REPORT

GHANA ANTI CORRUPTION COALITION’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FORUM

VENUE: FIESTA ROYALE HOTEL, ACCRA
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition on the 7th of December 2021 held its 20th anniversary commemorative forum at the Fiesta Royale Hotel in Accra - to take stock of the progress and challenges of the anti-corruption fight in Ghana; and to explore strategies to propel the anti-corruption movement forward.

Present at the forum were GACC institutional members, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders.

Speaking at the forum, the Executive Secretary of the GACC, Mrs. Beauty Emefa Narteh, commemorated the events that led to the formation of the coalition 20 years ago, and celebrated its impact - highlighting the GACC’s contribution to the passage and implementation of anti-corruption legislations like the Whistleblowers Act of 2006 (Act 720); Office of the Special Prosecutor Act of 2018 (Act 959); Right to Information Act of 2019 (Act 989); Witness Protection Act of 2018 (Act 975); and the Public Financial Management Regulations of 2019 (L.I 2378).

The chairperson for the event, Ms. Linda Ofori-Kwafo, commended the institutional members of the coalition for their dedication to the anti-corruption fight, and described the forum as an opportunity to strategize and to chart a new anti-corruption path, as the prevalence and pervasiveness of existing corruption deserved innovative solutions.

Solidarity messages were shared with the convening by the following GACC partners: United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and the World Bank.

The keynote address was delivered by the Deputy Attorney General, Alfred Tuah-Yeboah, who decried corruption as an existential threat which weakens the foundations of the rule of law and stunts the growth of the economy. Honorable Tuah-Yeboah called on the GACC to continue to work to uproot corruption, and expressed hope for further GACC engagement with that of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice.

A panel discussion on the topic 20 years of building partnerships in the fight against corruption – Reflections on the journey so far: aspirations for the future, was moderated by Ms. Shamima Muslim.

The panel comprised of the following experts: Prof. Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi; Mrs. Yvonne Atakora Obuabisa; Rev. Dr. Fred Deegbe; Mr. Kwasi Abeasi; and, Dr. Jemima Nunoo.

The panelists discussed the GACC’s historical roots, triumphs, and obstacles; and explored how to launch a fresh invigorating anti-corruption movement moving forward.

Following that, there was a question-and-answer session, and recommendations were made on how to make progress in combating corruption in Ghana.

Recommendations proffered to catalyze anti-corruption efforts include: The automation and linkage of justice services; better collection and management of data on corruption cases; asset tracing of people suspected to be engaged in acts of corruption; the expansion of partnerships to include oversight institutions like the legislature; the institutionalization of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s); media engagement; and a conscientization and education of citizens - with hopes this will lead to a mindset change on corruption and its effects. The need to work on the enforcement of laws; increase turnaround time of prosecution on corruption cases, and a need for a GACC facilitated national conversation on the problem of corruption were also suggested as ways in which the persistent issue of corruption in Ghana could be mitigated.

The chairperson of the convening, Mrs. Linda Ofori-Kwafo, brought the forum to a close by thanking participants for their inputs. She described corruption as still very much a pertinent issue, and urged participants to remember the importance of partnership in dealing with corruption.
BACKGROUND

On the 7th of December 2021, the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) convened its 20th anniversary forum at Fiesta Royale Hotel in Accra-Ghana on the theme: 20 years of Building Partnerships in the Fight against Corruption.
Participants at this forum were drawn from relevant international, national, regional and district level stakeholders, and included individuals who had played various roles in the conception and formation of GACC, civil society representatives, public and private sector players, development partners, and the media.

The national anniversary forum sought to provide a platform for a national reflection of the multi-stakeholder collective approach to the fight against corruption in Ghana. It also provided an opportunity to deliberate on ways to magnify the positive impact of anti-corruption initiatives, and draw attention to persistent gaps in anti-corruption implementation, enforcement, and compliance - to define priorities for the next decade.

Moderated by Ms. Shamima Muslim, the Forum took stock of progress and challenges of the anti-corruption fight in Ghana, and documented valuable lessons to shape consensus building and collective advocacy for the effective fight against corruption. Specific recommendations to inform the future of the anti-corruption ecosystem for an ambitious way forward were documented.

The forum was divided into two sections.
1. An opening session which undertook a retrospective look at the formation of the GACC; and why its 20-year journey was worth celebrating. Remarks from the relevant partners who have supported the work of GACC over the years were heard during this session.

2. The subsequent panel session was dedicated to a reflection of the twenty-year journey through the lens of those who initiated and supported the GACC processes, plus that of experts who could independently speak to the impact of the coalition. These blend of views, perspectives, experiences and informed analysis were intended to challenge and enhance the future operations of the GACC. The ensuing interactive questions, answers, and inputs session uncovered recommendations from participants on the way forward for GACC after 20 years of impactful work.
WELCOME REMARKS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -
MRS BEAUTY EMEFA NARTEH

The Executive Secretary of the GACC, Mrs. Beauty Emefa Narteh, welcomed participants to the GACC 20th anniversary commemorative event.

The GACC, Mrs. Narteh noted, was established two decades ago as a unique cross-sectoral grouping of public, private, and civil society organizations with a vision to create a society in which transparency, accountability and integrity are upheld. A result of broad based stakeholder consultations, its formation was anchored on the need to mobilize anti-corruption actors to tackle head-on the issues of corruption in Ghana. The GACC has since grown in membership from eight (8) to thirteen (13) during the last two decades.

Mrs. Narteh related, how the GACC coordinates the running of a wide based platform capable of effectively tackling corruption issues within Ghana. The coalition, according to Mrs. Narteh, has over the years carried out various activities including, research, corruption monitoring, capacity building, and local and national level advocacy in service of that mandate. This has solidified the recognition, credibility, and legitimacy of the GACC among public, private, and civil society groups in Ghana.

According to Mrs. Narteh, the GACC has shifted strategic focus to a catalytic enabler of the anti-corruption space in Ghana Emboldened under its new five-year (2020 to 2024) strategic plan, the coalition.

Mrs. Narteh highlighted the GACC’s impact, noting how the creation of Local Accountability Networks (LANets) in 34 districts in 13 of Ghana’s 16 administrative regions has led local civil society groups to work concertedly towards the timely delivery of quality infrastructure and services, and more importantly accountable governance.

At the national level, she narrated how the GACC initiated the periodic anti-corruption CSOs engagement platform with the three arms of government (the Executive, legislature, and the Judiciary) to discuss issues of mutual interest and proffer evidence-based recommendations on issues bothering on corruption, governance, and decentralization.

Notably, the GACC had contributed to the passage and implementation of critical Ghana anti-corruption legislations such as: Whistleblowers Act of 2006 (Act 720); Office of the Special Prosecutor Act of 2018 (Act 959); Right to Information Act of 2019 (Act 989); Witness Protection Act of 2018 (Act 975); and the
Public Financial Management Regulations of 2019 (L.I 2378). The GACC had also developed a simple handbook to help people comprehend the Whistleblowers Act; and influenced the Whistle Blower Amendment process with findings from nationwide stakeholder engagements.

In the sub region, GACC also coordinated procurement and contracting monitoring activities in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia; and is currently supporting CSO procurement and Audit implementation monitoring work in Sierra Leone and Benin.

Reflecting on the 20-year journey, Ms. Emefa Narteh emphasized the need for more to be done to stem corruption in Ghana. She payed tribute to GACC members, partners, and former and current staff for the dedicated service, and called on participants to engage fully in proceedings to propel the GACC forward.
The Chairperson for the forum, Mrs. Ofori-Kwafo also welcomed participants to the forum. She shared how privileged she was to chair the convening on behalf of the GACC Vice Board Chair and Deputy Commissioner of CHRAJ, Mr. Richard Quayson.

Mrs. Ofori-Kwafo noted how she had watched the GACC grow in membership, recognition, influence and credibility since its inception, and emphasized how the commemorative forum was intended not only to celebrate GACC, but also its institutional members named as:

1. Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)
2. Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)
3. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
4. Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO)
5. Ghana Audit Service
6. Ghana Conference of Religions for Peace
7. Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)
8. Ghana Journalists Association (GJA)
9. Good Governance Africa (GGA)
10. National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE)
11. Private Enterprise Federation (PEF)
12. Public Procurement Authority (PPA)
13. Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA)

She commended the members of the coalition for their dedication to the anti-corruption fight, as evidenced by their ability to navigate the expected difficulties and challenges of such partnerships.

Ms. Ofori-Kwafo also thanked the many stakeholders who have supported the GACC over the years, notably development partners, the media, and other CSOs in the governance space.

She noted that, the pervasiveness and prevalence of corruption requires the coalition to operate innovatively in order to rise up to the challenge. Whilst the forum was meant to celebrate the coalitions journey thus, it was also an opportunity to chart a new anti-corruption path.
1. STATEMENT FROM UNCAC COALITION REPRESENTATIVE

Joining the forum via a pre-recorded video, Mathias Huter issued a statement on behalf of the UNCAC Coalition, a global network of over 350 civil society organizations (CSOs) in over 100 countries, committed to promoting the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Mr. Huter, who serves as the managing director of UNCAC coalition, expressed how happy the coalition was to have the GACC as one of its members. He congratulated the GACC, its executive director – Ms. Beauty Emeña Narrey and her team, and GACC partners and stakeholders who have contributed to the success and impact of the GACC in building partnerships in the fight against corruption. He emphasized how the GACC had made important contributions to both cycles of the UNCAC implementation review in Ghana; and stated how UNCAC had often highlighted the Ghanaian example and the role of the GACC internationally as a good practice model to show how an inclusive and participatory UNCAC review mechanism can contribute to achieving impact. The GACC, he informed attendees, had with the help of UNCAC produced a parallel research report that assesses Ghana’s progress in implementing UNCAC provisions of chapters 2 and 5 on corruption prevention and on asset recovery. Mr. Huter commended the GACCs contribution to numerous laws; and its multi stakeholder approach of bringing together public sector and private sector institutions, civil society, and the media under one coalition to promote transparency and integrity. He noted how the forum was an excellent opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved by the GACC and other stakeholders over the years, and to reflect on what future actions are needed to further strengthen Ghana’s system of checks and balances in advancing transparency, integrity, and accountability. Mr. Huter ended his remarks with congratulations to the GACC for its 20-year journey, and wished it the best in the years to come.

2. GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM UNDP ON BEHALF OF UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO GHANA

On behalf of Dr Angela Lusigi, the resident representative to Ghana, the GACC received expressions of goodwill from the UNDP on the occasion of its 20th anniversary celebration. GACCs work as an impressive CSO in Ghana in the last two decades which has made significant contributions to promoting accountability and a culture of integrity - especially among public office holders, was noted. The statement cited statistics to show the troubling spate of corruption globally - every year 1 USD trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated 2.6 trillion USD is stolen annually through corruption. This compared with the financing gap for the SDGs that is estimated at 2.5 trillion USD per year in developing countries shows the money
lost in corruption is money that is lost for development (The UN estimates that funds lost to corruption represent 10 times the amount of official development assistance). The UNDP statement iterated the importance of a strong environment of accountability, integrity, and anti-corruption to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s). Promoting peaceful, inclusive societies, access to justice for all as well as effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, it was indicated, is necessary for the achievement of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The UNDP expressed their resolve to strengthen the fight against corruption by prioritizing the role of CSOs in a proactive manner, and congratulated the GACC and its development partners, and pledged the organizations support towards promoting a culture of integrity and anti-corruption in Ghana. The statement concluded by calling on all actors to accelerate efforts towards the achievements of the SDGs by promoting a space for social accountability, public trust, and integrity to thrive in Ghana and beyond.

3. STATEMENT FROM WORLD BANK

In a statement presented to the GACC on behalf of the World Bank Country Director for Ghana, GACC, its staff, and institutional members were congratulated on reaching a significant milestone in its history. The critical role the GACC has played in Ghana’s fight against corruption over the last two decades was commended. The GACC’s expansion of its membership, broadening of its scope of activities, and involvement in the passage and implementation of key Anti-Corruption legislations was cited as testament to the importance of the coalition. The corruption fight however was noted as not over. The World Bank representative iterated the organizations commitment to supporting Ghana’s fight against corruption, including but not limited to support for enhanced Government investments, mobile-based citizen feedback mechanisms, and improved public procurement. The GACC was congratulated again for its 20th anniversary.
The keynote address was delivered by the Hon. Deputy Attorney-General and deputy minister for justice, Mr. Alfred Tuah-Yeboah. Mr. Tuah-Yeboah described the 20th Anniversary forum as a perfect time to reflect on and take into account the road travelled thus far and the paths to follow in the arduous journey of the fight against corruption. He welcomed the opportunity to further strengthen GACC’s engagement with that of the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, and saluted the Executives and organizers for their efforts in leading the important discussion on how to fight corruption and restore public trust in the political system. Quoting Lloyd Distant Jnr., President of Jamaica’s Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Alfred Tuah-Yeboah asserted that, “corruption in the public sphere represents an insidious surcharge destined for the pockets of the few, that are funded by the many, specifically by the taxpayer”.

Corruption, he added, weakens the foundations of the rule of law, stunts the growth of the economy and feeds on a wide range of areas such as education, health, politics, sports, national security, water, and worst causes demoralization and hopelessness. He described corruption as an existential threat that needs to be uprooted and flushed out with every strength we have. The deputy Attorney-General iterated government’s commitment to fighting corruption.

He cited the automation of key public sector processes, the passage of sunshine legislation to curb corruption, and the withdrawal of the Interception of Postal Packets and Telecommunications Messages Bill, known as the “spy bill”, from parliamentary consideration as examples of governments commitment to anti-corruption reform.

He called on attendees and the general population to pay their parts towards mitigating corruption by reporting corrupt activities to the relevant authorities. This, he said, will ensure of corruption related cases are effectively prosecuted. The Honorable Deputy Minister described corruption prevention as a shared responsibility; and called on everyone to reject cynical profiteering and exploitation of public trust, reinforce anti-corruption action in the pandemic response and recovery, and to build resilient societies able to withstand the threats and challenges of tomorrow.
A Panel discussion was held on the topic: 20 years of building partnerships in the fight against corruption – Reflections on the journey so far: aspirations for the future. The panel was comprised of the following experts:
1. Prof. Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi, Former CEO, Afrobarometer & Former Executive Director, CDD-Ghana
2. Mrs. Yvonne Atakora Obuabisa – Director of Public Prosecution, MoJAGD
3. Rev. Dr. Fred Deegbe – Senior Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church & Former Board Chair of GACC
4. Mr. Kwasi Abeasi – Former Board Chairman, Ghana Investment and Promotion Center (GIPC)
5. Dr. Jemima Nunoo – Lecturer, Ethics and Leadership, GiMPA Business School

The panel discussion looked at the historical roots of the GACC, its successes, challenges, lessons learnt, and how to create a new energizing campaign against corruption. A question and answer session ensued, and recommendations were taken on how to make strides in curbing corruption in Ghana.

The key issues from the panel discussion and Q and A are presented below.

**What was the thinking and situation that gave birth to the idea to put together a coalition of anti-corruption groups and actors to fight corruption collectively?**

GACC came about in the early 2000’s, from the realization that a good start had been made in raising the banner of anti-corruption and public integrity by the end of the century in Ghana. The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) had been founded towards the end of the century as a civil society non-state actor anti-corruption pressure group. The GII had made strides, but there were some notable limitations as the realization that civil society groups by themselves could not take consequential action without government. The realization that the anti-corruption fight could not go far without the state led to the tactical decision to somewhat engage the state - especially the state agencies directly engaged in anti-corruption, public integrity, accountable government. The agencies at the time with anti-corruption mandates included CHRAJ, Serious Fraud Office (SFO), and the Attorney General’s office that was beginning to deal with governance matters. These state agencies came in and joined hands with GII, CDD Ghana, and the private enterprise foundation to form the GACC. 20 years on, the decision to form the GACC can be looked back on as a very good idea. The GACC model has been adopted by many countries in the world now. Uganda is an example of such a country (Gyimah-Boadi, 2021).
How was decision making within the coalition, and how were the institutional members able to work with each other?

The GACC was a coalition of likeminded actors, all committed to the anti-corruption fight, so it was not too difficult. Decision making was guided by the realization that, you have to get along with different actors and principalities especially if there is a shared goal. It was good experience thus for civil society actors to work with state actors (Gyimah-Boadi, 2021).

Through the work of the GACC, it became possible to sort out jurisdictional conflicts and mandate problems with state agencies involved like the SFO, and CHRAJ which all had some level of independence - to enable them work cohesively (Gyimah-Boadi, 2021) (Deegbe, 2021).

Has the inclusion of religious bodies in GACC appealed to peoples’ morality enough to dissuade them from corruption?

Preaching of tenets may increase those who stand by anti-corruption as a principle, but those are in the minority. More than moral trumpeting, it is the coercive power of the state which is important. “It is cohesive power that gets people to behave. People will not do what you expect without sanctions” (Deegbe, 2021).

Corruption in Ghana is seemingly driven by the unholy alliance between business and politics. How do we address the negative effects of this alliance?

The act of corruption involves the corrupter and the corruptee, and is most cases, the corrupter is the private sector. An enduring fix to corruption therefore has to include the public as well as the private sector. The private sector has to be involved in all anti-corruption initiatives. Businesses, often cut corners to get things done. Sometimes, the corruption they engage in to further their businesses takes subtle forms like taking people to lunch, paying facilitation fees. Such corrupt acts, are perceived as lesser ills. It is important for the private sector to come on board and receive some education. (Abeasi, 2021)

Why has corruption persisted, or even worsened, despite the efforts of GACC and anti-corruption institutions and individuals to curb it?

The perception that corruption has worsened is debatable. Issues of corruption are more visible now because of conversations about it. Before the formation of the GACC, it was rare for conversations to be held on corruption. But now due to the advent of new media, people have become more vocal. Before, conversations were centered on grand corruption, but now, it includes all petty corruption. The proliferation of social media has thus brought renewed attention to issues of corruption. (Abeasi, 2021)

Is the behavior of wanting to protect wrong a cultural behavior; and what can we do as thought leaders to shape the attitudes of young people?

Morality is determined by a lot of things including religion, culture, and socialization. Ethics are always changing and evolving. We however need to be on guard as we are becoming more pluralistic as a people. Corruption is a mindset problem. How we view corruption is very important. To shape the attitudes of young people, we need to get them to ponder over questions like: if you go to a public institution and they ask you for something to grease the wheels, is it ok? If a colleague is cheating, what do you do? We take a lot of things for granted when it comes to corruption. That is why we need to keep talking about it, despite opinions that doing so only entrenches it. (Nunoo, 2021)

What can we do differently to mitigate corruption?

We need to discuss this collectively and create a basic framework of understanding that highlights acceptable standards of behavior. It should not be a contrived situation. There should be agreement on
shared values. Corruption does not thrive in light. What we do when we talk about corruption is cutting it off at the root. Dealing with corruption though is not just about exposing it, but it is also about the aftermath. Do people feel protected by the whistle blowers’ acts? What happens after people report cases of corruption needs to be addressed (Nunoo, 2021)

Is the legal framework on corruption reactive or proactive?

An act of corruption needs to be committed, before it is prosecuted. Things that have not yet happened cannot be punished. The knowledge of sanctions is however proactive as it serves as a deterrent. The Criminal offences act defines corruption. What is wrong however goes back into ethics and into religion. i.e. in some countries possession of narcotics is wrong. We as a society legislate and we say that this is wrong, so when we determine wrong, are we willing to provide evidence to aid prosecution? We will never know till someone reports an act of corruption. Other things however come to play when it comes to reporting corruption: education level, trust in institutions, confidence of the person. A lot of education is needed to deal with corruption. (Obubisa, 2021)

Why are reported cases of grand corruption not prosecuted successfully?

Far more corruption cases are being prosecuted now than ever. The Attorney Generals department is doing a lot more when it comes to public officials being prosecuted. Corruption may be seen to be thriving, but a lot more is dealt with. When grand corruption seemingly delays, it is because it is not just up to the Attorney General’s department. When corruption cases are reported, there is onus on the department to show that an individual has siphoned state monies that could have been used for development. Prosecution of politicians and rich people take longer as they often come with lawyers. “Yesterday a case was in court, day of hearing, lawyer brings a motion and the court asks for better particulars. We want a better system, and perhaps it is best for us to sit down and address the turnaround time of prosecution. (Obubisa, 2021)

Gyimah-Boadi (2021): Gratifying to hear that the attorney general’s office is doing far more prosecutions, as there is a litany of international public bribery cases where Ghana is the only place action is not taken, and officials instead of being punished get recycled. How can the GFA bribery scandal go unprosecuted? Prosecutions have happened in other parts of the globe. There were no prosecutions on the Airbus saga in Ghana. This is exactly what impunity means. State agencies need to be seen to be working to address corruption. The Office of the Special Prosecutor may have been sidetracked a bit, but it can get back on track.

The AG can prosecute, but accused also has a right to defense. This may delay cases for up to 8 years (Tuah-Yeboa, 2021)

Do we have adequate laws dealing with corruption in Ghana?

20 years ago no, now yes, as we now have enough laws. We are getting to a point of saturation of laws. The issue is with enforcement. We should address what we as a country want to do so that we shorten prosecution of politically exposed persons (Gyimah-Boadi, 2021)

What needs to be done to support the private sector to be sure they do not flame the light of corruption?

We need to make corruption very costly. If the private sector sees that, they will find a better way of doing business. If we are not able to convince the private sector that corruption is costly, they will continue to engage in corruption We need to catch the big fishes and use them as an example. Lee Kuan Yew once said, “If you want to eliminate corruption, set an example of punishment with your highest group of officials”. In Ghana, corrupt ministers go unpunished, whilst small farmers who steal get 3 years. Until we are able to reform to make corruption costly, most of them will continue to be corrupt (Abeasi, 2021).
CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY
**WAY FORWARD – RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO MITIGATE CORRUPTION**

- Mindset change. We often talk about corruption as if it is someone else’s problem. But corruption undermines our entire system and distorts the rule of law. Laws are not enforceable if there is corruption. Foreign investors do not want to come to places that are notoriously high in corruption. The phenomenon of corruption affects all facets of our lives. It undermines everybody, but the people who bear the worst brunt are the vulnerable. It is important to fix mindsets thus to deal with corruption. We need a lot of education so our mindsets can be recalibrated towards addressing corruption.

- Education: This education goes beyond the mandate of the attorney general, which is primarily to prosecute. It should include public, private, and civil society organizations. We need to reeducate our people that money is not everything. Our young people need to be conscientized early about the ills of corruption, and taught that money should not come over allegiance to the good of our nation.

- Automation and linkage of justice services: The justice system should be automated and digitized to keep track of criminal cases, including issues of corruption. The automated justice services will have to be linked with other entities including the ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice, and all other the law and order agencies, as linkages provide a higher layer of accountability. Agencies currently work in silos. If they get together and worked together, they will be able to see where the gaps are and get things done.

- Data Collection: Data on cases of corruption, and what stage they are in the prosecution and justice process should be better collected. Presently, we are not even collecting data in a way in which it can be shared and utilized. This needs to change.

- Asset tracing: To stem the spate of corruption, assets need to be traced. You can’t hide money. People steal money so they can build houses, go for vacations, buy cars. Information submitted to DVLA, or to banks for loans, could put together to determine if peoples are acquiring wealth through corrupt means.

- GACC should expand partnership and should include the legislature which performs an oversight role, including budgetary oversight.

- State institutions must make use of provocateurs like Anas to secure evidence of corruption. It is important to adopt the Anas principle.

- Standard operating procedures (SOP’s) should be adopted and instituted across all agencies in Ghana.
This will institutionalize good behavior and ensure clarity on public processes.

- Media should follow up on corruption cases, and show interest till the end of the case. The wheels of justice grind slowly. We need to persist; as sustained activity can lead to success. We need to have that staying power? The media has a role to play but often move onto to next stories. They need to maintain an interest in cases till it is successfully adjudicated.

- Put the spotlight on persons who bribe (Corrupters): There is not enough spotlight on those who actually provide these funding. It is time we throw some attention on the person giving. Even if officials are replaced, they go back to try to corrupt them. Not everyone has that high level of resistance. The officials may give up in the end due to a gradual breakdown of their walls.

- Need to build confidence: There’s the need to build confidence in our justice and witness protection systems, such that, people are unafraid to report cases of corruption.

- Build synergies. A case tracking system on issues of corruption.

- Ratify ILO convention 158, which mandates justification must be provided for the termination of appointments. That way, principled anti-corruption officials cannot be persecuted out of office.

- Proof of character before serving in public office: It is important for us that people nominated to public office sign a declaration that says they have not been charged or investigated for any wrong doing. If they have they need to provide evidence. This will prevent people who have committed crimes from seeking appointments.

- We need to work on the enforcement of laws. The wheels of justice need to be sped up. We cannot just accept that the wheels of justice grind slowly.

- We should stop celebrating people with unknown sources of wealth. We need to celebrate instead people who have remained steadfast and have been persecuted for their anti-corruption principles, and make them national heroes, or at least uphold them within the religious community.

- We need to work to increase turnaround time of prosecutions. A cap should be put on the appeals process for corruption cases.

- Sunshine remains the best disinfectant of corruption.

- Need for a national conversation on the problem of corruption. GACC needs to hold national conversations on how to deal with the persistent issue of corruption in Ghana.

- Funding: Funding for CSOS is very important, as we need new tools to measure the impact of corruption. We also need to build capacity to fight anti-corruption, and all these require funding.

- Finally, we need to be more audacious, and not give up even when it seems we have lost to corruption. Rather, that should motivate us to fight on.
The forum was brought to an end with concluding remarks from the chairperson, Mrs. Linda Ofori-Kwafo who thanked participants for their inputs. She described corruption as still very much a pertinent issue, with multiple facets, and urged participants to remember the importance of partnership in dealing with corruption.
Abeasi, K. (2021, December 7). 20 years of building partnerships in the fight against corruption - Reflections on the journey so far, and aspirations for the future. (S. Muslim, Interviewer)

Deegbe, R. D. (2021, December 7). 20 years of building partnerships in the fight against corruption - Reflections on the journey so far, and aspirations for the future. (S. Muslim, Interviewer)

Gyimah-Boadi, E. (2021, December 7). 20 years of building partnerships in the fight against corruption - Reflections on the journey so far, and aspirations for the future. (S. Muslim, Interviewer)

Nunoo, J. (2021, December 7). 20 years of building partnerships in the fight against corruption - Reflections on the journey so far, and aspirations for the future. (S. Muslim, Interviewer)

Obuabisa, Y. A. (2021, December 7). 20 years of building partnerships in the fight against corruption - Reflections on the journey so far, and aspirations for the future. (S. Muslim, Interviewer)

Tuah-Yeboah, A. (2021, December 7). (S. Muslim, Interviewer)
PHOTO GALLERY

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE AND DRAMA TO PROMOTE ANTICORRUPTION

GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

CROSS-SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

GACC PRESENT STAFF & INTERNS

GACC PAST STAFF

GACC PAST & PRESENT STAFF INCLUDING INTERNS
PHOTO GALLERY