PRESS RELEASE

Stakeholders’ Consultative meeting on Establishment of an Asset Recovery Practitioners’ Forum

The African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC) and the African Union Commission - Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (AUC-PAPS), in collaboration with the GIZ Global Program on Illicit Financial Flows (GP-IFF) held high-level technical stakeholders meeting in Addis Ababa from 28-30 May 2024 to discuss and finalize on the establishment of the Pan-African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum.

This meeting brought together Experts on Asset Recovery from National Asset Recovery Agencies, National Prosecuting Authorities, the Ministry of Justice of Ethiopia, the African Association of Anti- National Anti-Corruption, Agencies Corruption Authorities, East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, and the African Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Networks (ARINSA, ARINEA and ARINWA).

The main objective of this Forum was to sensitize Stakeholders on the content of Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR), review the proposed framework for the establishment of the African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum, agree on the content of the Charter for Pan African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum and validate the governance instrument of the Forum as well as make proposals for the initial action plan for the Forum, outlining key activities and areas of focus.
During the forum, Mr. Issaka Garba Abdou, Head of Governance and Human Rights, who delivered his remarks on behalf of Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Amb Bankole Adeoye stated that CAPAR is a policy, strategy and advocacy instrument to facilitate the identification, repatriation and effective management of Africa's assets for the common good of citizens, in accordance with Africa's development agenda, national laws and other legitimate government objectives, while respecting the sovereignty of Member States. He also stated that CAPAR sets out recommended measures and actions to effectively address the continued loss of African assets and to effectively identify, recover and manage African assets that are in or have been recovered from foreign jurisdictions, in a manner that respects the development priorities and sovereignty of African Union Member States.

The meeting also discussed the Charter establishing a Pan African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum. The Forum will support the implementation of the African Union General Assembly Decision on the CAPAR following the report of the High-Level Panel on IFFs (The Mbeki Report). It will further advance Aspiration 7 of the AU Agenda 2063 "the Africa we want" on stemming of IFFs to foster development and resource mobilization in the continent.

The forum hosted a pool of experts and platforms to support African countries in asset recovery negotiations for the return of assets, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and collaborative efforts within the continent to enhance asset recovery. In addition, the forum was critical and instrumental in drafting the final framework document that will be followed by the launch of the Pan African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum in July 2024 on the sideline of the African Anticorruption Day.

For further information please contact:

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