



Nations Unies
Commission économique pour l'Afrique

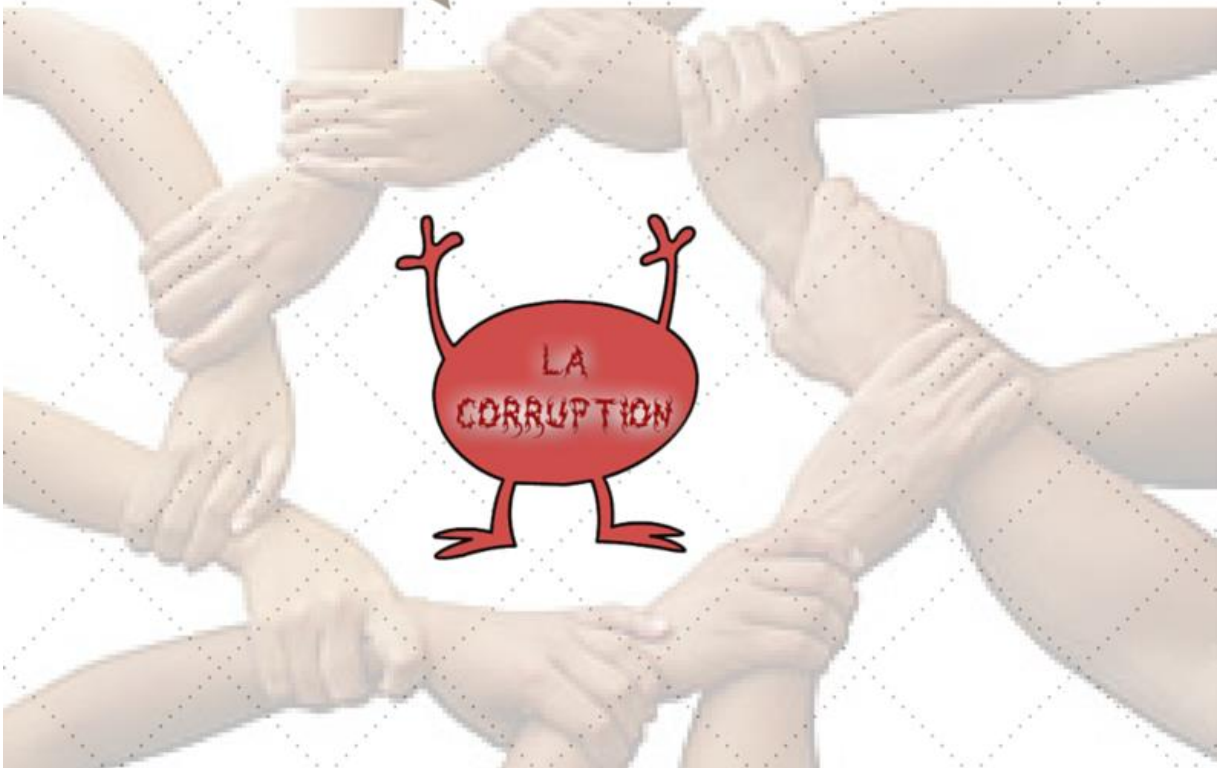


Technical Workshop for the launch of the
**Network of National Anticorruption
Institutions in Central Africa**

Libreville (Gabon)

7-9 October 2015

CONCEPT NOTE



I. CONTEXT

1. Corruption is one of the most significant factors undermining peace-building, security and stability in Africa. As corruption still plagues the continent, undermining good governance and development, African policymakers need a cogent response. This requires a clear understanding of emerging threats, their impact on the population and how other countries have successfully structured strategies in response. Although the UN and the African Union conventions against corruption have been signed in most Central African countries, the idea of a network is the first locally-driven initiative of its kind, which would provide a comprehensive framework to support national efforts to tackle corruption issues.

2. In Central Africa sub-region, corruption is at the centre of national and international attention. This situation, prompted the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to organize a training workshop for Central African National anticorruption Institutions, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in October 2010. During the training, participants requested ECA to assist Central African countries in the creation of a sub-regional Network for national anticorruption institutions as a platform for sharing knowledge, information and best practices. In response to this request, ECA Secretariat through the then Governance and Public Administration Division undertook in 2012, a feasibility study for the establishment of a network of national anticorruption institutions in Central Africa. The study assessed policy efforts at international, regional and national levels relating to combat corruption, and drew relevant lessons from the frameworks that are used in other regions. The study was reviewed and validated by an Ad hoc expert group meeting organized by ECA in Libreville, Gabon, from 26 to 28 November 2012.

3. At the end of the meeting the experts agreed to create the network and adopted a Roadmap for the creation of the Network. In addition, the experts requested ECA, among others, to help Central African countries to set up the Network and make it operational by giving it financial, material and logistical resources necessary for its functioning. In the Roadmap it was indicated that the *Commission Nationale Anti-corruption* (CONAC) of Cameroon will prepare the draft legal texts for the operations and functioning of the Network, while the Government of Gabon offered to host and co-organize, along with ECA, the technical workshop to launch the Network.

4. With the completion of the legal instruments for the functioning of the Network by the CONAC of Cameroon on 23 March 2013 and the readiness of the Government of Gabon, it becomes now imperative for ECA to do its part in order to organize the launching workshop.

II. JUSTIFICATION

5. The idea of creating a network on anticorruption for Central African sub-region is a groundbreaking effort by Central African member States to address corruption at the sub-regional level. The network has tremendous potential as evidenced by the several calls by the governments of the sub-region to ECA for support to the establishment of the network. These

include, N'Djamena, Chad, in November 2013 by the Forum on fighting corruption in Post conflict situations organized by ECA/SRO-CA and most recently the appeal from the Government of Gabon on 29 January 2014 in an email, reaffirming its readiness to host and co-organize with ECA the technical workshop to launch the network.

6. The Internet and mobile technologies have revolutionized the way in which businesses, government and the public are able to interact. Criminal actors have, however, also taken advantage of these developments. Given the high cost of corruption on Africa's development, African policymakers need a cogent response to this phenomenon. This requires a clear understanding of emerging threats, their impact on the population and how other countries have and are successfully structured strategies in response to this fast-changing environment.

7. The creation of an anticorruption network for Central African countries is to facilitate exchanges on policy efforts at international, regional and national levels relating to the fight against corruption, and to draw relevant lessons from the frameworks that are used in other regions. In this respect, it should be noted that the African Union (AU) convention for the Prevention and fight against corruption places obligations on states to adopt policies and frameworks and emphasizes the importance of international cooperation, while it underscores the necessity of harmonized legislation towards the elimination of corruption on the continent.

8. Several African countries have laws dedicated to corruption crime, with some constantly working towards advancing their responses to this global threat. Countries must ensure that these responses are grounded in a national strategy and policy framework that are supported by a comprehensive architecture for a more corrupt-free space. For this architecture, one of the traditional tools used by most African countries to fight corruption is the creation and strengthening of national anticorruption institutions. As corruption evolves in the globalised environment, so too must traditional tools for combating it. In this respect, while the establishment of national anticorruption institutions is a commendable achievement, countries must, however, go beyond the purely national approach and adopt holistic approaches, in particular to take into account (i) the cross-border nature of corruption, and (ii) the provisions of conventions and other international standards against corruption that emphasize the importance of international cooperation and underscore the necessity of harmonized legislation.

III. OBJECTIVE

9. The objective of the technical workshop is for member States to validate the Legal documents and officially establish a Network of national anticorruption institutions in Central Africa Sub-region.

IV. ORGANIZATION

10. The meeting will be organized by the Economic Commission for Africa Sub-regional Office for Central Africa (ECA/SRO-CA) in collaboration with the Government of Gabon, the National Commission for the Fight against Illicit Enrichment (CNLCEI) of Gabon, and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

11. The meeting will be interactive and participants will discuss the information contained in the legal texts creating the sub-regional network of national anti-corruption institutions in Central Africa including budgetary and logistical implications, the role of civil society and technical and financial partners.

12. A special session will be devoted to the development of an action plan and the way forward. During this session, participants will agree on the way forward regarding the organization, appointment of officials and staff as well as the functioning of the network.

13. All work will be conducted in plenary sessions. The working language is French.

V. EXPECTED RESULTS

14. The immediate result expected is member States' validation of the legal instruments and launch the Network. Upon validation of the legal texts, SRO-CA will design and set up the Platform (Community of Practice) and integrate the same into the "Solution Exchange for the African Planners Network". The SRO-CA will then temporary host the Platform.

VI. DATE AND VENUE

15. The meeting will take place in February 2015 at the Hotel Hibiscus, Libreville, Gabon.

VII. PARTICIPANTS

16. The following categories of participants will be invited:

- (i) State institutions and other national bodies responsible for the fight against corruption in the countries of the sub region (CEMAC and ECCAS);
 - (ii) The CEMAC and ECCAS Secretariats;
 - (iii) The African Union Commission (AUC) Board on Anticorruption;
 - (iv) Representatives of the UN agencies, World Bank and the African Development Bank, in the host country.
-

17. The Economic Commission for Africa ECA/SRO-CA and the National Commission for the Fight against Illicit Enrichment (CNLCEI) of Gabon will provide secretarial services during the meeting.

VIII. DOCUMENTATION

18. The following documents will be reviewed during the meeting: Basic texts (Status, Rules of Procedure, Financial regulations, organizational structure) and internal discipline of the Network.

IX. CONTACTS

19. For more information about the meeting, please contact:

Mr. D'Arconco Giuseppe
Economic Affairs Officer
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Sub regional Office for Central Africa (SRO- CA)
B.P. 14935
Yaoundé, Cameroon
Tel.: +237-22 23 14 61
Email: ldaronco@uneca.org

Mme Lucie Maffo
Secretary
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Sub regional Office for Central Africa (SRO- CA)
B.P. 14935
Yaoundé, Cameroon
Tel.: +237-22 23 14 61
Email: lmaffo@uneca.org

Mr. Dieudonné ODOUNGA AWASSI
Président
Commission National de lutte contre l'enrichissement Illicite (CNLCEI)
B.P: 4044
Libreville, Gabon
Tel: +241-01723017 // 06210769
E-mail: odoungaawassid@yahoo.fr
