



JOINT CSO PRESS STATEMENT ON THE LAUNCH OF THE ANTI CORRUPTION WEEK 2023



Panelists including The Programme Manger Mrs. Christine Byirigiro representing Uganda Debt Network at the Press conference held at ACCU—Uganda Offices in Ntinda

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations General Assembly by resolution 58/4 of 31st October 2003, designated 9th December as the International Anti-Corruption Day. This was in recognition of corruption as a global problem and a key impediment to development.

Annually, Civil Society Organizations including; Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda, Transparency International Uganda,

Action Aid International Uganda, Uganda Debt Network, join other actors to commemorate this day.

The day presents an opportunity for State Actors, Civil Society Organizations, Cultural and Religious Institutions, Development Partners, Academia, Media and Citizens to take stock of the progress made in the fight against corruption and devise strategies for addressing the challenges facing the fight against corruption.

Celebration of the Anti Corruption Day in 2023 will come at a time when the country is facing so many challenges in its war against corruption. Statistics from the Inspectorate of Government show that the country is losing Ugx 9.14tn to corruption. The Corruption Perception Index for 2022 scored Uganda at 26% and in the 142nd position out of 180 countries assessed.

This year, we have already seen several corruption scandals including; the Mabaati theft, corruption at National Social Security Fund, ghost health facilities in Ntungamo district and several scandals unearthed by the Office of the Auditor General.

Uganda's anti-corruption fight still faces so many challenges including; poor implementation of anti-

corruption laws, weaknesses within anti-corruption institutions, patronage and impunity, apathy among the citizens, limited access to public information, limited citizen capacity to engage government and inadequate spaces for citizen engagement.

We take cognizance of the progress made including; enactment of at least 18 anti-corruption laws, establishment of at least 22 anti-corruption institutions, digitalization of government services, pension and payroll management reforms, and other interventions.

Premised on this background, the Anti Corruption Day commemoration this year will focus on taking stock of progress made, while finding solutions to persistent challenges. The day will be commemorated under *the theme: "Strengthening Partnerships in the War against Corruption"*.

Several activities have been lined up to commemorate this day including;

- 1. Regional Anti-Corruption Conventions:** These will be held in the three sub-regions of Bugoga, Bunyoro and West Nile.
- 2. National Anti-Corruption Convention:** This will be held on December 7, 2023 at Golf Course Hotel. The Convention will bring together at least 120 state and non-state actors to deliberate on contemporary accountability issues affecting Uganda.
- 3. Media engagements:** Several media engagements will be held on Radio, Television and the Press. This will also include a mix of digital and social media.

Call to action

We call upon citizens and all stakeholders to participate in the commemoration of the Anti-Corruption Day. The best way of commemorating this day is Saying No to Corruption, and reporting all forms of corruption to relevant authorities.

Government should increase funding and support to anti-corruption institutions, to enable these institutions execute their mandate. There is need for more coordination amongst the different anti-corruption actors.

Weaknesses in the legal framework should be addressed especially related to asset recovery, witness protection and citizen access to information.

UDN appreciates support by: UDN Membership; [DCA](#); [Save the Children in Uganda](#); [OSIEA](#), [Inspectorate of Government](#); [IBP](#), [Trocaire](#); [UNICEF](#); [Bill and Gates Foundation](#) and [NDI](#).

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