



**THE PRESIDENCY
INTER-AGENCY TASK TEAM
(ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCIES)**

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

for the

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY 2022

Theme:



**UNCAC AT 20:
UNITING THE WORLD
AGAINST CORRUPTION**



Date: 9th December 2022.

*Venue: Shehu Musa Yar-Adua Center, 1 Memorial Drive,
Central Business District, Abuja*

Supported by:



CONTENT

Primer	3
Executive Summary	3
Precis	4
Opening Session	4
Goodwill Messages	8
Keynote Address	11
Panel Discussions	12
Interschool Debate Competition	16
Presentation of the Anti-Corruption Portal (CDD)	17
Conclusion	17

PRIMER

Corruption is a phenomenon that affects the generality of humanity, rich or poor, young or old. It has no gender, and its effect is negatively permeative, and all-encompassing tugging at every facet of human society, jeopardizing stability, and prosperity. This was the force that drove the world wide the United Nations (UN) to strive to reduce/prevent corruption, promote transparency and strengthen institutions in all nations, signatories to the Resolution 58/4, pursuant to which the 9th day of December, every year was set aside as a day to remind everyone of the menace of the hydra-headed monster: corruption and to cause them to recommit to the fight against it. In Nigeria, the Inter-Agency Task Team, IATT, (Anti-Corruption Agency) of the Presidency with its secretariat, the Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption (TUGAR) is tasked with the responsibility of organizing the event to mark the day. This is a Report of the event celebrated to mark the Anti-corruption day event 2022, which took place on Friday, 8th December 2022 at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Center, Abuja.

The report is in ten main parts:

Primer

1.0 Executive Summary

2.0 Precis

3.0 Opening Session

4.0 Goodwill Messages

5.0 Keynote Address

6.0 Panel Discussions

7.0 Interschool Debate Competition

8.0 Presentation of the Anti-Corruption Portal (CDD)

9.0 Conclusion

1.0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Anti-Corruption Day was marked in a one-day event on Friday, the 9th of December 2022, organized by the Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT), in collaboration with their development partners. The event had in attendance all Anti-Corruption Agencies which make up the IATT, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, the media, Students, members of the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) and the general public. It featured a welcome address, a Keynote Address, goodwill messages, drama presentation by the NYSC, the finale of an inter-school debate competition, 2 panel discussions, the presentation of the Anti-Corruption Portal by the Center for Democracy and Development, presentation of prizes and Certificates of Participation to the Schools, and a Vote of Thanks.

This year's event themed; UNCAC at 20, Uniting the World Against Corruption marked the start of the plans to mark the 20th anniversary of the UNCAC 2023. A time to reflect

on the progress so far made by the UNCAC and its Development Partners and plans to improve on gaps and lapses to strengthen and better position all partners and nations for the betterment of the future of humanity.

On 31st October 2003 The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and designated 9th December as International Anti-Corruption Day, to raise awareness on the negative impact of corruption on the socio-economic and political development as well as the role of the convention in combating and preventing corruption.

Further, this year's event in line with its theme sought to bring to fore the relationship between anti-corruption, security, and development. To achieve this crucial feat of tackling corruption and instilling the ethos of anti-corruption, everyone needs to understand that it is a right and with it, the attendant responsibility of rising and collaborating, we all have a role to play, young or old male or female and as such there has to be a conscious, concerted effort geared towards engendering the values of anti-corruption. Put succinctly, the world must unite against corruption in all of its ramifications

This year's event was supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, (UNODC), Center for Democracy and Development (CDD), British Council, and Macarthur Foundation, amongst others.

2.0. PRECIS

The event anchored by Mr. Ebere Young Acharaike commenced at 9.17am with the singing of the National Anthem, which was closely followed by introduction of personages, in the persons of: Barr. Olusegun Adekunle, the Chairman of IATT and the National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG), Dr. Oliver Stolpes, Country Representative of the UNODC, Alhaji Goni Ali Gojiba, Member of the Board of the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) representing its Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasonye, SAN, Executive Secretary of NEITI, Dr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, the Representative of the Director of the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) Mr. Babagana Bashir, Associate Director, Public Accounts, the Solicitor-General of the Federation and the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Judy Agba representing the Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, SAN, Mr. Abdulkareem Chuckol, Director Operations EFCC, representing the EFCC Chairman, Chairman of the Code of Conduct Bureau, Professor Isa Muhammed, Professor Etanibi Alemika, Gabriel Onu, Director, Whistle Blowers Anti-Corruption Network, Aliyu Aliyu representing the Director General of the Bureau for Public Procurement, David Shangba, representing the Chief Commissioner, Public Complaint Commission, Ashley Emenike, representing the Chairman Senate Committee, on Anti-Corruption. Representing the Inspector General of Police, CP Akika Austine, CP General Investigation., Charles Abana, Esq, Fiscal Responsibilities Commission, and Emmanuel Uche from ROLAC, Afolabi Adekayoja of the CDD, Prof. Sadiq Isa Rada, Executive Director of PACAC, Ambassador Angela Nworgu, Mustapha Abdurrahman, Center for Fiscal Transparency,

all members of the Board of the Code of Conduct Bureau, Mr. Garba Abari, NOA, Mr. Ugunkuade, and last but not least were the youth from the NYSC and children from 6 Secondary Schools, in Abuja, they were especially welcome because there is the need to give them the proper orientation in their youth so that when they grow up, they will not depart from the ways inculcated in them, they would rather improve on them.

3.0. OPENING SESSION

The tone for the event was set by the Anchor who welcomed everyone to the event and explained that the event is held yearly to place emphasis and beam satellite on anti-corruption issues. Further, he said the fact that the event has held every year for the past 20 years shows the commitment by all stakeholders of which everyone is with intent to recover our economy, our humanity, our quality with integrity so that we can build a very secured future for all. He said that the uniqueness of the event is so beautiful as it is anchored on citizen participation so everyone can know their right and role in the anti-corruption crusade. On this note he welcomed the Drama Troupe of the NYSC.

Drama Presentation by the Drama Troupe of the NYSC:

The imperativeness of driving home the evil that corruption is and how it can eat into and destroy the fabric of Nigeria as a Country and by implication, the global community at large has led to the diversification of ways of putting across this point. Different methods including but not limited to; drama, dance, debate, poems, the spoken word, and intellectualism as in the panel discussions organised by IATT from time to time.

The Drama which commenced at 9.25 am and ended at 9.40 am did well to portray the monstrous ill that is corruption, how it comes in many ways and the resultant catastrophe of it to both the perpetrators and the society. This heralded the Opening Remarks made by the Head, TUGAR, Mrs. Jane Onwumere.

Opening Remarks:

Mrs. Jane Onwumere, Head of TUGAR, commenced her remarks at 9.44am and concluded at 9.50am. By her brief speech, she set the order of Protocol and then made everyone feel welcome to the high-level seminar in commemoration of the United Nations International Anti-Corruption Day 2022. She reiterated the fact that the 9th of December is a day designated globally to raise awareness on the negative effect of corruption on lives and the need to prevent and curb it to the minimum. She said that the United Nations' Convention Against Corruption was adopted 19 years ago with Nigeria as one of the early signatories to the convention which has since been on the right trajectory by making sure to fulfil its treaty obligations by creating anti-corruption agencies which it enables to carry out their duties. The instant event which is organised yearly IATT belies this fact.

She emphasised the fact that this year's theme, "UNCAC at 20, Uniting the World Against Corruption" seeks to bring to fore the dangers of corruption and its debilitating effect on

the Sustainable Development Goals, and to this end, draw attention to the important role played by the UNCAC in uniting the world to fight corruption jointly and systematically. This event marks the beginning of the preparation for the 20th Anniversary of the Convention in 2023, an opportunity to assess the level of its implementation, successes, challenges and way forward for nations individually and as collective.

She stated that it is for this reason that in line with the global theme, the IATT chose to anchor the Panel Discussions with experts on 2 burning issues in the Nigerian polity, viz; credible and transparent electoral processes in view of the upcoming 2023 general elections and the newly approved National Anti-Corruption Strategy, 2022-2026. These issues are key and proper implementation would be a major boost for development and the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The youth being an integral part of society are always made part of the event in recognition of the fact that if they are caught young, the spirit they have imbibed will remain with them thereby making for a better tomorrow for the nation. On this note, Mrs. Onwumere thanked the NYSC for the part they have played in seeing to the success of the event and all the schools present for their participation in the knockout series of the debate on various topics culled from the theme of the event, culminating in the Finale between 2 schools Bill Clinton School, Nyanya, Abuja and SureStart School, Kubwa, Abuja to be done during the event.

She concluded with a plea for everyone to recommit to collective action in prevention and addressing anti-corruption and help to proffer recommendations. She encouraged everyone to participate fully in the electoral process as this will ensure the integrity of the process. On this note, she wished everyone happy deliberations.

Welcome Address:

The Welcome Address was delivered by Barr. Olusegun Adegunle, the Chairman, IATT and Chairman, National Stakeholders Working Group, NSWG (NEITI) delivered the welcome address. He welcomed everyone to the commemoration of the UN day for anti-corruption set aside by the global community to raise awareness and re-state commitment to the fight against corruption. In Nigeria it is organised by the IATT which recognises and jointly celebrates it. The global theme for this year's commemoration is UNCAC at 20, Uniting the World Against Corruption. The theme focuses on strategic approaches to battling corruption, so sustainable development can be attained. It also heralds the efforts to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

He posited that the essence of government is to ensure development which is the enhancement of welfare and security of a people but cannot be achieved in the face of corruption, hence the need to strive to reduce it to its barest minimum. Two issues have been put on the front burner for this event because they are crucial to the attainment of the anti-corruption goal, they are the upcoming 2023 General Elections and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, 2022-2026 which was recently approved by government.

Further that developing countries have a large corruption component in their political transition which should be tackled head on and seeing as Nigeria is faced with a myriad of issues due to corruption, the effort to fix it must be deliberate and everyone must key into this.

Nigeria which is regarded on the international level as one of the earliest signatories of the UNCAC has in keeping with its commitment under the UNCAC enacted legislations and established institutions which are continuously strengthened to enhance their capacity to implement the diverse issues covered by the Convention. The range of legislations and institutional development show that Nigeria has significantly domesticated the provisions on the convention. The government has an anti-corruption agenda anchored on prevention, public engagement, sanctions, enforcement, and recovery of proceeds of corruption. While the entire agenda has made considerable progress, the drive to recover proceeds of corruption stands out with an aim to deprive the corrupt of the benefit of their crime and ensure that there is restitution to the citizens. He opined that despite all success recorded in Nigeria in this regard, there is a lot of room for improvement and by this, his angles of concern are as follows:

1. Change of and/or improvement on the approach used in the past to ensure full implementation of policies.
2. Emphasis should be placed on prevention of Corruption which should be tackled from the roots.
3. Corruption is continually evolving and as such; Anti-Corruption agencies must be fully prepared with human and financial resources and adequately protected to enable them to combat the new corridors of mutant corruption
4. Everyone should engage in the election process as patriotic citizens as the work should not be left to INEC alone and if anything is amiss, it should be reported immediately in order that the elements perpetuating the ill can be stopped. It is the collective responsibility of institutions, individuals, and communities to strengthen the credibility of the 2023 general elections. This way the bodies charged with this responsibility can carry out their function to its hilt, failing, they can be held accountable.
5. Agencies that make up the IATT and who are saddled with this responsibility of annihilating corruption must collectively resolve that from 2023 and beyond, the IATT must function with utmost efficiency.

He closed at 10.05am by reiterating that everyone must be ready to fight corruption to ensure sustainable development.

Remarks by Dr. Oliver Stolpe, Country Representative of the UNODC/Message from the UN:

At 10.06 am, Dr. Oliver Stolpe, began his message standing on the already established protocol and proceeded to share the message from the Executive Director of the UNODC, Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly. She said corruption must be solved as it crushes opportunities, drives organised crimes, corrodes the economy, leads to

underdevelopment, and keeps people in the circle of deprivation and inequality thereby threatening our security and engendering conflict because of the volume of monies lost to corruption. Everyone in their daily lives and institutions must therefore act to stop corruption especially in the face of the global security challenges, financial and climate crises. Further, that the UNODC has established its first Anti-Corruption Regional Office in Africa and Latin America to bring the system and expertise closer to delivery point, enhanced the border cooperation through the Globe E-Network, teamed up with world bank to facilitate recovery of assets, proceeds of corruption, safeguard funds for emergency with adequate security so there can be accountability, seeing as children are the worst hit by results of corrupt practices, the UNODC embarked on anti-corruption education for children, so the next generation can be better armed to tackle corruption. The UNODC supports many corporations in the fight against corruption. In 2023, the UNODC will celebrate its 20th Anniversary in this sphere of fighting corruption, and this will be time for reflection, evaluation of work done and ways to improve and thus the message from the Executive Director ended.

Dr. Stolpe in his own message announced that in 2023 the UNODC will review its partnership with the government of Nigeria. The 3rd Anti-Corruption survey will be carried out. The UNODC will with the support of the U.S government and the United Nations Peace Building Fund Response enter a partnership with the Complaints Unit of the Nigeria Police Force. This will be to deal with one of the most troubling finding of the 2019 Anti-Corruption Survey; the tedium involved in seeking redress vide the Police Force. He said the Kaduna State Government has already keyed into the partnership plans. As the UNODC provides technical support for its anti-corruption efforts. He wound up at 10.15am by stating the fact that the Anti-Corruption Day is day to reflect on the level of implementation of the Convention and in what way it is wanting. He informed the gathering that the 4th Report prepared by all stakeholders which takes stock and is a follow-up of the 2 UNCAC reviews previously done will be launched on the 14th of December, 2022, at the UN House, Abuja and copies were available at the UNODC stand situate at the venue. The Report has 3 Findings which are that Nigeria has excelled and will continue to excel in its fight against corruption, recovery of assets, proceeds of corruption it has recovered more assets from the international scene than any country before now, there are however challenges in its fight, so government at all levels, Civil Society Organisations and everyone ought to join in the fight against corruption.

4.0. GOODWILL MESSAGES

Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB):

The Professor Mohammed Isa, the Chairman of the CCB who delivered the message congratulated the IATT for a well hosted event with a timeous theme. He stated that Articles 8(5) and 7 provides for a code of conduct for public officers and that all State Parties should ensure its implementation. In Nigeria it has not only been codified but forms part of the GrundNorm, i.e., the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended). The issues of Asset Declaration and recovery of stolen funds are very topical at any UNODC gathering, Though Nigeria has done a lot in this regard, there is still a lot left to be desired. The CCB in its efforts has decided to digitalise asset

declaration, which software is at the testing phase and will be launched in the very near future. On the issue of the forthcoming election, the CCB will play its part in line with its mandate under its enabling and allied Acts. It will partner with INEC and all stakeholders and ensure that the INEC staff will conduct themselves properly without abuse of powers and conflict of interest. He lauded the new National Anti-Corruption Strategy, stating that the previous one was well implemented and that the CCB will key into the new one with gusto within its mandate. He appealed to all stakeholders in the Anti-Corruption sphere to unite in the fight against corruption as they are working towards same goal.

Message from NEITI:

The goodwill message from the NEITI was delivered by Dr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, its CEO who began by thanking the children and members of the NYSC for participating. He said that NEITI is proud to be a part of the IATT, which is a body made of 22 Government Agencies who have the Anti-Corruption Mandate who support each other in the fight. He on behalf of NEITI recommitted to the fight against corruption in their role in the extractive industry which is to enshrine transparency, accountability and good governance of the sector in partnership with other agencies. He announced that there has been a lot of positive light in NEITI's work effort, the climax of which was the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act, and NEITI is a part of the Implementation Committee. NEITI is also working with the Open Partner initiative of the government and it also part of the Special Investigation Panel on oil theft to provide data and it has been able to gather a lot of data on how petroleum is managed in Nigeria which can be used for planning, and development.

He noted that in 20years, NEITI has conducted 13 cycles of oil and gas audit producing 22 years of data; 11 cycles of solid minerals audit generating 14 years of data; and 3 cycles of Fiscal Allocation and Statutory Disbursement Audit (FASD) audit covering 13 years of data. He also stated that during the period, NEITI's reports have led to significant recoveries of unpaid revenues from oil & gas and solid minerals revenues. For example, in 2022, NEITI's report uncovered over **N2.6 trillion** unremitted by **77 oil and gas companies**. According to him, this figure consist of unremitted Petroleum Profit Tax, Company Income Tax, Education Tax, Value Added Tax, Withholding Tax, Royalties, Penalties and Concession on rentals to the Federal Government. He reiterated that following an intervention by the National Assembly, the sum of **\$6.477 billion** was recovered and paid to FIRS and the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC).

He emphasized that beyond these recoveries, NEITI's findings and reports have led to system and process reviews that led to blockage of revenue leakages. He notified stakeholders that next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the uninterrupted EITI implementation which coincide with the 20th anniversary of the UNCAC.

Message from the Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes

Suleiman Abdukwari, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption was represented by Mr. Ashley Emenike who presented his goodwill message. He apologized for the Chairman's absence and noted the presence of the youth and appreciated them.

He appreciated the IATT and TUGAR who on behalf of its members hosted the event, he said without unity of purpose there can hardly be progress. It is especially heartwarming to see the synergy between the Agencies involved in the fight against corruption. He stated that the recently approved 2nd phase of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2022-2026 by the Federal Executive Council will give the Agencies the chance to collaborate better. The passage of Bills for the purpose of Anti-Corruption will give a major boost in the efforts to fight corruption. The Federal Government Fiscal Regulatory Policies will impact in the Electoral process as limiting the flow of cash will greatly reduce the chances of vote buying. He used the opportunity to urge the government for better funding of the new NACS by establishing the Anti-Corruption Fiscal Framework. He ended by wishing the participants a successful deliberation session.

Message from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

Abdulkarim Chukkol Director of Operations EFCC delivered the message on behalf of the Chairman, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa. The Chairman expressed his pleasure at being invited to the event as the day is a reminder that corruption is an issue of concern around the world, and it only differs in prevalence from country to country. In Nigeria, despite our best efforts, corruption remains a huge challenge undermining national development. He is however confident that the day will provide fresh impetus for the fight against corruption. He said the theme of this year's event fits well into the effort to get every hand on deck in the fight as citizens cannot afford to be complacent especially as it is for the common good. It is also a fitting tribute to the effort by the UNODC in fighting corruption as its UNCAC model is being used by successful entities around the world.

The fortune of Nigeria is a delicate asset that must be guided at all times. Successful anti-corruption models across the world are built on active citizens participation in the fight hence the need for a recommitment to the cause. The issue of a free and fair election cannot be overemphasized as it is the foundation of the government. It is for this reason EFCC is committed to doing the needful on its part to see this through. Vote trading and buying is the tragedy of recent elections in Nigeria for when citizens sell their votes they lose the right to hold their leaders accountable. The EFCC has been working to try to reduce the trend of vote trading as it is still prosecuting offenders from the last elections and has recovered monies earmarked or used for this. It deploys officers across Polling Units to work to discourage the trend, this was so even in the most recent Gubernatorial Elections and Primary Elections in 2022. This goes to show the EFCC's commitment to the fight to end or at least reduce corruption to its barest minimum. The EFCC has also planned to ensure that it does its very best in conjunction with INEC and other relevant stakeholders in the upcoming 2023 General Elections. He closed with a vote of thanks.

Message from the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)

The message was delivered by Ali Goni Gujba who in his message on behalf of the Chairman, Professor Bolaji Owasanye apologized for his absence and welcomed everyone to the occasion with its theme which underpins the fact that fight against corruption must be all encompassing with the unity of everyone both at the national and international level. Corruption is a killer and is rife in all aspect of our government,

tarnishing everything in its wake. It is therefore pertinent he said to ask the question what the immediate causes of corruption are and how can best to go about tackling them. He posited that the best way to tackle corruption is by everyone uniting to curb it. ICPC has done a lot on their part and are recommitting to do more. He congratulated the government on the Treasury Single Account which he opined has blocked 50% of the leakages in government. The ICPC will monitor the budget in order to reduce areas of wastage via corruption and will focus on prevention by enlightenment through religious bodies, traditional leaders and civil society to ensure that everyone knows the dangers of corruption.

Message from Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC)

Alhaji Saqiq Isa Rada said fighting corruption is a necessity not a choice and so any suggestion to aid in the fight is welcome. In his opinion, Nigeria has made quite a headway in the fight against corruption. It is a joint effort by the President, the Executive, National Assembly and Judiciary not forgetting other regulatory bodies like NAFDAC, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Nigerian Customs Services to mention a few. He commended the international community for partnering with the local entities to accomplish the much they have achieved especially with regards to asset recovery. Nigeria as a nation has made a lot of progress inspite of which there is still a lot outstanding. In order for us to move further, everyone must unite.

Message from the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC):

Emmanuel Uche delivered the message which he tagged "A Message of Hope" which he said was especially for the youth as the leaders of tomorrow to let them know that the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) which was prescribed by the UNCAC has done a lot to unite people against corruption as is the theme of this year's celebration. No progress can be made in the fight if it is not all inclusive and the NACS has set the tone for this. 4 States of the Federation have bought into the NACS and passed their own anti-corruption law and for the 1st time in the history of this Country, corruption can be unraveled even in the face of the government. This shows that there is hope if we can join hand, the New NACS has set the stage for it. EFCC and ICPC are creating Anti-Corruption Clubs in Schools to help with the campaign and he urged the students present to join when it is set up in their schools because this way there can be interactions between the youth and the various stakeholders. It's time to take back our country and that is possible especially given the fact that this administration has given the impetus to so do.

The Goodwill Messages ended at 1055am.

5.0 KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

At 1056 am, Mrs. Beatrice Jedi Agba, the Solicitor General of the Federation gave the Keynote Address on behalf of Honorable Attorney General of the Federation (HAGF) and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN. She began by apologizing for the absence of the HAGF and expressed his gratitude for the invite. The theme of this year's event is apt as it shows that everyone has a role to play on the fight against corruption in the interest

of global peace, security and sustainable development. The fight against corruption is one of the major goals of the present administration. Nigeria signed the UNCAC in 2003 and ratified same in 2004 and since then institutions, laws and policies have been put in place at both national and sub-national level to drive the implementation of our obligations under the UNCAC. The Proceeds of Crimes Act designated to recover the proceeds of crime and deprive the perpetrators of benefitting from same. Through the efforts of various Anti-Corruption Agencies there have been recovery of billions of Naira in different currencies which have been ploughed into the development of critical infrastructure. The Presidential Infrastructure Development Funds which have been used to support the Abuja-Kano Road, 2nd Niger Bridge and Lagos-Ibadan Express way. Also, Public Sector Reforms have mainstreamed Anti-Corruption Policies and values., e.g. National Development Plan, 2021-2025 and the Federal Civil Service Strategic Plan 2021-2025 aimed at building strong institutions and a more responsive Civil Service. Nigeria has also taken time to strengthen the collaboration of Anti-Corruption Agencies vide the IATT and this effort was acknowledged in the Review by Montenegro and Lesotho, Cote D' viore and Myanmar, respectively. The recommendations made thereafter are being worked on.

He said that the NACS has been extended and would give better opportunity for inclusiveness at all levels. He believes that this will lead to a better road and implementation of the Strategy among various sectors. He concluded by reiterating that all stake holders should take the responsibility seriously in the fight against corruption and appealed to the international community and the Development Partners to continue to provide the necessary support and technical assistance to help achieve the goal especially as it pertains asset recovery. Awareness and sensitization campaigns were also suggested as they will help as catalyst to further move the strategy of combating corruption in the right direction. The HAGF then thanked the organizers especially for involving the youth and UNODC for the support it provides to see to the success of the Anti-Corruption efforts of all stakeholders. The address was concluded at 11.04am.

6.0 PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel Discussion 1: Tackling Corruption in the Election Process: The 2023 General Elections and beyond

Moderator: Ms. Nma Odi. The panelists were Dr. Shagba MNI, Secretary to the PCC, Professor Kunle Ajayi, Chairman Outreach and Partnerships, INEC, Mrs. Ndidi Okafor, Deputy Director in Charge of Civic Organizations, INEC Headquarters, Mr. Michael Nzekwe, Commander Ilorin Zone, EFCC, CP Akika Austin Representing the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Babagana Bashir, Public Accounts Analysis and Reporting, Mr. Afolabi Adekayaoja..

The Moderator, Ms. Odi began by thanking the Organizers and explained that the Panel is to discuss how to ensure a free, fair and credible elections in 2023 and beyond. She set the rules and the discussion began.

She asked: what is it we need to know and do to ensure a free and fair election. Akika Austin began by defining the electoral process means everything leading up to the election, from formation of Political Parties to the election proper. He opined that to have a corrupt free election, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Electoral Act, 2022 (as amended) and the INEC Guidelines must be followed. He says corruption comes in various shapes and types depending on where it is being applied. In the Electoral process, anything that goes contrary to the laws governing it is corruption. From Formation of Political parties, nomination etc can be corrupted. He says the activities of thugs is corruption as it subverts the will of the people, financial inducement with money or food of the electorate which has taken a different dimension recently. On what can be done to stave these issues, he said we should be able to report perpetrators to security agents if not they cannot know. He says ballot snatching is a thing of the past because of the new method being put in place for voting.

The Moderator asked what the Police planned to do in the light of the fact that Policemen are also bribed to look the other way thereby making a joke of the whole reporting process. To this he says enlightenment of the public to make them know it is wrong and to watch their officers.

The Moderator asked what can be done to ensure that election is credible. The 2nd Panelist said Corruption in the electoral process is in three phases: Pre-election which is mostly in the nomination process where parties pick candidates with questionable character whom they feel they can control or the highest payer, during the Election the issue of vote buying and thuggery takes center stage and post-election, the politicians try to use cash to win in court. In order to stave the tide of these, he says that there needs to be intelligence sharing so that accounts can be monitored to track illicit funds movement up to the post-election so that judges who are elected to the Election Petition Tribunals are properly monitored to ensure that they are not bribed.

Mr. Nzekwe says there is strong legal framework which provides the necessary tools to ensure that corruption in the electoral process is dealt with. Section 121 of the Electoral Act provides for the offence of vote buying. Recently, at the Osun and Ekiti States elections, vote buying was rife. The EFCC played its part to ensure this was halted. A lot of arrest were effected up to prosecution. To ensure that vote buying is stopped, there has to be public enlightenment and sensitizing on the dangers of vote buying by media houses, NGOs, CSOs, as provided by Section 13 of the EFCC Act, before prosecution and deterrence. After this, there should prosecution as this will help in deterring others. But by Section 145(2) of the Electoral Act, empowers only INEC to prosecute electoral offences and it is only by fiat that any other person can prosecute. This is an impediment. Also, the creation of the Electoral Offence Tribunal which is still with the National Assembly is in the opinion of the EFCC duplicity since the Electoral Act already provides for the offence and who can prosecute. Rather let existing security agencies be empowered to do that bit. If there is no record of Arrests, Prosecution and Conviction people will not be deterred but if the vote buyers, sellers and their sponsors are brought to book it will serve to deter other people. He suggested that the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU)

can track the money to be used for the illicit transaction. INEC should give fiat to others to prosecute.

He further pointed the gap in the legal framework citing Section 145(2) of the Electoral ACT, 2022, that empowered only the INEC to prosecute electoral offender either through a legal practitioner or by way of fiat to enforcement agencies. He called on the NFIU to monitor and investigate financial flows before, during and after elections to ensure a credible election. He finally suggested that the mandate to prosecute electoral offences should be decentralized to other agencies. He urged that beyond arrest of offenders, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators as well as their sponsors would ensure a free and fair election.

Corruption has done colossal damage to our institutions it therefore is imperative that we all join hands to see that this electoral corruption is tackled says Dr. Shagba. From the perspective of the PCC, experience has shown that every incidence of corruption comes from administrative lapses. For those involved in the management of election process, all must be done to ensure that the processes are not compromised. INEC for instance should make sure that materials are delivered and not diverted. Provisions must be made for the Ad-hoc staff to be properly taken care of so they are not vulnerable. He stated that they have had instances in the past where ad hoc staff are not paid.

Mr. Afolabi says that the issue of corruption in electoral process comes down to accountability, people have to know who to hold responsible for issues at any point in time. Further that it takes 2 to tango there are no sellers without buyers, so a two-pronged approach has to be used. Reportage by media must be balanced. He explained that in the recently concluded gubernatorial elections in Ekiti State, they were able to gather that there were 41 vote-buying incidences in 6 Local Government despite their limited materials. Media should make sure they put facts out there based on which the agencies concerned can do their work. Lastly, he said there has to suitable legislations in place to support the effort and rather than duplicate institutions the current ones should be duly empowered to carry out the functions that help stop corruption.

Mrs. Okafor spoke for INEC, she says she is standing in for Prof. Kunle Ajayi, who is unavoidably absent. She says INEC agrees with the strategies in the law of the land and their preventive mechanism. She raised a poser: can morality be legislated. She is of the view that you can in the public domain because there are laws based on which you can be held accountable but not so in the private domain and that's why sensitization and advocacy is needed. We must be redirecting the conversation and situating it properly by way of inclusion, more should be done by Civil Society Organizations going forward. The people/citizenry should be told to tie their votes to infrastructural development. By this, politicians can be held accountable.

Moderator: She says that are different stakeholders to ensure free, fair and credible elections, the umpire is INEC, and other stakeholders, political parties and candidates

and citizens, judiciary, CSOs. All these stakeholders contribute to the corruption in the electoral process and there has to be a conversation on all the aspects of corruption as it concerns the electoral process. INEC for instance trains people for the job, but replace them with others on the day of the election, the security agencies who will turn a blind eye to the wrongdoings happening if they are duly bribed, during political primaries, many atimes, it is the Police who coordinate the corruption in the process.

She advised that all the stakeholders present should take back the message and recommit to the effort to combat corruption in the election process in 2023 and beyond. This is necessary because according to her, where the political parties are allowed to nominate bad people who are the highest bidders, it leaves us with bad leadership and governance which will lead to insecurity, economic hardship, and more corruption. She noted that there has to be a conversation to this end with political parties because it begins with them. There are CSOs who rather than do what is right, look for the highest bidders and sell their services and she advised that if we must advance, then such people must be called out as things must be done differently. In nutshell, she said if we do not kill corruption, Nigeria cannot grow.

Panel 1 began its discourse at 11.11am and ended at 11.45am

Panel Discussion 2: Topic: The National Anti-Corruption Strategy: what do we need to do differently?

Moderator: Professor Etanibi Alemika

Panelists: Zaphaniah Bulus, Code of Conduct Bureau, Mr. BB Gaji, ICPC, Charles Abana, and Mr. Umar Yakubu, Executive Director, Center for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch

Professor Alemika began at 12.14pm saying the NACS which took over a decade to agree on. It was piloted by TUGAR and in 2017-2021 the 1st Phase was launched. It expired and in November 2022, a new phase was launched the Federal Government. The content of both phases are the same and he opines that it shows that the 1st Phase left something to be desired leading to its extension from 2022-2026. This Panel is to examine the performance of the former to determine what needs to be done better. The NACS according to the Moderator is anchored on 5 Pillars:

1. Prevention
2. Enforcement and Sanction
3. Public Enlightenment and Sensitization
4. Revolution
5. Recovery of Proceeds of Crime

It was earlier stated by a few speakers that Nigeria did well in Recovery of Proceeds of Crime, based on which the moderator asked the question what then do we need to do better?

Charles Abana of Fiscal Responsibility began by opining that everything has to be done differently. If the earlier NACS had implemented excellently, it still would not end

corruption in Nigeria because of the pervasive, malignant, and endemic nature of corruption. There has to be a deliberate effort on every citizens side to end corruption because it begins with individuals before it spreads. For instance, a person would rather bribe to cut off the queue for fuel for his own personal gratification and it is the conglomeration of this that leads national decay from corruption. People must learn not celebrate corruption and for any law made in this regard, there should be sanction for committing or omitting to act in a certain manner, the Fiscal Responsibility Act was not taken seriously because it did not provide for sanctions and that is why there is an amendment underway at the National Assembly. Then again, he mused, for those laws that have sanctions, how many people have been prosecuted and/or convicted on their basis. So, it is such more than sanction there has to be a will, there is a need for attitudinal change.

Moderator asked Mr. Umar that there are 5 pillars how well did the country fare. Mr. Umar said upon assessment by his office of the 5 pillars on national and sub-national levels and between the agencies involved in its implementation, they could not score the NACS up to 10%. Going forward, all the policies are in place, but there is no political will which needs to be enshrined with a body which should cascade the policies down to all levels named in the Strategy.

Moderator says there was an action plan which a lot the supposed actors did not even know about, why was this the case and how can that be solved going forward. To this Mr. Zephaniah Bulus said that the CCB had its own strategic document in 2013, long before the implementation of the NACS and so it was quite easy for the CCB to imbibe the NACS 2017-2021 was majorly centered on prevention. It's being centered on prevention was a good thing because it is always easier to prevent corruption than to seek to halt it when it has been unleashed. CCB focuses on asset declarations as vital tool in the fight against corruption in all areas of our public life. Asset declaration can help bring down corrupt tendencies a great deal because it is great tool. The CCB has digitized this and its been test run so it can be released to the public. The staff of the Bureau have been asked to use it as pilot scheme, further, the CCB has engaged stakeholders to drive this forward. The strategy of public enlightenment as an agency,

Moderator: how do we improve the score card of the NACS which has been adjudged less than 10%

Mr. Gaji looked at the milestone of the NACS and said based on it, the ICPC saw the need to conduct Corruption Risk Assessments (CRA) to enhance ethics and integrity of the country. This was done quarterly, the Chief Justice of Nigeria was to publish a half yearly report on anti-corruption cases, to promote ethical recognition for people with integrity. On the part of the ICPC, a lot has been done based on the 5 Pillars of the NACS,

Moderator: The NACS was criticized for:

- lack of coordination for implementation.
- No message of public engagement that resonated with the Public

- Only the poor and vulnerable get sanctioned for wrong acts and so there is no deterrence function
- The process of Recovery of proceeds of crime and its usage is not understood by the public so they refused to key in.

Poser: How should the above be tackled so the errors/failings or shortcomings of the former will not be repeated in its new era?

Mr. Gaji suggests better coordination and better synergy rather than rivalry among the agencies. There is need for a high-level launch so all agencies will be aware. Further that there should be capacity building so that the staff of the participating agencies can be well informed of the role they have to play in the whole process

Mr. Bulus recommends teamwork and strengthened institutions. Mr. Umar says it is serious matter as it was made based on the commitment that Nigeria made as signatory to the UNCAC, if not implemented properly shows Nigeria in bad light. There is no issue per say with the legal or institutional frameworks as laws have been enacted and the institutions put in place. However, there must be compliance with the technical provisions and responsibility lies with the Federal Ministry of Justice to Drive the process and ensure that all stakeholders are informed and set up quarterly monitoring and evaluation to gauge the progress or otherwise of the process.

The Moderator surmised stating the need for hard work, accountability. monitoring and an annual review to ascertain progress or otherwise and adjust as need be on an ongoing basis rather than wait for 4 years to review as it may be rushed and not so thorough thereby being counter-productive. The session closed at 12.45pm.

Questions and Answer

Due to time constraint participants were asked to send their questions in online and they would be promptly attended to.

7.0 INTER-SCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITION

The Judges for the debate were Fatima Binta Abubakar, Sadiya Gashinbaki and Lipnee Godswill. Damilola Ogunmoroti was the Timekeeper. Bosede Oguntuberu moderated the debate session.

The secondary school debate was held between Bill Clinton International School, New Nyanya and Sure Start High School Kubwa. Bill Clinton International School, New Nyanya argued *For* while Sure Start High School Kubwa argued *Against*.

Precious Michael, Faith Felix and Favour Ogbogor represented Bill Cliton International School, New Nyanya while Abdulrahman Zubairu, Omobolade and Ayo Ajayi represented Sure Start High School Kubwa.

The debates were organized for schools and commenced with a Knockout session involving 7 schools, the finale is between the 2 top schools therefrom which are Bill

Clinton International School, Nyanya, Abuja, proposed while Sure Start High School, Kubwa, Abuja, opposed the motion which says: **“The Current Education Agenda Equips the Nigerian Child for the future in the Global World.”**

The topic for the debate was in keeping with the theme of this Year’s Anti-Corruption Day event which seeks to highlight the need for all to unite to combat corruption which is the bane of the educational system in Nigeria.

The Session which began at 11.47am and ended at 12.14pm was moderated by Mrs. Bosede Oguntuberu, who gave the ground rules and introduced the Judges.

The Competition was won by the Bill Clinton International School, Nyanya, Abuja and thereafter all other participating schools were presented with plaques for participation. The other schools that participated save for the 2 mentioned above are:

- Government Secondary School, Garki, Abuja
- Model Secondary School Maitama, Abuja
- Battle Axe Academy, Lugbe, Abuja
- Glisten Academy, Jahi, Abuja
- Government Secondary School, Kubwa, Abuja

Arguments For:

Precious Michael argued that the introduction of ICT in school curriculum in area of online learning, computer-based test/examinations as well as the introduction multi-lingua subjects like French and Spanish improves students’ readiness for global educational challenges. It also exposes students to learn new cultures to eradicate culture shock and stereotype. She also argued that the introduction of vocational training subjects like electrical electronics, entrepreneurship, marketing, and salesmanship also prepares students to be self-employed.

In addition, Faith Felix argued that introduction of modern-day teaching method, and the training of teachers through workshop has further prepares teachers in the discharge of their functions of impacting quality educational skills on the students.

Favour Ogbogor further stated that government partnership with the private sector and NGOs in the area of ICT and infrastructure have also allowed for the development of the education sector in Nigeria.

Argument Against:

Abdulrahman Zubairu in his opening remark, argued that the definition of education agenda is set goals or aim government plan to execute in the education sector for the future such as in the area of, improving the accessibility to education and level of illiteracy. He however, pointed that contrary to these agendas; gender inequality,

instability, under development and obsolete curriculum has been the case in Nigeria. He argued that these placed the youth at a disadvantage to compete with their peers globally.

Furthermore, Omobolade pointed that another challenge to the educational agenda is the perennial low and unstable budget on education which is always below the UNESCO 26 percent of total annual budget citing the national annual budget on education from 2016 to 2019 to be from 6percent to little above 7percent year on year. This according to her has resulted to series of strike in the high institute of learning citing the unending ASUU strikes that have crippled learning thereby placing the Nigeria child at a disadvantage to compete globally.

In conclusion, Ayo Ajayi in her intervention pointed the influence of religion in educational curriculum as well as lack incorporating technology in the Nigeria educational citing China and Finland where instead of chalk or marker boards, notebooks they use smart boards, projectors, notepads, laptops etc. She also noted that the Nigeria educational system focuses more on the cognitive domain of learning thereby jeopardizing other domains like the affective and psychomotor which contributes to other aspect of a child learning.

8.0. PRESENTATION OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION PORTAL (CDD)

The Anti-Corruption Portal for agencies working with the CDD, MacArthur project. The link was to shared thereafter.

9.0 CONCLUSION

Mrs. Jane Onwumere, thanked everyone. the children who participated especially, the Agencies which make up the IATT and their development partners. She recognized and appreciated all stakeholders and apologized for the inability to take questions and answer session due to want of time. She however urged those with questions to drop it at the registration desk for consequent response. She finally admonished all to do all they can in their individual space to fight corruption. She wished everyone well. The event closed at 12.55pm.

