



**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE
REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE AGAINST
CORRUPTION**

Windhoek, 28-30 November 2006

Preamble

WE, the Parliamentarians of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), having attended the Regional Parliamentary Conference Against Corruption held in Windhoek, Namibia, on 28-30 November 2006;

REPRESENTED by 27 Parliamentarians from 11 Parliaments of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, make the following communiqué;

ACKNOWLEDGING with great concern that corruption continues to impact negatively on governance, development and the livelihoods and well being of the people of SADC and Africa at large;

NOTING that corruption has been declared a scourge which is no longer only a criminal matter but has now extensive impact on human rights and governance;

ACKNOWLEDGING the extent to which corruption has seriously affected marginalized groups in societies the poor, women and children in particular;

AWARE of the role and responsibilities of Parliamentarians in making laws, monitoring and exercising oversight over the executive arm of governments and also in ensuring that the SADC Protocol Against Corruption is domesticated and implemented;

RECOGNIZING the adoption by member states of the SADC Protocol against Corruption, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and Related Offences and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption as major regional and international road maps of addressing corruption in its multi-dimensions;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Conference addressed, among others, the following themes:

- a) Unraveling Corruption and Counting the Cost;
- b) A Comparative Overview of the SADC, African Union and the United Nations' Convention Against Corruption Instruments;
- c) An ideal Institutional Framework for fighting Corruption;
- d) Fighting the Scourge of Corruption and the Role of Parliament: Learning the Lessons
- e) Towards A parliamentary Agenda in the Fight Against Corruption
- f) Recommendations towards setting parameters for a SADC Anti-Corruption Legislative Framework

WE HEREBY DECLARE to do the following;-

1. Commit ourselves individually and collectively to the fight against corruption and also to place it on the priority agenda and to this end, will ensure the accession, domestication and implementation of the SADC Protocol Against Corruption and other regional and international conventions on corruption;
2. Promote the passage of laws by Parliaments that promote the fight against corruption and the upholding of human rights and good governance within our respective countries;
3. Ensure that our respective governments move towards harmonization of anti-corruption legislation in the SADC region in line with the provisions of the SADC Treaty;
4. Encourage the establishment of the SADC Anti-Corruption Committee as provided for under Article 11(1) of the SADC Protocol Against Corruption and subsequent implementation of the SADC Regional Anti-Corruption Programme;
5. Support the establishment and strengthening of independent anti-corruption agencies and other relevant institutions that report to Parliament;
6. Enact laws that protect Whistleblowers and promote Access to Information and transparency in governance;
7. Ensure compliance to the SADC Principles on Elections and the SADC-PF Norms and Standards for elections in order to guard against electoral corruption;
8. Create partnerships between Parliaments, the SADC Parliamentary Forum with local, regional and international networks on anti-corruption, anti-corruption agencies, civil society and the media;
9. Engage in awareness raising programmes so as to increase knowledge on corruption amongst the citizenry thereby promoting demand for accountability and zero tolerance for corruption;
10. Promote the creation of more APNAC Chapters in the SADC region with links to the Forum and support the strengthening of those that exist.

WE RECOMMEND THAT;

11. The SADC Parliamentary Forum, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the Southern Africa Trust (SAT) and the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) continue to support Parliamentary capacity enhancement on anti-corruption as an ongoing program and most importantly the development of a regional parliamentary legislative framework;
12. The current SADC work-plan to implement the SADC Protocol Against Corruption be contextualized to take account of the parliamentary dimensions in the fight against corruption or that alternatively a parliamentary focused regional legislative framework for the implementation of the protocol be developed without delay. The SADC Parliamentarians Forum is urged to take a lead role in this endeavor;
13. Parliaments enhance their monitoring and oversight function over the implementation of anti-corruption instruments and programmes through ensuring that the mandate of portfolio committees also includes issues of corruption and governance.
14. SADC consider declaring a SADC Anti-Corruption Day.

WE HEREBY APPRECIATE;

15. Express our deep appreciation to the SADC Parliamentary Forum, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the Southern Africa Trust (SAT) and the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) for convening this conference as well as their expressed commitment to continue to work together in the area of corruption and governance;
16. Thank the Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa (SAHRIT) and the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) for the technical support they rendered and encourage them to continue doing the same to the post-conference processes.
17. Express our profound gratitude to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honorable Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab and the Parliament of Namibia for hosting and providing human resource for the conference. Special thanks to the Government and People of the Republic of Namibia for their hospitality enjoyed during this conference.

Adopted this **30th day of November 2006** at **Windhoek, Namibia**.