



AFRICAN CENTER FOR GOVERNANCE, ASSET RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (AFRICAN CENTER)

CAPACITY STATEMENT | 2026

ABOUT THE AFRICAN CENTER

The African Center for Governance, Asset Recovery and Sustainable Development (African Center) is an independent civil society organisation headquartered in Abuja, Nigeria. We work at the intersection of governance, accountability, and sustainable development — partnering with national governments, regional institutions, law enforcement agencies, professional bodies, and civil society across Africa and the Global South.

Our work is delivered through technical assistance, institutional capacity building, policy engagement, training, and research — all anchored in one conviction: **strong governance, accountable institutions, and the transparent recovery of stolen assets are the foundation on which sustainable development is built.**

OUR MISSION

To reinforce the links between governance, asset recovery, and sustainable development — promoting the rule of law, preventing illicit financial flows, recovering stolen assets, and supporting their social reuse.

OUR VISION

A world free from illicit financial flows — where the proceeds of crime are recovered and returned to the victims of corruption to improve livelihoods and reduce inequality.

Our three interconnected objectives — improving governance and accountability; recovering and returning stolen assets; and advancing Sustainable Development Goals - SDG16 and African Union Agenda 2063 — are guided by internationally recognised frameworks including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC), the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR), the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards and other related international Conventions and Principles.

11,000+

Legal practitioners & regulators trained

64

NBA branches reached — AML/CFT

120+

Justices & Chief Judges sensitised & trained

3,000+

Law students trained

3

Countries with recovered-asset tools deployed



OUR EXPERIENCE

National Engagements

Since 2022, the African Center has delivered high-impact programmes that have directly shaped Nigeria's governance and financial crime architecture.

- ▶ **POCA 2022 Implementation:** With FCDO support, the Center conducted a Technical Needs Assessment across the asset recovery system and delivered a Training of Trainers programme for officers from the EFCC, ICPC, NFIU, NDLEA, NAPTIP, NPF, CCB, and the Federal Ministry of Justice — building institutional capacity in financial investigations, non-conviction-based forfeiture, virtual asset investigations, and mutual legal assistance.
- ▶ **National Asset Recovery Summit (May 2025):** Provided technical support that contributed directly to the launch of Nigeria's National Database for Recovered Assets — a landmark milestone in the country's accountability infrastructure.
- ▶ **Federal Ministry of Justice:** Supported the Asset Recovery and Management Unit (ARMU) in developing the Asset Recovery and Management Manual and a Standard Operating Procedure for the efficient recovery of stolen assets — tools now actively used by prosecutors and investigators across Nigeria.
- ▶ **AML/CFT Reform — Legal Sector:** Led the development of Nigeria's AML/CFT/CPF Risk Assessment Report for the legal sector in collaboration with NBA-AMLC. This landmark report informed nationwide compliance training across 64 NBA branches — covering client due diligence, suspicious transaction reporting, and risk-based compliance management. The Center also developed the [NBA-AML Portal \(nbaaml.com\)](https://nbaaml.com), the digital compliance platform supporting the legal sector's AML/CFT obligations — and contributed directly to Nigeria's FATF reform agenda.
- ▶ **AML/CFT Compliance Officer Certification:** In collaboration with the NBA Institute of Continuing Legal Education (NBA-ICLE), the Center developed and currently delivers a certification training programme for compliance officers in the legal sector — building a cadre of qualified professionals equipped to drive AML/CFT compliance standards across Nigerian legal practice.
- ▶ **Judiciary:** Partnered with the National Judicial Institute to deliver a sensitisation programme for over 120 Justices and Chief Judges (in the presence of the Chief Justice of Nigeria) on AML/CFT in 2025 and a dedicated two-day workshop on POCA implementation in 2026.

Regional Engagements

- ▶ **African Union:** Engaged with the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC), the AU Governance and Human Rights Division, and African FATF-Styled Regional Bodies — contributing to policy dialogue on beneficial ownership transparency, whistleblowing, anti-corruption reform, and asset recovery across Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania and Mauritius.
- ▶ **African Development Bank:** Facilitated the AfDB Anti-Corruption Summit 2024, delivering practical recommendations for strengthening asset recovery systems. In 2025, our Executive Director served as the technical expert supporting South Africa's G20 Presidency on whistleblowing, asset recovery, and public sector integrity.



- ▶ **Practitioner Networks:** Members of the African Asset Recovery Practitioners (AARP) Forum and active collaborators with the South African Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) and the UNCAC Coalition Sub-Saharan Africa Working Group.

Global Engagements

- ▶ **UNCAC Coalition:** Active member and, through its newly elected Coalition Coordination Committee (CCC) representative for Sub-Saharan Africa, a board-level voice in international civil society on corruption accountability and UNCAC implementation.
- ▶ **UN Conference of States Parties (CoSP):** Co-hosted high-level side events at the 10th and 11th Sessions of CoSP to UNCAC, convening governments, prosecutors, international organisations, and civil society on people-centred asset recovery. Our Executive Director, as Chair of the UNCAC Coalition's Victims of Corruption Working Group, coordinated civil society engagement and shaped Conference outcomes.
- ▶ **G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group/African Development Bank:** The Executive Director led the drafting of two major [anti-corruption policy reports](#) under South Africa's G20 Presidency — positioning the African Center at the highest levels of international policy development.
- ▶ **UNODC StAR:** Maintains an ongoing strategic collaboration with the UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), contributing to global discussions on transparency, beneficial ownership, and victims' compensation.
- ▶ **Global Symposium on Supranational responses to Corruption 2026:** Providing support to the symposium organisers including World Bank StAR, Basel Institute, etc in the review and selection of Symposium Call for Papers (March 2026 - Date)

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

The African Center's research function amplifies its advocacy and shapes policy at every level. Key knowledge products include:

- ▶ CSO Advocacy Toolkit for Transparency International Berlin (developed with Culture of Business, UK)
- ▶ AML/CFT Case Analysis for the Nigerian legal sector
- ▶ Open Asset Recovery Database
- ▶ ESRC-funded policy brief on FATF Greylisting from a Global South perspective (Nigeria case study, 2025)
- ▶ [Report of Nigerian Bar Association \(NBA\) AML/CFT/CPF Risk Assessment for the legal sector](#)
- ▶ [AML/CFT Compliance Toolkit for legal practitioners in Nigeria](#)
- ▶ [Compendium of Anti-Corruption Best Practices](#)
- ▶ [Guideline for Civil Society Organizations on the Management and Monitoring of Proceeds of Crime](#)



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The African Center works with a wide network of partners and collaborators:

Global South Dialogue on Economic Crime (GSDEC)	Nigerian Bar Association ICLE & AMLC	Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS)
IBLF Global / Culture of Business	Digital Evidence & Cyber Forensics Institute (DEFICI)	Africa Network for Environment & Economic Justice (ANEEJ)
UNODC / StAR	CDD West Africa	UNCAC Coalition
CLEEN Foundation	EFCC	Federal Ministry of Justice (Nigeria)
National Judicial Institute	Nigeria OGP Secretariat	EFCC Academy
African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC)	African Development Bank	

Funding Partners

FCDO UK	GIZ / BMZ	MacArthur Foundation
African Development Bank	Federal Ministry of Justice, Nigeria	International Ideas RoLAC II

LOOKING AHEAD

The challenges of governance, corruption, illicit financial flows, and financial crime continue to evolve. The African Center remains committed to working with governments, development partners, regional and international organisations, professional bodies, and civil society to design and deliver **practical, evidence-based solutions that strengthen institutions, advance accountability, and build a lasting foundation for sustainable development across Africa.**