

UK PRIME MINISTER'S SUMMIT ON TACKLING CORRUPTION IN LONDON 12 MAY 2016

GHANA COUNTRY STATEMENT

Appreciation

We express our appreciation to Prime Minister, David Cameron, for inviting Ghana to be part of this Summit, which is very important in moving forward our national anti-corruption agenda as contained in the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (2015-2024) and the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA II) as well as our commitments under the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and other international and regional conventions on corruption.

2. Beneficial Ownership

Ghana is committed to preventing the misuse of companies and legal arrangements to hide the proceeds of corruption and commits to:

- strengthening further both the Companies Bill and the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Bill that are currently before Parliament to ensure that we have public beneficial ownership information and central register for all sectors, including oil and gas sector, in line with UNCAC and FATF Recommendations as well as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) standards that Ghana is implementing;
- ensuring that accurate and timely company beneficial ownership information, including in the extractives, is available and accessible to the public.

3. Preventing the Facilitation of Corruption

Ghana is strengthening measures to combat money laundering and countering financing of terrorism, corruption and other predicate offences. Ghana commits to implementing the recommendations contained in the National Risk Assessment Report of Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), launched in Accra on 28th April 2016, as soon as the implementation plan is validated.

4. Public Procurement and Fiscal Transparency

Conduct that could lead to debarment is already a criminal offence under Ghanaian law. Ghana is committed to exploring further options for improving transparency and openness in the area of public contracting and will continue to blacklist and debar service providers and contractors who engage in corrupt and other related misconduct in public procurement. In particular, Ghana will:

- enact a legislative instrument for the effective implementation of the new Public Procurement Act;
- work towards making government public procurement 'open by default' – beginning with Open Contracting Data Standards for high value contracts and contracts in the oil, gas and mining sector; and,
- continue to make public, list of blacklisted companies and suppliers.

5. Improving Transparency in Commodity Markets

Ghana, as an oil producing country, welcomes the invitation to partner major trading hubs to explore the scope for a common global reporting framework for oil sales transparency, working in partnership with key producer countries which have suffered from theft of oil revenue through grand corruption. As a first step, Ghana will participate in the inaugural Summit meeting on oil sales transparency, and the next EITI trading transparency working group meeting.

6. Reporting Corruption

Ghana is strengthening the necessary legislative and other measures to enhance the capacity of the public/citizens and encourage them to report corruption without fear of victimization, and commits to:

- enact the Witness Protection Bill before Parliament;
- improve and extend the recently established Citizens complaints Centre in Accra to other regions of the country; and,
- enter into agreements for relocation of witnesses and reporting persons as a means of protection of such persons as well as granting asylum to corruption defenders.

7. Asset Recovery

Ghana, as part of the global community, commits to:

- strengthen further its assets recovery capability, including by amending relevant legislation and introducing unexplained wealth orders legislation; and,
- explore the possibility of expanding the scope of its non-conviction based forfeiture legislation and adopt measures to manage and regulate the administration of frozen, seized or confiscated property.

8. Payment of Compensation to Victim States

An important aspect of asset recovery is the payment of compensation to victim states as part of court settlement of process. Ghana welcomes the commitment of the Summit to work together to develop common principles governing the payment of compensation to countries affected.

9. International Sport

Ghana commits to work with International Sports Bodies and other key stakeholders to build a strong partnership to support the International Sports Bodies' efforts to deliver reform and to underpin the wider fight to eliminate corruption in sport.

10. Tax Transparency

Ghana has signed onto the Addis Tax Initiative as well as the Common Reporting Standard Initiative and commits to strengthen partnerships with other countries to lift bank secrecy, curb tax avoidance by companies registered in offshore tax havens.

11. Promoting Integrity in our Institutions

Integrity is one of the fundamental principles of Ghanaian society and a cornerstone of our democratic dispensation. As part of efforts to promote integrity in our institutions, Ghana welcomes partnerships that will enable anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) and other institutions in its public sector to learn and exchange information. On that score, Ghana welcomes the establishment of the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre in Botswana.

12. Innovation

Corruption has the proclivity to mimic scientific innovation. Ghana is committed to enhancing transparency, the ability of citizens to report corruption and the use of innovative means to fight corruption. Ghana will therefore:

- Play an active role in the Anti-Corruption Innovation Hub with a view to improving information management to combat corruption; and,
- Consider taking part in the People Powered Anti Corruption Programme.

13. Conclusion

The fight against corruption can succeed if countries cooperate effectively to tackle it, but it is important to bear in mind that no “one size fits all” solution is possible. We reiterate Ghana’s commitment to the fight against corruption. Ghana therefore endorses the high level goals of the Summit as they generally align to the country’s own strategy to combat corruption.

President John Dramani Mahama
President of the Republic of Ghana