directly imposed a business environment free of corruption and thus reduced the costs associated with navigating a corrupt

environment. The manner in which information about corruption was presented and disseminated had implications for the effectiveness and impact of the fight against corruption. With regard to the education sector, the presenters alluded to corruption in the sector and called for action to bring integrity back to institutions of higher learning in order to enable proper training of learners.

The discussants observed that there was a need to harness the strength and power of information in the public and private sectors as a way to expose corruption. In that respect, crafting explicit and clear laws and innovative ways to disseminate corruption information were important. Deductively, courts and investigators were encouraged to tap into the various information sources in their continuing quest to unravel corruption.

xi. Parallel session III: Regional and national institutions

Five papers were presented in the session covering the role played by regional and national institutions in the fight against corruption and how to tackle related issues. The chair was Mrs. Sabina Seja, a board member of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption. Mr. Simal Amor and Ms. Joella Marron were the discussants. On the role of SAD in the fight against corruption, it was noted that the SADC secretariat had limited capacity to enforce protocols or conventions on corruption and was also not able to investigate, report and prosecute offenses related to corruption. The operationalization of a multi-stakeholder front composed of State and non-State actors, formation of transnational alliances and capacitating the SADC secretariat would go a long way in restraining corruption. Another presenter supported that notion and stated that the SADC Protocol Against Corruption could adjudicate corruption at the subregional level through addressing the gaps in national structures meant to fight corruption. The presenter questioned whether the African Criminal Court had provided a solution to corruption. Problems, such as funding, lack of political will and a weak legislative framework in the African Union, limited the operationalization

of the Court in fighting corruption. If the Court was weak, did that mean that national anti-corruption institutions were also weak? The participants concluded by stating that poor political will to support anti-corruption institutions, meagre funding, politicization⁶ of appointments and the lack of confidence in the same establishments were major threats to the ability to stamp out corruption. The key recommendations included the establishment of independent institutions that were properly constituted with regard to both personnel and legal existence. Fiscal autonomy was identified as a key foundation to amplify the independence of anti-corruption institutions so that they could execute their duties without political alignment.

The participants applauded the establishment of anti-corruption institutions in the regional member States and called for the strengthening of their mandate and capacity. They also reiterated the need for formal collaboration among stakeholders in fighting corruption.

xii. Parallel session III: Future perspectives

Acknowledging the trends, the causes, effects and problems associated with the fight against corruption, the session focused on the way forward to reduce if not eliminate corruption. Mr. Peterson Dewah from the National University of Science and Technology (Zimbabwe) chaired this session in which five papers were presented and discussed by Mr. David Mohale and Mr. Israel Kehinde Ekanade.

In the ensuing discussion, the need to act against corruption was stressed and that Africa must eliminate corruption to overcome its adverse effects on socioeconomic development was reiterated. Exciting proposals were presented as means of reducing corruption, including valuing the cultural set-up, securitization of corruption and activating anti-corruption initiatives in the private sector. Setting in motion the rule of law, promoting transparency and forming coalitions among stakeholders were the major issues of discussion.

⁶ Partisan appointments that lack independence.

Participants called for a multi-faceted approach, involving the media, civil society, unbiased judiciary and law-enforcement agents. They stated such an approach would make significant progress in fighting corruption and that the collaboration of all stakeholders at national, regional and international levels was important in the fight to stem corruption.

xiii. Presentation of outcome statement

Staff from the Economic Commission for Africa' Subregional Office for Southern Africa presented the outcomes of the deliberations. They reported that the meeting participants had acknowledged the multiplicity of issues raised in plenary deliberations and in discussions during round tables and parallel sessions. The participants had made observations under several broad thematic areas and proffered recommendations in three specific areas.

A. On the levels and impacts of corruption:

- i. Participants observed that corruption was worsening and had become endemic in Southern Africa despite the creation of numerous institutional frameworks and institutions to combat the vice;
- ii. Participants underscored that corruption undermined socioeconomic development efforts, including the attainment of the goals and aspirations of Agenda 2063, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and other national and regional developmental visions, because of the misdirection of human and financial resources;
- iii. Participants observed that combating corruption in all its various forms was essential for the eradication of social injustices and for socioeconomic transformation;
- iv. Participants noted that corruption raised the cost of production, increased marginal tax rates and raised the cost of goods and services and undermined the rule of law, political stability and the ability to enact progressive laws;

- v. Participants argued that, in some cases, stringent conditionalities tied to foreign aid were the breeding ground for corruption as Governments tried to "beat the system" by using underhand dealings;
- vi. Participants argued that the penalties for corruption should be high enough to be an effective deterrent to discourage corruption and that the proceeds of corruption should be forfeited to the State;
- vii. Participants noted that corruption and money laundering were not mutually exclusive, but that they reinforced each other; accordingly, in order to tackle illicit financial flows, it was necessary to identify the channels of transmission and the destination of those flows, including tax havens;
- viii. Participants called for the development of another metric for measuring corruption that captured areas not incorporated in existing measures of corruption, since corruption continued to become more complicated;
- ix. Participants observed and recommended that citizens should be appalled by corruption and that emotion could spur greater action to tackle it;
- x. Participants called for society to regard anti-corruption as a public good and vice versa and accordingly, it should be a norm of society for all stakeholders to demand a society free of corruption;
- xi. Participants emphasized that stakeholders should build a workplace culture that stressed corruption-free practices and promoted an environment free of corruption.

B. On anti-corruption institutions and institutional frameworks:

- i. Participants noted that, although national anti-corruption institutions and policy frameworks for fighting corruption had increased in the region, their effectiveness

to carry out their mandated functions was often undermined by lack of political support, weakened independence and resourcing at the highest levels of the State;

- ii. Participants observed that strong institutions were not sufficient deterrents nor were the panaceas for fighting corruption. However, other important “softer” factors, such as ethics, morality, integrity and accountability, were equally important in ridding society of the vice of corruption and these needed to be factored into programmes to fight corruption;
- iii. Participants argued that improving the capacity and quality of oversight institutions were costly, as it took time and resources to build institutions and to set up requisite systems. However, countries needed to invest in building oversight in those institutions and in developing mechanisms that guaranteed effective delivery of functions;
- iv. Participants argued that legislative branches of governments were relatively weak and should be capacitated to exercise their full oversight functions, including monitoring tendencies towards corruption, independent of the other branches of the State;
- v. Participants observed that the subregion had sufficient instruments and frameworks, including policies on “whistle-blowers”, to fight corruption, but it lacked implementation capacity. Such capacity should be strengthened, so that the starting point in fighting corruption was the interrogation of the factors that impeded implementation of policies and strategies in member States;
- vi. Participants observed that institutional inefficiencies that foster corruption and imprudent public spending were contributing to poor development outcomes in the subregion;
- vii. Participants observed that the current policies and legal frameworks in most countries were

perceived to undermine anti-corruption initiatives by making it onerous to prove the existence and evidence of corruption;

- viii. Participants emphasized the importance of transparency and resulting citizens’ input in the drafting of bills and laws.

C. On political leadership and fighting corruption

- i. Participants acknowledged that political leadership across the subregion had become more disposed to address the challenges of corruption and continued to make pronouncements in that regard at national and regional levels, and in some instances had taken focused steps;
- ii. Participants underscored that the top leadership in both the public and private sectors in any country could elevate the anti-corruption fight through zero tolerance of the vice and by ensuring that offenders were punished.

D. On corruption in the public service

- i. Participants observed that politicization of the public service in many countries continued to compromise professionalism and perpetuated cronyism, resulting in poor delivery of public services and wastage of resources;
- ii. Participants emphasized the need to develop and implement mechanisms for public officials to declare their assets and income truthfully before and after serving in public offices, and further underscored that the requirement for declaring assets and interests should be made workable and implemented;
- iii. Participants argued that the legal requirement that political leaders should declare their assets and interests should be extended to civil servants of a defined level of seniority, given the high administrative costs for enforcing that requirement; they also argued that declarations of asset holdings should

also be mandatory for private-sector staff who had dealings or were pursuing deals with Government through procurement of goods or services;

- iv. Participants called for the development and enforcement of legal frameworks to enhance transparency of government spending, particularly with regard to the procurement of goods and services, and to eliminate discretionary spending as that was susceptible to corruption;
- v. Participants noted that poor working conditions in the civil service, including low salaries and benefits, could account for endemic levels of corruption, as service staff sought to supplement their incomes.

E. On the capacity of political parties, legislature and civil society organizations in fighting corruption

- i. Participants underscored that political parties, legislature, the executive branch, the public service and civil society were key in reforming institutions and in the fight against corruption, and that all of those entities should receive support to improve their capacities;
- ii. Participants noted that the executive branch was a singular arm of Government in its potential influence on the fight to eradicate corruption;
- iii. Participants acknowledged that political parties, civil society organizations, the media and other non-governmental actors were essential in engaging the citizens to fully participate in governance;
- iv. Participants emphasized the need to build the capacity of the legislature and civil-society stakeholders to be adequately empowered to detect, report and fight corruption.

F. On the role of the media and publicity of the anti-corruption fight

- i. Participants observed and underscored that the media, as a “watchdog”, had an important role to play in fighting the proliferation of corruption and should be supported by all stakeholders in carrying out that important function;
- ii. Participants noted that citizens, local communities and the media should be empowered to engage effectively in the fight against corruption at all levels;
- iii. Participants highlighted that to advance the goal of exposing corruption, the media should be factual in their reporting and shun corruption in their own practices, so as not to undermine their credibility;
- iv. Participants noted that ownership of the media should be made known publicly, as it potentially could influence the objectivity of the media in reporting and fighting corruption
- v. Participants emphasized that anti-corruption campaigns by all stakeholders should be accorded the same stature, prominence and magnitude as campaigns against HIV and AIDS and against gender-based violence, in order to raise awareness among stakeholders.

G. On academia, research and tackling corruption

- i. Participants highlighted that the outcomes of academic research could strategically inform the crafting of policies and strategies towards curbing corruption and also help to expose cases of corruption. They called for collaboration between academia and anti-corruption institutions and other stakeholders in member States;
- ii. Participants underscored that, in order to tackle corruption, stakeholders needed to know the causes of the menace and the involved parties, where corruption was taking place and when corruption had taken place. They also underscored that all of that needed to be supported by high-quality research and

investigative journalism;

- iii. Participants observed a gap in the literature in terms of evidence of the impact of corruption on poverty and measuring the direct cost of corruption, and called for more academic research to support policy development.

H. On partnerships and collaboration against corruption

- i. Participants underscored that building coalitions, partnerships and collaborations in the fight against corruption facilitated the pooling of resources and the sharing of expertise and experiences, which, in turn, enhanced the effectiveness of the effort;
- ii. Participants observed that as the fight against corruption transcended national boundaries, countries should nationalize regional and international frameworks, conventions, protocols and institutions to ensure a holistic approach in the fight against corruption;
- iii. Participants underscored that dealing with the new forms of corruption that were emerging and affecting all sectors required strategic coalitions among all stakeholders, including the use of multi-stakeholder approaches and strategies.

I. On fighting corruption through other institutional settings

- i. Participants emphasized that institutions, such as religious groupings and traditional structures, including chiefdoms and village committees, could play important roles in the fight against corruption and should be part of the broad strategy to rid society of corruption;
- ii. Participants argued that the fight against corruption should not be waged only from a legal perspective but it should also involve ethical dimensions and that there should be a balance between the focus on the causes of corruption and a genuine need to generate practical solutions.

J. On enhancing prosecution capacity

- i. Participants emphasized the importance of keeping records, ideally in electronic form, at public institutions to support the documentation of corruption cases, and the critical significance of ensuring that such public institutions are adequately supported.

K. On developing a future free of corruption

- i. Participants noted that as the population of Africa is predominantly young, the fight against corruption should include programmes that target young people, including inculcating anti-corruption values in primary-school education.

L. On women and the anti-corruption fight

- i. Participants emphasized the need to involve women in all strategies for combating corruption for comprehensive outcomes.

Recommendations

1. Considering the above observations, participants at the conference proffered recommendations in three key areas: (i) strengthening anti-corruption legal and institutional frameworks and institutions, (ii) building coalitions, collaborations and partnerships, and (iii) a strengthened role for the media.

I. Strengthening anti-corruption legal and institutional frameworks and institutions

- Regional Governments should enhance transparency in mobilizing and using financial and human resources, and increase financing for governance institutions, particularly those in charge of fighting economic crimes and corruption, in order to create an enabling environment for better development outcomes;
- The executive and legislative branches of Governments in the region should take the lead in strengthening anti-corruption institutions and introducing legal frameworks to enhance the transparency of government business, eliminate all loopholes that facilitate corruption

in Government, and develop mechanisms for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the performance of anti-corruption institutions;

- Member States should enact freedom of information acts in areas in which they do not exist and strengthen implementation to ensure that citizens are aware of their rights and are able to fight corruption when confronted with it;
- Member States should develop and implement mechanisms for the declaration and verification of assets by public servants and political leaders to support the development of a corruption-free public service. This requirement should also be mandatory for private-sector staff in firms that deal with or are pursuing deals with Government through the procurement of goods and services.

II. Building coalitions, collaborations and partnerships in the anti-corruption fight

- Regional member States should intensify efforts to control the levels of corruption by promoting national and subregional cooperation between State and non-State actors in the fight against corruption, and other steps;
- Member States and regional economic communities should ensure policy coherence and harmonization, invest in building capacity in anti-corruption institutions, and increase collaboration and support for multi-stakeholder approaches for fighting corruption at all levels;
- Member States should adhere to and implement the SADC Protocol Against Corruption and other relevant international instruments to detect, prosecute and punish perpetrators of corruption;
- Regional economic communities should be more proactive in the fight against corruption across the continent by engaging and collaborating more strategically with other regional and international organizations, including relevant entities of the African Union;
- Anti-corruption institutions, academic and research institutions, civil-society organizations and the media should collaborate in the fight

against corruption.

III. Strengthened role and impartiality of the media

- The media should report impartially and factually on cases of corruption to ensure that media reports become credible tools for promoting the fight against corruption;
- To be transparent, the media should declare who owned them and should give context to readers about the nature of reporting and how they selected what to report on;
- Media practitioners should have adequate capacity to investigate, report and expose corruption;
- The media, in collaboration with other stakeholders, should raise the profile of the anti-corruption fight to the same magnitude as the fights against HIV and AIDS and against gender-based violence.

Closing session

The closing session included statements by officers from the Southern Africa Regional Office of the African Union, Subregional Office for Southern Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime of the Botswana Government. In his closing remarks, Mr. Ngomo praised the participants for their enormous contributions during the discussions. He observed that the conference was in line with the continental declaration against corruption and emphasized the need to turn the recommendations into steps that could be implemented in practice through all stakeholder channels, including the African Union and the regional economic communities. Mr. Adejumobi applauded the partnership of the Directorate and the two regional offices of the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa in organizing the conference. He noted that the collaboration demonstrated what could be achieved through partnerships. He expressed his elation over the quality of interaction during the conference, because of the expertise and diversity of participants. Mr. Adejumobi

assured the conference that staff of the Subregional Office for Southern Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa would ensure that recommendations of the conference were shared with SADC, COMESA and other stakeholders. He ended his remarks by advising authors that they were free to publish their papers with publishers of their own choice, however, the staff at the Subregional Office would further review the manuscripts to select those for publication within the Economic Commission for Africa. Victor Paledi,

the Director General of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime, echoed the sentiments of the two regional officers in expressing satisfaction with the outcomes of the conference and the level of collaboration in organizing it. He assured the meeting that lessons from the deliberations and recommendations would indeed help reshape his country's crusade against corruption. Mr. Paledi thanked the hotel for excellent facilities, wished the participants well, and officially closed the conference.

Annex: List of participants

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