

# REPORT LAUNCHING WEBINAR

## Successes and Challenges of Implementing the Recommendations of African Union High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows

August 27, 2025

Virtual

16:00 – 18:00 East African Time



### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

It has been 10 years since the African Union High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows (AU HLP - IFF) published its report. The report not only brought to light the depth and breadth of illicit financial flows from Africa, but it also put figures to the scourge. According to the 2015 report, Africa loses an estimated 50 billion USD per annum to illicit financial flows, which was equivalent to the total amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) being poured into the continent. The estimated losses stood at 89 billion in 2020 (UNCTAD, 2020)<sup>1</sup>. While 65 to 70% of the total amount is lost through commercial channels, the remaining 30 to 35% is attributed to criminal activities and corruption.

Recognizing the importance of the issue, the African Union endorsed the report and issued an assembly declaration ([Assembly/AU/Decl.5.\(XXIV\)](#)) in support of the undertakings of the Panel. Backed by high-level political commitment of the continental body, the AU HLP – IFF continues to advocate for the creation of an effective national, continental and global system that can tame the loss of financial resources through IFFs. Its engagements mainly relate to supporting countries and regions to implement its key recommendations. Creating the right set of institutions and laws, establishing compliance processes, ensuring inter-agency cooperation, building continental partnerships, introducing financial reporting standards, creating sharable databases on corporate registration and building the capacity of public officers dealing with customs and taxation are some of the key recommendations.

A lot has changed in the last 10 years. While many African countries have managed to put in place institutions tackling IFF, such as Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), Transfer Pricing Units (TPUs), Corporate Registration Offices, Beneficial Ownership Databases and national-level transparency initiatives, there remain significant gaps in realizing effective inter-agency cooperation, law enforcement, fiscal transparency, due diligence of extractive contracts and asset recovery regimes. As the discussion on financing for development gains momentum, therefore, there remain critical gaps that Africa needs to attend to, if it is to contain IFF and enhance its domestic resources creation and mobilization endeavors.

<sup>1</sup> [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/aldcafrica2020\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/aldcafrica2020_en.pdf)

With the intention of stocktaking the continental experiences, the AU HLP – IFF Secretariat produced a report entitled, *Successes and Challenges of Implementing the Recommendations of the African Union High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows*. Produced by reputed African experts, the report evaluates the changes in the overall macroeconomic and geopolitical space, emergent debates on illicit financial flows, the state of continental level coordination platforms and progress in terms of implementing the recommendations of the AU HLP on IFF.

## OBJECTIVES

The broader objective of the launching webinar is to bring to light the main findings of the report. In doing so, CoDA/AU HLP – IFF Secretariat aims to further consolidate the African effort in creating a coherent and coordinated response to IFFs from Africa.

Specifically, the event will help:

- ▶ To launch the report, and showcase the successes and challenges of implementing the recommendations of the AU HLP – IFF.
- ▶ To consolidate policy, advocacy and communication actions against IFFs from Africa.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The following are the main expected outcomes of the launching webinar:

- ▶ Key stakeholders sensitized about the successes and challenges of Africa's fight against IFFs.
- ▶ Successful national level endeavors of fighting IFF and creating responsive asset recovery regimes highlighted.
- ▶ Coordination amongst key African stakeholders in the fight against IFFs strengthened.

## PARTICIPANTS

Participants of the webinar include policymakers, researchers, representatives of civil society organizations, community leaders, activists, media personnel, academia and so on.

A total of 150 – 200 participants are expected to attend the launching webinar.

## FORMAT

The launching will be structured as a webinar. An opening remark will be delivered by the Executive Director of CoDA/AU HLP – IFF Secretariat, followed by keynote address and presentations by the drafters of the report. The presentations will, then, be followed by Question & Answer.

## Opening Remark — • 16:00 – 16:15



• **Ms. Souad Aden-Osman**, Executive Director of CoDA/AU HLP  
– IFF Secretariat

## Keynote Address — • 16:15 – 16:35



• **Prof. Florens Luoga**, Retired Governor, Bank of Tanzania, and Senior Advisor,  
CoDA/AU HLP – IFF Secretariat

## Presentations — • 16:35 – 17:20



• **Prof. Horman Chitonge**,  
Professor of Political Economy  
at the Center for African Studies,  
University of Cape Town



• **Dr. Redge Nkosi**,  
Economic Advisor,  
CoDA/AU HLP  
– IFF Secretariat



• **Mr. Getachew Teklemariam**,  
Senior Program Officer,  
CoDA/AU HLP  
– IFF Secretariat

## Question and Answer — • 17:20 – 17:55



• **Mr. Lameck Odada**, Lecturer at Namibia University of Science and Technology

## Closing Remarks — • 17:55 – 18:00



• **Prof. Florens Luoga**

