

Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition

The Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) shall be a coalition of Government (Executive, Judiciary, Legislature); Public Sector Institutions; Private Sector Institutions and Civil Society Groups which are all united in the object of fighting corruption (fraud, bribery, extortion, abuse of office, conflict of interest, etc.) in Ghana in particular and world-wide generally.

The formation of the Coalition has been prompted by the realization that corruption has become widespread and endemic in Ghana and therefore the need for a systematic, broad based and integrated approach to the fight against corruption in society.

In recent times, the International Community and national governments have concluded that corruption has indeed become a matter of global concern and not just a problem of anybody but a problem for everybody. Governments have also accepted to work in concert with their people to develop national strategies to fight the canker of corruption within their national borders and in cooperation with the international community.

In Ghana various initiatives have been taken in the past to combat corruption with mixed successes. Since the early 1960s, anti-corruption strategies have generally been based on the criminal justice system. However, in the late 1990s, following the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and a renewed global concern about the negative impact of corruption on economic, social and human development in emerging economies; new strategies were called for, both nationally and internationally to combat corruption worldwide.

The establishment of Transparency International (TI) in 1993 served as a catalyst for the global anti-corruption crusade.

In Ghana, a national integrity Workshop was held in October 1998 under the auspices of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).

Following this, in February 1999 a Workshop was organized by the Global Coalition for Africa in Washington on ways to fight corruption in Africa. Ghana was represented at the Workshop by CHRAJ, SFO, Audit Service and BNI. At the end of the Workshop the participants adopted 25 principles to combat corruption in Africa. In June 1999, the World Bank organized the first of its courses on "Controlling Corruption: An integrated approach." Ghana was represented at this course by CHRAJ, SFO and the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). Thus, the three Institutions formed the initial core Ghana Team under the new World Bank initiative to develop integrated national strategies to fight corruption.

The Ghana Team has since been expanded to include other Civil Society and Public Bodies such as the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD), the Private Enterprises Foundation (PEF), the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) – the Local Chapter of Transparency International, and the National Institutional Renewal Program (NIRP).

The envisaged Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition aims at creating a forum for interaction between the three arms of government; public and private sector institutions; and civil society groups working in the area of anti-corruption.

The Coalition shall endeavour to create and foster greater co-operation between International Organizations and Donor Agencies involved in the global effort to establish good governance for sustainable development and anti-corruption.

The Coalition shall encourage the exchange of information and joint sponsorship of programmes where appropriate in order to achieve effective utilization of resources.

The Coalition shall work towards creating transparency and reduction of opportunities in corruption in Government, Public and Private Institutions, as well as Civil Society Organisations.

The Coalition shall encourage its constituent members to organize seminars, roundtables, corruption perception surveys, develop training programs for capacity building in national institutions, and severally or jointly sponsor initiatives leading to appropriate legal and institutional reforms.

The Coalition shall work towards institutional strengthening of some of its constituent organisations and any other anti-corruption bodies where necessary.

The Coalition shall for the time being operate under the general direction of a national core team comprising the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), the National Institutional Renewal Program (NIRP), the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), the Private Enterprises Foundation (PEF), the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) and the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). The Government as coalition partner shall name an Executive Appointee to the Coalition who shall:

- Ensure the effective implementation of anti-corruption actions and programs for which the government has primary responsibility;
- Co-ordinate the specific anti-corruption actions and programs of the government;
- Convey the views and concerns of government on anti-corruption issues to the coalition; and

- Convey the views and concerns of the anti-corruption coalition to the government.

The Coalition in order to achieve its objective would seek to establish working relationships with the following institutions amongst others:

Parliament	Judiciary
Customs Exercise & Preventive Service	Religions Organisations & Institutions
Office of the Head of Civil Service	Public Services Commission
Ghana Immigration Service	Association of Ghana Industries
Ghana Police Service	Ghana Employers Association
Ghana Armed Forces	Ghana Journalists Association
Ghana Armed Forces Command & Staff College	Bureau of National Investigations
Internal Revenue Service	Securities Exchange Commission
Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority	Ghana Civil Aviation Authority
National Commission on Civic Education	National Media Commission

The Coalition shall seek financial, technical, logistics, institutional and programme support for its proper functions from the Donor Agencies, the World Bank and other International Financial Institutions amongst others.

The Coalition shall endeavour to mobilize internal and local financial and technical support where possible.

All resource support for the Coalition shall be channelled into a special account out of which all disbursements shall be made.

Nothing shall be done by the Coalition to interfere, dilute or hinder the activities of its constituent organizations to mobilize resources by their own efforts for their own programmes and institutions.

The Coalition shall maintain its Secretariat in the Office of the National Institutional Renewal Program (NIRP).

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) shall for the time being act as liaison between Government and the Coalition.

The representative of the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) shall act as Secretary of the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC).

Dated this 12th day of January, 2000