

**SPEAKING NOTES BY RT. HON ALBAN SUMANA KINGSFORD
BAGBIN, RT HON. SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT ON MEETING WITH
THE REVIEW MISSION TEAM OF THE AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY
BOARD AGAINST CORRUPTION ON 2ND JUNE 2025.**

1. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana. On behalf of the Leadership of Parliament, Honourable Members of Parliament and Management and staff of the Parliamentary Service, I extend to you our warmest greetings. We deeply appreciate the presence of the Review Mission in Ghana and we are honoured to host you this morning. Be assured that we are fully committed to the objectives of your visit.
2. The Convention came into force on 5th August 2006. It has been almost 20 years since it came into effect. Your Mission to evaluate Ghana's compliance and implementation of this important Convention, is timely. It underscores the collective responsibility we all bear in ensuring that its aspirations such as to build partnerships between governments and all segments of the African society in order to fight the scourge of corruption, are translated into action.
3. Taking our mandate to legislate, hold the Executive accountable by public scrutiny, protect the public purse and represent the people, Parliament duly contributed to the implementation of the Convention by Ghana in particular and addressing corruption in general.
4. That said, I am proud to report to you the strides that Parliament has made, including the following:
 - i. Parliament passed several key anti-corruption laws such as, the Special Prosecutor Act, 2017 (Act 959), the Witness Protection Act, 2018 (Act 975), the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989), the Criminal and Other Offences (Procedure)(Amendment Act, 2020 (Act 1079) and the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044)

- ii. Parliament has also prioritized their enforcement; which led to the enactment of the Special Prosecutor Act in 2017 and the Anti-money laundering Act in 2020. Institutions such as The Economic and Organised Crime Office Act (EOCO) established in 2010 which repealed the Serious Fraud Office Act 1993 was created to investigate financial and economic crime. EOCO works closely with the Office of the President, and holds investigative powers.
- iii. Through enhanced oversight of the use of public resources, the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament (PAC) undertook more than 261 public sittings on the Reports of the Auditor-General on the Public Accounts of Ghana and made more than 252 recommendations which led to the recovery of approximately GHC 273.3 million from various acts of malfeasance by the end of 2024.
- iv. Parliament, recognising the potential dangers of corruption to the dignity of Parliament, and in accord with the requirement of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP: 2015-2024), Parliament undertook a corruption risks assessment in Parliament. The Plan that we developed to deal with the corruption risks identified is being implemented.
- v. Parliament strengthened parliamentary ethics and internal accountability structures. It established the Ethics and Standards Committee of Parliament and would soon appoint a Commissioner for Ethics and Standards to, among others, protect the dignity of Parliament by enforcing the Code of Conduct of Members.
- vi. Under the Parliament's Corporate Strategic Plan, a corruption risk assessment has been developed in alignment with the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan. This plan identifies priority areas for parliamentary action and reform. which stresses a number of areas for Parliament's attention and reform.

- vii. Parliament developed a Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament in 2014 and revised it in 2024. The Code regulates minimum standards of conduct including conflict of interests, gifts, moonlighting, use of confidential information, use of public resources as well as rules against sexual harassment and bullying.
- viii. There have been establishment of a number of new committees to aid the combat of corruption;
- The Ethics and Standard Committee; Yet to identify a Commissioner to provide technical expertise and uphold ethical conduct among Members of Parliament (MPs) and Staff of the Parliamentary Service. A code of conduct has been developed for MPs and Parliamentary Staff to guide their integrity and professional behaviour.
 - Office of Profit Committee: Requires MPs to seek the Speaker’s approval before engaging in external income-generating activities to avoid conflict of interest and ensure tax compliance.
 - Committee of Privileges: Supports enforcement of ethical standards.
 - Petitions committee – Receives and addresses public concerns, with future plans to increase public awareness of how to access this mechanism.
- ix. A **National Integrity Award Scheme**, designed to promote a culture of integrity, transparency and ethical leadership in our country, is being instituted and Parliament is leading the Process. Under the Scheme, we will recognise and reward men and women of integrity. Apart from that, there will also be what is termed, “**Vulture**” Award. This will be “bestowed” upon men and women with the lowest levels of integrity. Esteemed members such as the National Chief Imam, President of the Christian Counsel, Accountability Institutions, Civil Society Organisations and the Media will participate in the adjudication process.

- x. Ghana's Parliament was adjourned the most open parliament in 2022.
 - xi. The Rt. Hon. Alban S. K. Bagbin personally submits annual report to the Annual Review Mechanism, as adopted by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), as a way to encourage other parliaments to emulate Ghana's transparency efforts.
 - xii. In order to expand and deepen civic participation in governance in general and the work of Parliament in particular, Parliament established the Citizens' Bureau which coordinates information exchange between Parliament and Civil Society and facilitates the collation of views of civil society organisations on matters of public interest.
 - xiii. Parliament also established the Petitions Committee, which makes it possible for citizens to submit petitions on matters of public interest to Parliament through a member of Parliament for redress.
 - xiv. To further strengthen the capability of Parliament, its rules of engagement (i.e. the Standing Orders) has been revised, resulting in the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Office within the Legal Services and Governance subdivision of Parliament to ensure stronger oversight of the Executive and other institutions of state. This office is supporting Parliament to renew its focus on, and enhance its role in, the promotion of integrity, transparency and accountability both in Parliament and the Parliamentary Service.
5. As Chair of Conference of Speakers of African Legislatures, I place emphasis on resolve to work with Heads of State in implementing global governance reforms.
6. These are but a few examples of the strides that Parliament alone has made in the period. I believe that at the end of your Mission, you would have received comprehensive information on the efforts Ghana has made and

continues to make to ensure full compliance with the Convention in particular and the fight against corruption in general.

7. I understand that the Review Mission will visit some institutions and engage with other stakeholders with the view to assessing the level of implementation of provisions of the Convention by Ghana. The Parliament of Ghana stands ready to engage constructively during your visit and beyond.
8. We look forward to receiving the report that will emerge from your mission, and we assure you of our willingness to take the necessary steps to strengthen our resolve to address corruption.

I thank you.