



Pan Africa Liaison Office to the Africa Union

Memorandum on the Africa Union Summit 2018

Background:

The African Union has declared 2018 as "the African Anti-Corruption Year", as such this and the second Summit of July 2018, will be held under the theme: ***"Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation."***

Oxfam International Pan Africa commends the initiative by the African Union to select this theme which is a clear indication of the commitment that Agenda 2063 is on course.

We further welcome the decision to elect Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari as the Champion of the theme given the progress President Buhari has demonstrated in winning the fight against corruption.

In view of this, we submit this memorandum on key thematic issues that should be prioritized in line with the theme for the AU Summit and present context in Africa.

Expand Mandate of the Africa Union Advisory Board on Corruption:

1. Civil Society should be represented on the AU board on Corruption to enhance more inclusive and accountable reporting mechanisms on corruption.
2. Member States should improve access to information by the Advisory Board to ensure that reporting is effective and progress is well monitored.

Make anti-corruption frameworks gender and women's right sensitive: Corruption has an impact on the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. Corruption exacerbates gender inequalities because of its links to poverty. In this regard,

1. Heads of State and Government should strengthen and expand gender sensitive anti-corruption frameworks beyond economic and financial crimes to include exploitation of women who are most vulnerable in corrupt practices.
2. The AU should prioritise evaluating progress made in combating corruption using a gender vulnerability indicator that is aligned to Africa's context.

3. Member States and the Commission should strengthen multi-stakeholder processes between women and the institutions charged with the mandate of preventing and combating corruption to ensure that women's issues including sexual exploitation and the vulnerability of women in conflict situations are addressed.
4. The women's Peace and Security envoy should include in her reporting a section on the impact of corruption on women in conflict situations with clear recommendations for prevention and mitigation.

Strengthen Food Security and Climate Change Priorities: In sub-Saharan Africa, adverse climatic conditions and conflict, often occurring concurrently, are key factors driving food insecurity. A difficult global economic environment, lack of sustained funding to farmers and climate adaptation mechanisms is increasingly contributing food insecurity in many countries. In this regard,

1. Member States should fast track the implementation of the Malabo Declaration commitment on 10% national budgetary allocation by supporting robust financial tracking systems within the budgetary process in order to seal all corruption loopholes that disadvantage small scale farmers, fisherfolks and pastoral communities.
2. The African Union should establish a single coordinating agency to serve as a clearinghouse for information on investments in agriculture and climate change including private sector contributions.
3. Member states should ensure agriculture investments priorities specifically targets women and young small-scale farmers'. Efforts in fighting corruption to realize women's economic empowerment should be matched with processes and mechanisms of ensuring money reaches rural farmers particularly women and youth.
4. The African Union should allocate climate change adaptation resources specifically to small scale farmers. Member states should establish strong databases and monitoring systems that prevent and mitigate corruption across climate change financing interventions.

Strengthen Peace and Security in Africa: The AU should ensure that all peace processes across the continent have wider civil society participation. These processes must be transparent, representative and clearly hold mediation outcomes to account.

On South Sudan:

1. The AU should strengthen the mandate of the High-Level Ad Hoc Committee on South Sudan, known informally as the AU5, which comprises Algeria, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa with clear timelines to fast track commitment to the peace process.
2. The African Union should encourage the Government of South Sudan to establish mechanisms of rallying international support to address the humanitarian crisis especially the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons.

On Central African Republic:

1. The African Union is encouraged to support the government of CAR to lead a domestic legal and operational framework with the support of international actors such as the ICRC based on the recommendations from the Kampala Convention for the protection of IDPs, and work in partnership with humanitarian and development actors to ensure a principled response to displacement.
2. In line with the Grand Bargain and the commitments made by the international community at the World Humanitarian Summit, the African Union and the international community should support local and national humanitarian actors and community-based organizations to enhance their meaningful participation in the peace process, their ability to better respond to recurrent crisis, and meet the needs of the affected population.
3. Donors must ensure funding is flexible, multi-year and aligned on the Humanitarian Response Plan and the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan responding to humanitarian surges in the short term, peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in the medium term and long-term development investments in a conflict and fragile setting.

On Horn of Africa Drought Response: While new forecasts show continued dry conditions may continue until April 2018 in hardest hit regions in Horn of Africa, latest funding data indicates that all sectors remain highly underfunded. This calls for urgent and additional commitment and investment from African member states to mitigate, respond and rehabilitate this severe crisis in the region. Hence,

1. Member states should commit new funding and make good on pledges, transferring resources to humanitarian actors/ programs and enable a rapid response including provision of food and water assistance, manage the deteriorating malnutrition crisis and support IDPs.
2. The African Union should strengthen close collaboration with IGAD to adopt and implement the protocol on the freedom of movement of people and transhumance in the IGAD region to facilitate free movement of pastoralists and their livelihoods assets to areas of better pasture.
3. Member states should support the full implementation of The Mogadishu declaration within IGAD member countries and fast track harmonization of other regional protection policies into specific member states policies.

Sustaining Citizens Engagement in the African Union: In support of winning the fight against corruption, Oxfam International Pan Africa has launched the public campaign **#TakeActionAgainstCorruption** which aims at amplifying the voices of citizens in preventing and combatting corruption as well as promoting transparency and public accountability.

We will further undertake research and policy dialogues with various stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of policy recommendations and action plans that support the AU commitment to winning the fight against corruption.