



Ghana Integrity Initiative

Local Chapter of Transparency International

PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

COMMEMORATING 2024 INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

UNITING WITH YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION: SHAPING TOMORROW'S INTEGRITY

Accra, Ghana – December 9, 2024 – Today, Ghana joins the global community in commemorating the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Day, a day set aside by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to raise awareness of the impact of corruption and the role of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in combating and preventing it.

The theme for the year's commemoration is "**Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity**". According to the UNODC, the theme is intended to highlight young people's vital role in the fight against corruption. The theme was also chosen to seamlessly fit into the eleventh session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP11) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Doha, Qatar in 2025. At the CoSP11 young people will be expected to directly appeal to world leaders, urging them to support a future where they can thrive free from corruption.

The year's commemoration coincided with the 2024 general elections during which social contracts on youth engagement and anti-corruption among other policy issues have been made. Among the anti-corruption policy proposals made by the in-coming administration which have a direct bearing on the youth include;

1. Review the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921) and the Public Procurement Act 2003 (As Amended with Act 914) to prevent conflict of interest and insider dealing by politically exposed persons in the award of contracts.
2. Strengthen and enforce financial management practices and transactions to reduce corruption in the sports sector.

3. Review the Computerised School Selection & Placement System (CSSPS) to address corruption in school placement, and make it merit-based.

In all, the in-coming administration made 19 anti-corruption promises, 16 of which remotely impact the youth and the above 3 directly affect the youth.

According to the 2021 population census conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), 35% of the population are children between the ages of 0-14 years and 38% are young people between the ages of 15-35 years. Ghana's population is said to be youthful with about 57% of the population under the age of 25 years, yet very few are represented or play any role in decision-making or specifically in the fight against corruption.

Therefore, there is a need for a conscious effort to define roles and mobilise the youth around the defined role in the fight against corruption. The opportunity to actualize youth involvement in the fight against corruption is presented through the development of the second National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP 2). The effort will be expected to pay attention to prioritising the youth in order to secure a generation of anti-corruption change agents and champions.

Today, GII urges stakeholders to establish avenues for youth participation in anti-corruption activities to amplify and elevate the voice of young people in the fight against corruption and will create a platform for the youth to hold the government accountable for their anti-corruption promises.

Finally, GII wishes to state that ***fighting corruption with young people is crucial if the world is going to make any real progress.*** Let us all pledge to live in a society free from corruption, where transparency responsibility, accountability and openness are the cornerstones of national development.



For further information and media engagements, contact GII:

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