



## **2022 Corruption Perceptions Index: The nexus between corruption, conflict, peace and security**

*Harare, 31 January 2023-* Transparency International Zimbabwe joins the global movement against corruption in launching the 2022 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The CPI scores 180 countries or territories through their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of **0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)**, according to experts and businesspeople. Zimbabwe is amongst 124 countries that have stagnant corruption levels, maintaining a score of **23/100**, against the regional Sub-Saharan Africa average of **32/100**. The levels of corruption in Zimbabwe remains high despite the introduction of Anti-Corruption Initiatives and approaches under the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). This is owing to impunity, limited political will and lack of coordination amongst the anti-corruption agencies.

This year's **#CPI 2022** focuses on **corruption, conflict, peace and security** in line with the **Sustainable Development Goal 16** on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Corruption undermines trust in governments and their ability to protect the public, leading to increased security threats that are harder to control. On the other hand, conflict creates opportunities for corruption and makes governments less able to address it. Broadly, corruption fuels social grievances by diverting funds from public goods towards private interests and giving disproportionate influence over policy to specific sector of society. It shapes opportunities for conflict by preventing security and law enforcement institutions to detect and contain threats. History has it that corruption provides incentives for alternative voices including political formations to challenge the government over the rampant corruption experienced in the country since the turn of the millennium. People have lost trust in the state's capacity and or willingness to enforce policies. In the long run, the failure to address corruption contributes to increased political instability and social uprisings. Furthermore, political instability increases pressure on resources and weakens oversight bodies thereby creating opportunities for crime such as bribery and embezzlement. Therefore, Zimbabwe is at a risk of experiencing organised crime and increased security threats which are common amongst most of the low-ranking countries experiencing conflict.

The report presents an opportunity for various stakeholders to engage critically on the impact of corruption in the country and proffer possible solutions of responding effectively to corruption. The 2022 CPI score is indeed a reflection of endemic corruption in the public sector in Zimbabwe as enunciated in the successive Auditor General's reports. Various forms of corruption have been evident across local authorities, central government and state-owned enterprises.

TI Z therefore recommends the government of Zimbabwe and anti-corruption actors to prioritise the following issues in order to deal with corruption:

- ***Enactment of the whistle-blower Protection***-The government of Zimbabwe should expedite the enactment of the whistle-blower protection legislation to ensure the protection of those who make reports in line with Article 33 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on the protection of reporting persons.
- ***Strengthen and support the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy***- The strategy remains a viable option for Zimbabwe as it promotes coordination and strategic interventions in the fight against corruption. The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development should set aside a budget to support the strategic implementation of the NACS.
- ***Invest in building the capacity of anti-corruption actors and institutions***- Concerted efforts should be directed at adequately building the capacity of anti-corruption actors through skills strengthening and adequately resourcing them to respond to complex anti-corruption cases. This will partly address challenges associated with ineffective investigation and prosecution of grand corruption related cases.
- ***Share information and uphold the right to access it***- Ensure the public receives accessible, timely and meaningful information, including on public spending and resource distribution. There must be rigorous and clear guidelines for withholding sensitive information, including in the defence sector.
- ***Broader political will***- The fight against corruption should not be limited to political rhetoric, but emphasis should be towards sustainable building blocks in the fight against corruption.

### **Resist, Reject& Report Corruption**