

TO THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE OCCASION OF THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICA ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

Transparency International's open letter

11 July 2024

To African Union Leaders,

On the occasion of the eighth African Anti-Corruption Day, under the theme of whistleblower protection, Transparency International – through its Secretariat and 28 National Chapters across all of Africa's Regional Economic Communities – use this opportunity to:

1. **Commend** the African Union (AU) for recognising the important role of whistleblowers in the fight against corruption as reflected in the choice of this year's theme: "*Effective Whistleblowers Protection Mechanisms: A Critical Tool in the Fight Against Corruption.*"
2. **Remind** Africa's leaders that the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) enjoins States Parties to protect whistleblowers, specifically providing in Article 5 (5) that "*State Parties undertake to adopt legislative and other measures to protect informants and witnesses in corruption and related offences, including protection of their identities,*" and in Article 5 (6) to "*adopt measures that ensure citizens report instances of corruption without fear of consequent reprisal.*"
3. **Note with concern** that after more than 20 years of the AUCPCC, only a handful of Members States of the Union have enacted specific legislation to protect whistleblowers.
4. **Further note with great concern** that whistleblowers across many African countries continue to face very serious adverse consequences daily for exposing instances of corruption that would otherwise remain hidden their bold and yet very urgently needed contribution to advance anti-corruption effort in Africa.
5. **Urgently call on** the African Union Commission through the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC) with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to advance efforts to provide an AU Model Law on Whistleblower Protection so as to urgently assist AU Member States in developing national legislation on whistleblower protection.
6. **Urge** the African States without whistleblower protection laws to take swift action to enact such laws in accordance with the AUCPCC and with international standards.

7. **Reaffirm** our commitment to work with the AU through the distinguished AUABC, the ACHPR, the African Governance Architecture, other related Organs and most notably national anti-corruption agencies in our various Member States to make every effort to eliminate corruption from the daily lives of citizens across the continent.
8. **Convey** the assurances of our highest consideration.