

# The Peer-to-Peer Alliance of Anti-Corruption Authorities



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... is a dynamic platform where professionals with significant firsthand experience in the field of anti-corruption exchange knowledge and best practices with peers in similar roles and organizations transcending national boundaries. Initiated by the GIZ in 2019, the Alliance has led to first steps, some of them already significant, towards changes within the participating authorities in Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, and Uganda. As it currently continues to evolve under the auspices of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC), the Alliance's impact is poised to grow even further.

## ! Anti-Corruption and Peer-to-Peer Learning

Anti-Corruption and Integrity are preconditions for sustainable development and are accordingly referred to in the UN Agenda 2030, particularly in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.5 on reducing corruption and bribery. In the pursuit of an effective and efficient anti-corruption response, international cooperation, mutual exchange, and knowledge-sharing become indispensable. The concept of joint learning aligns with the principles enshrined in SDG 17.6 which endorses enhanced regional and international cooperation for knowledge-sharing.

No one knows the challenges facing anti-corruption practitioners better than the practitioners themselves. Therefore, in May 2019 the **Peer-to-Peer Alliance of Anti-Corruption Authorities** (the **P2P Alliance of ACAs**) was founded to improve efforts in preventing and combating corruption in **Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, and Uganda** (Box 1). The primary purpose of the alliance is to promote change-oriented learning with the long-term objective of self-sufficiency.

### Institutions part of the P2P Alliance of ACAs:

(The PCCB dropped out in 2021.)

- Kenyan Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission ([EACC](#))
- Namibian Anti-Corruption Commission ([ACC](#))
- Tanzanian Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau ([PCCB](#))
- Ugandan Inspectorate of Government ([IG](#))

## ! The P2P Alliance of ACAs

The [GIZ sector programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity](#) served as secretariat of the P2P Alliance of ACAs for three and half years. In October 2022 the sector programme handed the secretariat to the [African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption](#).

The P2P Alliance of ACAs was inspired by the peer-to-peer learning approach promoted by the [OECD Effective Institutions Platform](#). In the sensitive field of anticorruption, the P2P format provided a safe space for candid discussions about both successes and challenges. It fostered a collegial atmosphere that encouraged members to openly share experiences and seek informal advice from each other. Unlike traditional capacity building, the Alliance emphasizes the practical, often implicit knowledge accumulated by peers in their professional lives.



Abu Dhabi, 8th Conference of the State Parties to the UNCAC, Special Event, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to get far go together", December 2019 | © GIZ

The P2P Alliance of ACAs consisted of two peers appointed by each ACA, the secretariat, and a moderator. The role of the secretariat was to assist the development and the monitoring of action plans which identified gaps and appropriate mitigation measures, to support the in-person and virtual exchanges between institutions and with external actors logistically and financially, and to organize the transition to the AUABC. The moderator had a crucial role in building the required trust among the peers and facilitate the adoption of structured approaches to institutional learning. The peers' participation was on voluntary base. To steer the Alliance's strategic decision-making processes, the peers appointed strategy and agenda leaders.

Under the GIZ secretariat, the Alliance met for a foundational workshop in Frankfurt, conducted two benchmarking visits, one at the Kenya's EACC and one at the Namibia's ACC and participated with a [panel discussion](#) on P2P learning at the eighth Conference of State Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in Abu Dhabi. During the pandemic, the Alliance continued working virtually, by improving also digital literacy of participants.

**The secretariat organized seven online workshops, four virtual exchanges with external actors and two capacity building activities:**

- Benchmarking visit (Windhoek, April 2022)
- Exchange with the Kenyan Business Registry Services and Tax Justice Network on the establishment of a Beneficial Ownership Registry (online, September 2021)
- Exchange with national public procurement institutions from South America to discuss corruption risks linked to health crises (online, March 2021)
- Exchange with the African Organisation of English-speaking Supreme Audit Institutions ([AFROSAI-E](#)) on methods to improve regional networks' resilience (online, March 2021)
- Exchange with GIZ expert on Gender and Anti-Corruption (online, March 2020)
- Panel discussion at the eighth CoSP (Abu Dhabi, December 2019)
- Benchmarking visit (Nairobi, October 2019)
- Exchange with the Malagasy Bureau Indépendant Anti-Corruption ([BIANCO](#)) on whistleblower and reporting systems (online, August 2019)
- Foundational Workshop (Frankfurt, May 2019)
- Capacity building on mutual legal assistance with the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa

**! Outcomes**

Through a shared commitment to combat corruption, the alliance members have cultivated a profound level of trust that laid the foundation for an open exchange of experiences, encompassing both successes and failures in their anti-corruption efforts.

An **external evaluation** revealed unanimous success in meeting **individual learning** objectives also thanks to the access to valuable learning opportunities and in expanding the professional networks. Through the empowerment of the peers, the Alliance managed to implement **substantial changes within the respective ACAs**.

In **Uganda**, the **IG** initiated a case prioritization committee to address backlog challenges. IG inspectors undertook an audit of pending cases, successfully clearing the existing backlog. Additionally, IG has adopted a collaborative approach by including lawyers in their investigation teams, resulting in expedited processes and enhanced communication. Plans are underway to establish a forensic laboratory, inspired by a similar initiative in Kenya.

In **Kenya**, the **EACC** has been dedicated to reducing the turnaround time for high-profile investigations. To achieve this, a committee was established to assess and improve the investigation process by seeking input from the involved officers. The committee has made recommendations to enhance the investigation process effectively.



Nairobi, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Benchmarking visit at the EACC and Workshop of the P2P Alliance, October 2019 | © GIZ

The **Namibia's ACC** has developed and piloted an internal guideline for system reviews. This marks a significant milestone as it is Namibia's first-ever guideline for conducting high-quality system reviews. The guideline's purpose is to uncover corrupt practices, revise susceptible systems or procedures, and provide recommendations for preventive measures.



Windhoek, Namibian Anti-Corruption Commission, Benchmarking visit at the ACC and Workshop of the P2P Alliance, April 2022 | © GIZ

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Registered offices  
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Sector Programme Anti-Corruption and Integrity  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36 | 53113 Bonn, Germany

E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

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Contact  
Viola Bölscher | Programme Manager  
[anticorruptionprogramme@giz.de](mailto:anticorruptionprogramme@giz.de)

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