

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network

Chairman's Conclusions

Swakopmund, Namibia | 16-17 October 2017

Following the invitation of the Namibian Office of the Judiciary and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime the Chief Justices, Senior Judges and other justice sector stakeholders from Angola, Botswana, Ghana, Mozambique, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe gathered to discuss good practices and challenges in strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in the judiciary and to guide the establishment of the Global Judicial Integrity Network.

Participants shared a vast array of innovative approaches which had been taken to effectively implement Codes of Conduct and hold judicial officers accountable. Individual good practices mentioned included the introduction of performance evaluation systems, income and asset declaration for judicial officers, ethics advisory boards, judicial ethics training, court inspections as well as the protection of whistleblowers.

Specific challenges remained with regard to continuous attempts of the executive and the legislature in some countries to interfere with judicial decision-making and judicial appointments. Challenges also related to the lack of full financial autonomy of many judiciaries throughout the region.

Participants welcomed the proposal to launch a Global Judicial Integrity Network as a platform to allow for further exchange around issues of mutual concern, to access resources and capacity building opportunities and to develop new tools. Participants were particularly interested in sharing good practices and lessons learned in the selection, appointment and vetting of judicial candidates with a view to possibly developing basic principles to guide the improvement of existing systems.

The meeting concluded by thanking the Namibian Judiciary for hosting the event and all the partners for their invaluable support, and expressed their appreciation to UNODC for supporting the establishment of the Global Judicial Integrity Network.