

ADVOCACY NETWORK FOR AFRICA (AdNA)

ACCOUNTABILITY WORKING GROUP

MISSION STATEMENT

The AdNA Accountability Working Group is established to create, shape and lead AdNA's largely collaborative initiative to deploy accountability tools to contribute to eradicating centuries-old and ongoing exploitation of Africa.

GROUND RULES

or “How We Want To Work and Be With One Another”

The AdNA Accountability Working Group Members

1. Make this platform a safe space to be who we are
2. Operate on democratic principles
3. Focus on issues and not individuals
4. Listen to each other and check their emotions
5. Are encouraged to “Lean In” and “Lean Out” to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to speak
6. Respect the difference of opinions and no one is pushed into feeling guilty about their views
7. Understand that conflict is unavoidable and as such they make sure it is productive

These rules shall be revised anytime there is a need. *Adopted on 08/28/2020*

STRATEGIES AND TOOLS

"The Tools that the Working Group for Accountability has at its disposal, or can create, to achieve this mission and reframe the conversation on aid and financial flows are many (acknowledging the advantages and the limitations of our location in Washington, D.C)

- Setting and publicizing standards, criteria, or guidelines for key features of healthy accountable partnerships for US-based groups that engage with Africa-based groups.
- Advocating for due diligence in accounting for aid/assistance and trade
- Reframing advocacy to avoid aid dependency
- Establishing means to measure the impact of interventions on the intended country or population
- Meeting with existing international or Africa-focused organizations who are publicly committed to fighting corruption to learn where AdNA's focus might be most effective. Examples of these are Transparency International, Global Financial Integrity and Tax Justice
- Meeting with grassroots groups and individuals to learn about their experience with financial interventions.
- Establishing means to expose bad examples (e.g., facilitators of dependency), or highlight good examples of interventions,

- Urging focus on key program features that support accountability in creating relationships between US, bilateral and multilateral agencies and African governments, NGOs and grassroots organizations. Such means might include to:

- § Educate AdNA members, lawmakers, private sector and the public,
- § Write Op-eds,
- § Issue statements,
- § Hold webinars,
- § Testify before Congress or State Department or at World Bank or IMF,
- § Meet with businesses as they shape their programming, etc.

· Introducing, when possible, and based on our investigation, political and economic reforms that will bolster accountability."

2021 ISSUE

Issue 1: Reframing foreign assistance. advocacy to avoid aid dependency

A receiving hand is always under.
African Proverb

Given the dismantling of U.S. development institutions, the Working Group is taking time to consider next steps.

Issue 2: Raising awareness of the impact Illicit Financial Flows, generally and in particular the impact of grand corruption.

Background: The developing world loses an estimated trillion dollars a year to these flows, a fundamental barrier to equitable economic development, decent work, and shared prosperity. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Goal 16, target 16.4), the African Union Agenda 2063 discuss the criticality of curbing IFFs. As well, curbing IFFs are regular agenda items in financing for development discussions and are recognized as the regular High-level discussions on Financing for Development. Successful efforts to curb flows lay the foundation for achieving the development and trade goals contained within the African Mining Vision and the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. While critical for the developing world, IFFs, are also a shared problem, affecting developed countries as well.

In Washington, D.C., the FACT Coalition, leads more than 100 organizations in the fight to curb IFFs. IFFs are complex and multilayers, as such FACT and its members have corporate transparency first. As a result of their efforts, the Corporate Transparency Act was signed in to law in December 2020. In 2021 FACT staff and members will continue its focus on the CTA, to ensure robust implementation. Others within the Coalition are focused on tax transparency and tax justice, as well as others. The AdNA Accountability Working Group has invited a FACT representative to its February meeting and will explore opportunities to support their work. In addition, WG members note the lack of awareness, and in some cases, resistance to IFFs within the Congressional authorizing committees, including potential champions. As a result AdNA will focus on raising awareness with those key subcommittees.

2021 ACTION PLAN

Issues of equal importance.

Issue 1: Reframing development assistance to avoid aid dependency,

Activities:

Specific actions are to be determined after further discussion.

Issue 2: Raising awareness of the impact of IFFs

Activities:

Working Group Networking and internal awareness raising

- o Invite a representative of the FACT Coalition to present information regarding their 2021 Strategy, and background on the Corporate Transparency Act
- o This year Tax Justice is prioritizing “The Stop the Bleeding Campaign,” we will invite them to our meeting (Imani and Mwiza)

Raising General Awareness

- o Case Study - Ethiopia

Executive Branch awareness raising

- o Contribution language to the Biden Transition Team Recommendations

Raising awareness in the 11th Congress:

- o Draft recommendations for the incoming congress, targeting the on key congressional sub-committees, including Africa, Foreign Operations, Financial Services (or whichever subcommittees are responsible for the U.S. engagement with the International Financial Institutions (All).
- o Submit Hearing Requests to House and Senate Africa Committees [See Attachment 1]
- o Work with the Representative Bass to produce a substantive workshop during the September 2021 CBC Annual Legislative Conference Africa Braintrust

UN framing, definition, state of current discussion. Debates are happening at the UN. High level panel will issue recommendations soon and we need to follow those negotiations and force the US to follow those recommendations

High-level panel on Corruption findings in June; try to track the

- Doing more of the same; madness – structural framework/don't work without pressing
- Public is not outraged enough! Need to be on the frontline how this can go array; prospects of how to make a difference. Public education front and center.

RESOURCES

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows, 2015,

https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/iff_main_report_26feb_en.pdf

Tax Justice Network, Global Alliance for Tax Justice, and Public Services International. The State of Tax Justice, 2020,

<https://www.taxjustice.net/reports/the-state-of-tax-justice-2020/#:~:text=Countries%20are%20losing%20a%20total,nurse's%20annual%20salary%20every%20second>

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Economic Development in Africa Report 2020: *Tackling Illicit Financial Flows for Sustainable Development in Africa*. Geneva 2020.

https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/aldcafrica2020_en.pdf

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55591127>

ATTACHMENT 1: HEARING PROPOSAL TEMPLATE [NOTE: This is a 2013 Template, if folks have more recent templates, please share!]

Hearing Proposal Template
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health & Human Rights

Date and Time: {insert desired date or month}

Suggested Title: **Mysterious Child Deaths in Cambodia and Uganda:
What More Can Be Done?**

Summary: {Insert a one or two sentence summary of the hearing}

Hearing Objective: The objective of this hearing is to investigate a string of mysterious child deaths in Cambodia and Uganda. Reports indicate more than 50 children have died in Cambodia due to a non-endemic virus. In Uganda, some 3,000 children have been infected and 170 have succumb to a rare condition investigators have termed nodding syndrome. Questions abound as to what more can be done by the U.S. government and national and regional public health organizations to manage the current situation and prevent future infections and death. Witnesses will provide an overview of current efforts to expand and develop disease surveillance, training, and outbreak response systems to combat current and future public health challenges. Key questions will include: what is the current status of global policies on emerging disease threats? Are adequate resources available to prevent disease spread and ensure effective regional to global responses in the 21st century?

Government Panel Suggestions

- Dr. Thomas Frieden, CDC Director
- Dr. Rima Khabbaz, Deputy CDC Director for Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Tony Fauci, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Dennis Carroll, USAID, Office of Pandemic Influenza and Other Emerging Threats

Private Panel Suggestions

- Dr. Stephen Morse, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, Columbia University
- Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine
- Amy Cawthorne, Epidemiologist, Risk Assessment and Decision Support, Alert and Response, Operations/ Department of Global Alert and Response, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland