



CONCEPT NOTE

African Anti-Corruption Day 2026

Theme: “Scaling Up the Promotion of Integrity and Anti-Corruption Actions Across Africa”

Date: 11th July 2026

1. Background

Corruption remains an insidious impediment to sustainable development, good governance, peace, security, and the protection of human rights across the African continent. Despite significant progress in legal and institutional frameworks since the adoption of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) on 11th July 2003, corruption continues to divert public resources, weaken justice systems, and erode citizen trust in state institutions.

The AUCPCC represents Africa’s collective commitment to rooting out corruption not only through criminalization but also through preventive measures, civil society engagement, asset recovery, and international cooperation. The Convention further affirms the indivisible link between anti-corruption efforts and the advancement of human rights, democratic governance, and social justice.

Since the African Union declared 11th July as the African Anti-Corruption Day, annual commemorations have served as strategic platforms for reflection, advocacy, and action. As we approach 2026, there is a pressing need to move from awareness to accelerated action. The theme for 2026, **“Scaling Up the Promotion of Integrity and Anti-Corruption Actions Across Africa,”** calls on all Member States, anti-corruption agencies, civil society, media, academia, faith-based leaders and organizations, traditional leaders and authorities, political actors, the private sector, families, and citizens to dramatically expand the scope, depth, and impact of integrity-building measures on the continent. This requires moving beyond high-level institutional reforms to embrace a whole-of-society approach that intentionally and systematically embeds integrity into the daily lives of Africans.

2. Defining Integrity in the African Anti-Corruption Context

Integrity, within the meaning of the AUCPCC and the broader African Union governance architecture, refers to the consistent alignment of actions, decisions, and systems with ethical principles, transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. At the minimum it is about promoting ethical and accountable behaviour. The Constitutive Act of the African Union and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights recognize integrity as essential to good governance and the realization of human dignity.

Scaling up integrity requires that:

- Core values that undergird Integrity such as honesty, accountability, respect and fairness are identified, codified and systematically promoted by member states.
- Citizens are empowered to exhibit and demand the values of Integrity and ethical conduct from public and private institutions.

- Institutional cultures are transformed to reward honesty, accountability, fairness, respect and public service ethics.
- Investigations and prosecutions are conducted fairly, without political interference, and with full respect for the rights of all persons.
- Prevention measures are proactive, inclusive, and embedded in all sectors of society.
- Tools, Technologies, Methods and Platforms that can accelerate the promotion of Integrity and Anti-Corruption actions are intentionally identified, harnessed, systematically deployed and consolidated.

Integrity is not merely the absence of corruption; it is the active presence of moral courage, promotion of positive values, civic virtue, and systemic accountability. Hence in scaling up anti-corruption actions, promoting integrity is critical.

3. The Role of Education, Culture, Religion, Society, and Technology in Promoting Integrity

To scale up integrity and anti-corruption actions across Africa, it is imperative to leverage the continent's rich social fabric, emerging technologies and much more. Five (5) broad actions are particularly strategic:

Education: Formal and non-formal education systems must intentionally integrate integrity and anti-corruption ethics from pre-school through tertiary levels. This includes curriculum reforms that teach ethical decision-making, civic rights and responsible citizenship, and the social and economic costs of corruption. Integrity clubs, ethics competitions, and teacher training programs can cultivate a generation of young Africans who internalize accountability as a norm, not an exception.

Religion: Faith-based organizations and religious leaders exercise profound moral authority across Africa and have a mandate to promote integrity. Religious teachings that emphasize honesty, stewardship, accountability, and justice can be directly applied to anti-corruption advocacy. All religious gatherings should regularly address corruption as a moral failing with both spiritual and societal consequences. There can also be specific focus on promoting Integrity during sermons, exhortations and addresses around the 11th of July and throughout the month. Interfaith coalitions against corruption can amplify ethical messages and provide safe spaces for whistleblowing.

Culture: African cultural values—such as *Ubuntu* (I am because we are), *Harambee* (pulling together), and communal accountability—contain powerful anti-corruption resources. Scaling up integrity means reclaiming and modernizing positive indigenous ethics. Cultural institutions, traditional leaders, and community elders should be mobilized to condemn corrupt behavior as a violation of communal trust, and to identify and eschew cultural practices that do not promote integrity, whilst celebrating acts of integrity as important examples of our African heritage.

Society: The family is the primary school for ethics and ultimately integrity. Parents, guardians, and extended family networks shape the moral foundations of children. Scaling up integrity requires family-based awareness campaigns that equip parents to model and teach honesty, reject bribery, and to hold family members accountable. Society integrity pacts, community parenting circles, and home-based ethical discussions can entrench anti-corruption values from the earliest age.

Technology: Digital tools offer unprecedented opportunities to scale integrity. E-governance platforms reduce face-to-face bribery by automating public services. Blockchain technology can secure land registries, procurement records, and asset declarations. Mobile-based

reporting apps enable citizens to anonymously report corrupt acts while protecting their dignity and safety. Artificial intelligence can flag suspicious financial transactions. However, technology must be deployed with safeguards against surveillance abuse and digital exclusion. Further, the use of AI tools and platforms that enhance the efficiency of data and analysis in fighting corruption is a critical aspect in supporting the anti-corruption fight.

Integrating these five pillars into national anti-corruption strategies is expected to help transform integrity from an abstract ideal into a lived reality across the continent.

4. Objectives

The celebration of African Anti-Corruption Day 2026, under the theme “Scaling Up the Promotion of Integrity and Anti-Corruption Actions Across Africa,” aims to:

- i. Recognize the importance of integrity as a cornerstone for corruption prevention
- ii. Encourage Member States to adopt and implement national integrity strategies aligned with the AUCPCC and the African Union’s Agenda 2063 aspirations for good governance and shared values.
- iii. Encourage all anti-corruption stakeholders to pause, reflect, identify and deploy more effective strategies to scale up their actions in the fight against corruption.
- iv. Raise awareness among citizens about the importance of exhibiting or practicing and demanding integrity in public and private life.
- v. Strengthen the protection and support systems for integrity champions, whistleblowers, and anti-corruption activists, recognizing their key role in defending Africa’s ethical future.

How to participate

State Parties and all Stakeholders can participate in the celebration of the African Anti-Corruption Day by: -

1.1. Preliminary Activities

- i. Using social media to promote the Day, i.e., tweeting about the day using the hashtag #AfricaAgainstCorruption and tagging @AUABC_; and following the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption on Facebook and LinkedIn.
- ii. Distributing informative materials such as brochures, posters, and leaflets.
- iii. Organizing community outreach programs to engage with citizens at the grassroots level on actions to promote Integrity.
- iv. Committing to the promotion of integrity in handling cases for both the accused and victims of Corruption and related offenses.
- v. Executing other activities that will be a means to achieving the objectives of the African Anti-Corruption Day.
- vi. Citizens voicing out and demanding that duty bearers should act with integrity in the management of public resources.
- vii. Participating in activities to be organized by the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption.

July Activities

- i. Joining the AUABC virtually to commemorate the African Anti-Corruption Day by Social Media on the 11th of July and by virtual presentations on the 13th of July

- ii. Hosting activities within Member States to commemorate the African Anti-Corruption Day.
- iii. Allowing and supporting the participation of AUABC country Rapporteurs to attend the Commemoration of the African Anti-Corruption Day in one of their respective countries.
- iv. Organizing Seminars, Workshops, Religious platforms, Fora and other Stakeholder activities to discuss the theme and actions needed to promote Integrity and to scale up anti-corruption actions in your family, group, sector, institution or nation in July.
- v. Specific focus on integrating and promoting issues of Integrity and Anti-Corruption during sermons, exhortations and addresses around the 11th of July.
- vi. Featuring keynote addresses from prominent anti-corruption advocates
- vii. Recognizing and awarding individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to promoting integrity and scaling up of anti-corruption actions and the fight against corruption in general.
- viii. Organizing anti-corruption competitions for Youth eg: Music, Drama, Art, Stories, Poems, etc to compose songs etc. that scale up and promote Integrity and anti-corruption actions across the continent.

Methodology

The African Anti-Corruption Day 2026 commemorations will be held virtually on **13th July 2026**, with coordinated national and community-level events across Member States. All official resources, toolkits, and recordings will be made available on the website and social media accounts of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC).

The flagship event shall be a continental webinar hosted by the AUABC, featuring:

- A keynote address on scaling up integrity actions across Africa.
- Panel discussions with representatives from education ministries, cultural institutions, faith-based councils, family advocacy groups, and technology innovators.

Member States and civil society organizations are encouraged to organize local dialogues, school integrity assemblies, and media campaigns aligned with the theme.

6. Key Messages

- a. Integrity is Africa's future – scale it up now.
- b. The AUCPCC is not just a legal instrument; it is a call to build ethical societies.
- c. Scaling up integrity means every African, from the family to the highest office, must act to promote integrity.
- d. Technology without ethics is not enough – we need digitally empowered integrity.
- e. Our cultures and faiths already teach honesty; let us live those teachings publicly.
- f. Every family can raise a generation of integrity champions.
- g. Scaling up anti-corruption actions is a collective responsibility and a shared victory.

7. Expected Outcomes

- a) A roadmap for the AUABC and Member States to scale up integrity promotion across Africa
- b) Strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration among governments, faith groups, traditional leaders, tech innovators, educators, and family networks.

- c) Increased citizen awareness and actionable commitments from Member States to adopt integrity-scaling measures
- d) A continental position and recommendations for integrating education, culture, religion, family, and technology into national anti-corruption strategies.

For more information or to share your ideas, please contact the Secretariat of the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption at AUABCRegistry@AfricanUnion.org