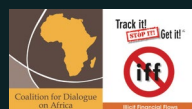


REPORT LAUNCHING WEBINAR

Five Years of Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR)

October 9, 2025 Virtual

16:00 – 18:00 East African Time (EAT)



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

It was back in 2015 that the African Union High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows (AU HLP – IFFs) indicated that Africa is losing on average 50b USD per annum to the scourge of illicit financial flows. Mainly originating from trade misinvoicing, unequal natural resources contracts, transfer pricing, misinvoicing of services and intangibles, aggressive tax avoidance and illegal export of foreign exchange, IFFs continue to rob the continent of essential resources that could have been put to advance the livelihoods of citizens. Recent estimates show that the loss has increased to an 90b USD per annum, which is way higher than the official development assistance (ODA) that Africa receives from international donors.

The risk that IFFs pose on Africa's development cannot be understated. Financial resources that could have been used to build critical infrastructure, increase access to basic services (education, health, water supply and sanitation), create jobs for the youth and improve living standards of citizens are being lost to illicit commercial and non-commercial undertakings. Not only does this squeeze national budgets, but it also weakens institutions, worsens governance and proliferates criminal activities. According to the [recent report](#) by the AU HLP – IFF Secretariat, the increasing magnitude of IFFs in Africa is being compounded by regulatory lax, lack of effective coordination mechanisms at continental and national levels, weak law enforcement, increasingly swayed natural resources contracts, feeble institutional capacity, weak global and continental partnerships and lack of political commitment.

Amongst its many recommendations, the AU HLP Report underscores the need to stimulate and expedite the process of asset recovery and repatriation. As a follow-up to the adoption of the AU HLP – IFFs Report by the African Union Assembly, the AU expressed its commitment to speak in “one-voice” and develop the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR). That recommendation came to reality as CAPAR was endorsed by the AU Assembly in 2020 with the championship of Nigeria and close institutional support of AUC, CoDA, PALU and AUABC.

CAPAR is a policy and advocacy instrument that supports the identification, tracing, repatriation, and management of Africa's assets for the common good of citizens, in accordance with the continent's development agenda, domestic laws, and other legitimate instruments, in a manner that respects the sovereignty of African Union Member States. Acting on the findings of the AU HLP Report, which identified weak national and regional capacities as impediments to curbing IFFs, CAPAR recommends strengthening national and regional institutions.

Five years after the adoption of CAPAR, African Union countries continue to struggle in creating effective asset recovery regimes. National level regulatory and institutional systems on asset recovery remain fragmented. Only few countries attempted to recover illicitly lost assets with little success. The existence of multiple, uncoordinated and interest-based networks of asset recovery agencies have furthered the confusion, hampering the desperately needed continental-level coordination on asset recovery.

In light of the above dynamics, the AU HLP – IFF Secretariat produced a report titled, *Five Years of Common African Position on Asset Recovery*, to take stock of the continental journey on asset recovery since the endorsement of CAPAR by the AU Assembly. The report positions CAPAR in comparison to other global instruments of asset recovery and illustrates the cases for its utilization at national level. By showcasing successful asset recovery cases, the report highlights factors contributing to successful asset recovery and the gaps thereof. The launching webinar will, therefore, be an official event to enable the authors of the report to engage on and publicize its major findings.

OBJECTIVES

The broader objective of the report launching webinar is to highlight the major findings of the report, titled *Five Years of Common African Position on Asset Recovery*. In doing so, the webinar will showcase Africa's efforts in recovering illicitly lost assets and the challenges thereof.

Specifically, the launching webinar aims:

- To present the major findings of the report and factors that affect effective asset recovery in Africa.
- To demonstrate the role of CAPAR in strengthening continental level partnership on asset recovery.
- To layout future action points that African stakeholders need to adopt to enhance asset recovery efforts.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The following are the main expected outcomes of the webinar:

- African and non-African stakeholders sensitized about the efforts the continent is undertaking to recover illicitly lost assets.
- Alignment created by national and continental actors on asset recovery matters to address systemic gaps.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants of the webinar will include policymakers, researchers, representatives of civil society organizations, journalists and academia.

STRUCTURE

The launching webinar will see opening remark, keynote address, presentation of key findings of the report and Q & A sessions. The following will be the structure:

Introductions ————— • 16:00 – 16:10



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

Opening Remarks ————— • 16:10 – 16:25



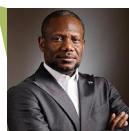
Prof. Florens Luoga, Retired Governor, Central Bank of Tanzania; Commissioner, Tax Reform Commission of Tanzania; and Senior Advisor, CoDA/AU HLP – IFFs Secretariat

Presentation ————— • 16:25 – 17:10



Dr. Esa Onoja, Director (Academics), Nigerian Law School
“Five Years of Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR)”

Inputs ————— • 17:10 – 17:25



Mr. Thierry Mbulamoko, Former Coordinator, APLC, DRC

Discussant ————— • 17:25 – 17:40



Donald Deya, CEO of Pan-African Lawyers Union (PALU)

Q & A ————— • 17:40 – 18:00

Closing Remarks ————— • 18:00

