



**Remarks by Ms. Kiki Gbeho, UN Resident
Coordinator**

International Anti-Corruption Day

Mondesa Community Hall

09 December 2015

Director of Ceremonies

Right Honourable, Dr Saara Kuugongelwa, Prime Minister
of the Republic of Namibia

Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Mr. Paulus
Noa

Distinguished Guests

Esteemed members of the press

Ladies and Gentlemen

Before reading the remarks by the Secretary General allow me to say a few words on this year's theme for the International Anti-Corruption Day "Breaking the Corruption Chain".

The message is simple. Taking back what was lost through corrupt practices is everyone's responsibility.

And therefore – all stakeholders – Governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, the media, the general public; including the youth, must play a role in fighting corruption and must, take a stand to break the corruption chain.

The campaign focuses on how corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to human rights violations, distorts markets, and allows organised crime, and other threats to human security, to flourish.

The UN Convention against Corruption which entered into force on 14 December 2005, strengthens measures to prevent and combat corruption more effectively, supports international cooperation, promotes integrity, accountability, and proper management of public affairs and property.

Corruption, is the single greatest obstacle to economic and social development around the world. Every year \$1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated \$2.6 trillion is stolen annually through corruption – a sum equivalent to more than 5 per cent of the global GDP. In developing countries, funds lost to corruption are estimated at 10 times the amount of official development assistance

The People and Corruption, Africa Survey of 2015 found that 58% of Africans state that corruption has increased over the past year. And 22 per cent of people who have come into contact with a public service in Sub-Saharan Africa say they have paid a bribe.

Governments must therefore deliver on anti-corruption commitments made globally and regionally.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Governments adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September this year.

Goal 16, seeks to reduce corruption and bribery, as well as promote access to justice and accountable and transparent institutions. Goal 1 and 10 refer to reducing poverty and inequality, against which, H.E. the President has declared war and created the MPESW to coordinate efforts to this effect.

Action is needed to include anti-corruption measures and metrics as part of the implementation process of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In acceding to the Convention, Namibia assumed obligations to incorporate anti-corruption measures in their legislation, state institutions, and law enforcement. Steady progress has been made; Namibia has adopted legislative and institutional frameworks to fight corruption. The Corruption Perception Index of 2014, ranked Namibia at 55, up from no. 58, out of 175 countries in 2012.

The declaration of assets and income by the President and the request to Ministers and Parliamentarians to do the same is another example of leadership and best practice by Namibia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Preventing and combating corruption requires a comprehensive approach that includes the participation of all members of society.

Let me; in conclusion, thank the Office of the Prime Minister and the Anti-Corruption Commission for the opportunity to address this platform.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL
MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY
9 December 2015

Global attitudes towards corruption have changed dramatically. Where once bribery, corruption and illicit financial flows were often considered part of the cost of doing business, today corruption is widely -- and rightly -- understood as criminal and corrosive. The new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our plan to end poverty and ensure lives of dignity for all, recognizes the need to fight corruption in all its aspects and calls for significant reductions in illicit financial flows as well as for the recovery of stolen assets.

Corruption has disastrous impacts on development when funds that should be devoted to schools, health clinics and other vital public services are instead diverted into the hands of criminals or dishonest officials.

Corruption exacerbates violence and insecurity. It can lead to dissatisfaction with public institutions, disillusion with government in general, and spirals of anger and unrest.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption provides a comprehensive platform for governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and individual citizens. Through prevention, criminalization, international cooperation and assets recovery, the Convention advances global progress toward ending corruption.

On International Anti-Corruption Day, I call for united efforts to deliver a clear message around the world that firmly rejects corruption and embraces instead the principles of transparency, accountability and good governance. This will benefit communities and countries, helping to usher in a better future for all.

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