

## **Building a Just Future: Africa and an International Anti-Corruption Court**

10:45-12:15 May 10, 2024

### **Short Description:**

*This session will explore how an International Anti-Corruption Court (IACC) can help enhance implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The ImPACT Coalition will build on the work already being done by governments and civil society to produce a draft IACC treaty and campaign for the establishment of the court.*

### **Problem**

Kleptocracy and grand corruption in its various forms continue to have devastating consequences worldwide with its effects bearing a disproportionately heavy impact on Africa. While discussions on grand corruption and its transnational dimensions have continued to gain prominence globally, enforcement and redress mechanisms are woefully inadequate, if not entirely absent.

African civil society organizations have been at the forefront of the fight against grand corruption, tirelessly advocating for effective responses to this existential threat to democracy and development. Their efforts have been instrumental in raising awareness, fostering accountability, and demanding justice.

### **Program**

HEDA Resource Centre, Integrity Initiatives International (III), and their partners in the Africa Subcommittee for the International Anti-Corruption Court (IACC) campaign, will present the concept for the proposed court and mobilize African input on its design. There are already more than 80 civil society organizations working together to campaign for the IACC. Through their advocacy, the governments of Nigeria, the Netherlands, Canada, Moldova, and Ecuador have stated their support for the proposed court and more states are interested. The IACC would help address the glaring gap in accountability for crimes of grand corruption, facilitate the return of stolen public wealth to serve the world's peoples, and thereby help restore trust in global and local governance over time.

The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

- Discuss and sensitize participants about the imperative need for an IACC and the incremental steps required to bring it into existence.
- Harness the invaluable insights gleaned from African regional courts and tribunals to shape the development of a robust draft treaty for IACC.
- Strategize on effective advocacy approaches to garner support for the establishment of the IACC in Africa.
- Foster the formation of a cohesive African coalition dedicated to championing the cause of the IACC.

The session will be broken down into three 30 minutes sections: presentations from the speakers on grand corruption and the IACC proposal, Q&A, and planning for action.

Facilitators:

- Ian Lynch, Managing Director of Integrity Initiatives International
- Selemani Kinyunyu, IACC Africa Subcommittee Member

### *Presentations*

Opening Keynote (5 min)

- (TBC) Moussa Mara, former Prime Minister of Malia and Member of Club de Madrid

Why is grand corruption an essential problem to discuss at a conference that seeks to address so many global challenges? How would an IACC help respond to the problem? (10 min)

- Sheila Masinde, Executive Director of Transparency International Kenya and IACC Africa Subcommittee Member

What does the process for drafting a treaty look like and what are some of the key questions being discussed? (10 min)

- Rebecca Shoot, Executive Director of Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS)

### *Question and Answer*

Learning about a complex idea like a new international court is often done best through Q&A. The presentations will therefore introduce pieces of the proposal at a high level, which participants can then drill into with their questions. To kick things off with a challenging question:

Initial query: How can we make sure that new international institutions like the IACC are not neo-imperialist?

- Fadhel Kaboub, Power Shift Africa

### *Action Planning*

The feedback and outcomes of this workshop will serve to inform the development of the International Anti-Corruption Court and the ImPACT Coalition for its creation. Furthermore, the insights garnered will be presented to the United Nations, amplifying the call to action, and elevating the urgency of addressing grand corruption in the Pact for the Future.