

SPEECH OF THE HON. CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER RELATED OFFENCES COMMISSION (ICPC), NIGERIA AT THE HIGH LEVEL FORUM OF THE 5TH PLENARY AT THE GLOBAL NETWORK, HOLDING IN BEIJING, CHINA

Protocols

It gives me great pleasure and privilege to be part of this very important occasion of the GlobE Network, holding in the city of Beijing, a city known not just for being the capital city of the Peoples Republic of China, but a city known for its rich culture, ancient history and beautiful architecture. This plenary is dear to me given the fact that it is my first time attending the Globe plenary since my appointment as the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) last year. There is an urgent need for the work of the GlobE Network to impact heavily on the fight against corruption, money laundering, terrorism financing and trans-border crimes, which have remained hydra headed monsters not just in developing countries like ours, hindering the provision of basic human development in the areas of health care, education and infrastructure. These monsters have become of global concern that call for more efforts at strengthening and building partnerships to mitigate.

2. Corruption is an ugly hydra-headed monster and a cankerworm that undermines the fabric of every society. It is no respecter of any nation and does not differentiate between the developed and the developing countries. It constitutes a serious threat to good governance, rule of law, peace and security and undermines development and engenders poverty.

3. The ICPC in particular, and other anti-corruption agencies here are not unaware of the complex nature most of these white collar crimes have assumed and continue to assume with the convoluted nature of their accomplices and enablers. The need therefore to understand and demystify the workings of these crimes through collaboration, cooperation and technology can never be overemphasized.

4. This Plenary therefore gives us the opportunity not just to assess the growth of the Network in terms of membership and observer status, but also share experiences in terms of advancement made by member authorities to tackle this monster of corruption and other related crimes. These shared experiences, the bilateral and multi-lateral meetings all give us opportunities to close gaps which ordinarily we cannot do alone.

5. Paraphrasing JF Kennedy of blessed memory, today, I dare call on all Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Law Enforcement Authorities, the leadership of the Globe Network anchored by the Steering Committee and all observers and partners that the trumpet summons us today, not as a call to war, but as a clarion call to rise against man's most dreaded enemies which are poverty, underdevelopment and diseases, which we know are a product of

corruption, money laundering and trans-border crimes like Illicit Financial Flows and Terrorism Financing. This we can do by building virile and sustainable collaboration and partnerships in the areas of information exchange, evidence gathering and evaluation, peer to peer assistance, trainings, knowledge sharing and technological tools to investigate complex corruption and financial crimes including crimes involving virtual currencies and others. Such partnership would involve assistance in tracing, identification and repatriation of stolen assets and other proceeds of crime. Without the requisite tools both physical and abstract, advancement in terms of investigation and prosecution of corruption cases would be an arduous task and criminals may not be brought to face the full wrath of the law.

6. Strong and long-lasting collaboration and partnership must not only be built among member states and member authorities, serious efforts must be made for these partnerships to be sustainable and mutually beneficial.

7. By working together, member authorities can leverage on their unique strengths and mandates to build a united front against corruption and related vices whilst fostering a more transparent and accountable systems. Furthermore, sustaining these partnerships would require regular communications, mutual trust and shared commitments to upholding integrity and transparency. By fostering strong relationships, Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities can easily amplify their impacts and work towards a more corrupt free society.

8. Finally, I call on the more technologically advanced authorities to assist those of us from the developing world to bridge the gaps in terms of technological tools and training of our personnel to face the emerging trends in tackling the menace of corruption and other related crimes.

9. I thank you for your time and your attention, please.

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Chairman, ICPC

