**Workshop Report: Justice, Corruption, and Their Effects on Peace and Security in Africa**

Dates: Monday, October 28, 2024 – Friday, November 1, 2024

Venue: Arusha International Conference Center, Arusha, Tanzania

**Introduction**

The Workshop on Justice, Corruption, and Their Effects on Peace and Security in Africa brought together a diverse group of participants, including experts from academia, practitioners in the fields of law and governance, and policymakers from various African countries, all committed to addressing the challenges of corruption and its impact on peace and security. Organized by the African Institute of International Law (AIIL), the five-day event aimed to deepen understanding of corruption as a driver of conflict and to identify actionable strategies for combating it.

The workshop included interactive lectures, vibrant discussions, practical exercises, and visits to key institutions in Arusha, culminating in concrete recommendations for addressing these complex issues.

**Day One:**

**Setting the Stage**

The workshop began with an opening ceremony led by Professor Mathias Sahinkuye, AIIL Program Director, who welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of tackling corruption to foster peace and security.

Morning Sessions:

1. Introduction to Justice and Corruption in Africa: The group of participants was introduced to the nexus between corruption and justice, with an emphasis on how systemic challenges impact governance, development, and security across the continent.

2. Case Studies: Interactive case study sessions highlighted corruption-related issues in specific conflict-affected African countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and South Sudan.

Afternoon Session:

- Panel Discussion: Experts explored how corruption undermines peacebuilding efforts and proposed solutions for integrating anti-corruption measures into justice mechanisms.

Key themes from the day included the role of institutional reform and civil society in combating corruption and the importance of promoting accountability.

**Day Two:**

**The Role of Legal and Institutional Frameworks**

The second day focused on the legal and institutional responses to corruption in Africa.

Morning Sessions:

1. International Legal Instruments: Discussions centered on international conventions, including the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

2. Regional and National Frameworks: The role of regional bodies, such as ECOWAS and SADC, and national anti-corruption agencies was critically assessed.

Afternoon Workshop:

- Interactive Exercise: Participants were divided into groups to analyze real-life scenarios of corruption in conflict zones, exploring legal and policy responses.

Participants emphasized the need to harmonize anti-corruption laws across African countries and strengthen enforcement mechanisms.

**Day Three:**

**Visit to the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and Panel Discussions**

Morning Session: Visit to the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights

Participants visited the African Court to gain insights into its role in promoting human rights and accountability. The visit included a guided tour, presentations by Court officials, and discussions on its challenges and successes.

Key Takeaways:

- The Court’s role in fostering justice and addressing impunity.

- The importance of increasing awareness of the Court among African citizens.

Afternoon Session: Panel Discussion – Corruption and Its Impact on Human Rights

Experts highlighted the direct and indirect effects of corruption on human rights, particularly in conflict settings. Recommendations included increasing cooperation between anti-corruption agencies and human rights organizations.

**Day Four:**

**Collaborative Strategies and Practical Solutions**

The penultimate day was dedicated to developing collaborative strategies to combat corruption and foster peace.

Morning Session:

- Multi-Stakeholder Approaches: Experts from civil society, government, and academia shared successful strategies for combating corruption in post-conflict settings.

Afternoon Workshop:

- Policy Recommendations: Participants worked in groups to draft policy recommendations for regional organizations, emphasizing the need for robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

**Day Five:**

**Concluding Reflections and Closing Ceremony**

Morning Session: Synthesis and Final Discussions

Participants reflected on the insights gained during the week and discussed actionable steps for their respective organizations.

Afternoon Session: Closing Ceremony

Professor Sahinkuye thanked the participants for their active engagement and emphasized the AIIL’s commitment to advancing justice and fighting corruption across Africa. Certificates of participation were distributed, and participants enjoyed a farewell gathering.

**Conclusion**

The workshop successfully provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and exchange of ideas on justice, corruption, and their effects on peace and security in Africa. Participants left with a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in addressing corruption in conflict-affected regions and a renewed commitment to promoting accountability and justice.

The recommendations from the workshop will guide future programs and initiatives by the AIIL and its partners, ensuring sustained efforts toward a corruption-free and peaceful Africa.