

20th July, 2022

Professor Yemi Osinbajo
Vice President
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Aso Rock Presidential Villa
Abuja



Thro:
Professor Bolaji Owasanoye
Chairman
Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission
Abuja

Your Excellency,

In recognition of your government's commitment to fighting corruption, HEDA Resource Centre and Integrity Initiatives International (III) are pleased to write to you urging the Government of Nigeria to support the creation of an International Anti-Corruption Court (IACC). As you know, grand corruption thrives in too many places despite the fact that the 189 parties, including 181 countries, to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) are required to have laws criminalizing bribery of public officials, the misappropriation of public funds, money laundering, and obstruction of justice.

An IACC is needed to fill the crucial enforcement gap and to tackle the full extent of the transnational networks of corrupt public officials and the professional enablers – lawyers, bankers, accountants, real estate agents, and other financial service providers – across many jurisdictions. The IACC would also have the potential to recover and repatriate vast sums of stolen assets for the benefit of the victims of grand corruption and to help develop anti-corruption capacity for judicial systems at the national level. A brief summary on the IACC idea and the new international campaign to create it is attached.


More than 270 luminaries from 80 countries, including more than 40 former presidents and prime ministers and over 30 Nobel laureates, have signed the attached Declaration organized by III in support of the creation of an IACC. Through III's advocacy for the IACC, the governments of Canada and the Netherlands have committed to working with international partners to establish the Court. The President of Timor-Leste has signed the IACC Declaration and the past two Presidents of Colombia endorsed the IACC idea.

Recognizing that creating a new international court may be a long-term endeavor, Canada, the Netherlands, Ecuador, and other partners will convene a ministerial conference in November 2022 in The Hague to analyze the gaps in the international legal framework for combating corruption and potential solutions, with a particular focus on creating a receptive environment in the international community for the proposed IACC.

As a leading and strategic country in Africa, we wish to urge your Government to make a commitment to the long-term efforts to establish the IACC and to seize the opportunity this year to contribute to the initial discussions, possibly as a co-convenor of the ministerial conference in November in The Hague on how to make the IACC an effective institution that contributes to securing a more just, rules-based global order.

We are readily available to you and your staff to provide further information and address any questions or concerns.

Sincerely


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