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## COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS

## **Background**

Most countries within the West African sub-region continue to grapple with the challenge of relatively low economic growth and development. While several factors contribute to this situation, corruption, wastages and the misappropriation of resources continue to play a significant role in undermining each country's development objectives including efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition to the threat that the lack of transparency and accountability poses to development, democratic values and political stability in each country, it has particular negative effects on the poor and most vulnerable and contributes significantly to the continued low ranking of most countries in the region on UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) and other development indices.

To discuss ways of addressing some of these challenges, the Youth Integrity Camp for Anglophone West African Countries was held in Lagos, Nigeria from 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and brought together selected youth participants from Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Gambia and Nigeria. The camp increased awareness on anti-corruption issues and encouraged proactive youth involvement in the fight against corruption. The camp also provided youth participants with opportunities to exchange innovative approaches, ideas and best practices towards improving transparency, accountability and youth participation in the use of public resources in their respective communities.

While youth participants were encouraged during the camp to continue to engage in activities to promote public integrity within their respective communities that might not necessarily require funding, it was also discussed that interested participants could revise and re-submit their proposals as they could potentially be selected for available funding opportunities.

Focus of Proposals / Objectives:

Interested participants are encouraged to submit proposals that achieve ANY

Musa Mohammed Coordinator/CEO