

The Council's Work

As has been mentioned in Section 2. of Part 1, NACAC established workstreams appropriate to its mandate, in two separate phases of work, as well as setting up references groups as appropriate, consulting widely, and undertaking learning journeys. The Council undertook learning journeys to Kenya and Uganda (9 – 14 July 2003), Hong Kong (8 – 16 March 2024) and Lithuania (18 – 21 June 2024) in delegations comprised of representatives from government structures and law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations and other anti-corruption advisory bodies.

In Phase 1 (September 2022 – April 2024) the Council convened six workstreams: institutional architecture; procurement reform; monitoring and evaluation (MERL), legislation and transparency; whistleblower protection and communication. These workstreams gave rise to a number of advisories that were presented to the President.

NACAC Workstreams

Phase 1: September 2022 – April 2024

The **Whistleblower Protection and Support** workstream conducted collaborative research with South African experts from civil society and undertook research visits to the Netherlands, Kenya and selected East European countries to learn about international good practice. It engaged extensively with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to find solutions to improve the legal and policy framework governing the support and protection of whistleblowers. This workstream developed two Advisories on whistleblowing.

The **Institutional Architecture** workstream convened a reference group of experts from civil society who provided research and advice. It engaged intensively with leaders from law enforcement agencies and organs of state with anti-corruption responsibilities, including at a workshop to collect data on problems faced by anti-corruption agencies. Based on this research the workstream recommended the creation of the Office of Public Integrity (OPI).

The **Legislative Reform and Transparency** workstream responded to recommendations from both the State Capture Commission and the NACS that transparency around and regulation of political party funding should be improved, and submitted two Advisories to the President on this matter. The workstream also hosted the NACAC “InDATA 2023- Leveraging the Power of Data and Technology to Counter Corruption” conference focused on using data analytics to combat corruption.

The **Public Procurement Reform** workstream established a reference group of experts from academia and civil society. A workshop, co-hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, allowed for input from different sectors of society and contributed to a rich evidence base that informed an Advisory to the President on the Public Procurement Bill, addressing several weaknesses in the Bill from an anti-corruption perspective.

The **Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning** (MERL) workstream researched the development of a monitoring system for the implementation of the NACS. It hosted a workshop to review and finalise the NACS Implementation Plan. Participants included the NACAC MERL Workstream and its Reference Group, other NACAC Workstreams, the NACAC Secretariat, representatives from the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the WITS Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results, and the GIZ Transparency, Integrity and Accountability Programme. The workstream prepared an Advisory for the President on the mainstreaming of the NACS through government.

The **Communications** workstream led the collaboration with broader society by hosting the National Anti-Corruption Dialogues in 2023 and 2024. The workstream also held stakeholder retreats and conducted community engagement activities at a provincial level, including anti-corruption roadshows attended by representatives from law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, local municipalities, the Public Service Commission, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), religious organisations, traditional leaders, academia, labour, agricultural groups, youth groups, women structures, ethics committees and other provincial offices.

Phase 2: April 2024 – August 2025

As mentioned earlier, with 18 months of its term remaining, NACAC decided to focus on three key areas, namely the Office of Public Integrity, strengthening law enforcement agencies and communications.

NACAC Workstream One: Establishment of the Office of Public Integrity (OPI)

In August 2024 the workstream convened a workshop to develop key research questions on the establishment of the OPI. They engaged the Special Investigating Unit's Executive on 8 November 2024 on the NACAC recommendations for the OPI and conducted further research on the requirements for the implementation of the Office of Public Integrity.

NACAC also engaged with the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, which invited NACAC to a meeting convened on May 14, 2025, where NACAC presented its recommendations on the OPI and the similarities and differences of the proposal and the 21st Constitutional Amendment Bill, a private member's bill, that proposed the establishment of an independent anti-corruption agency.

NACAC Workstream Two: Strengthening Law Enforcement Agencies

This workstream undertook activities in response to the findings in Volume 6 [part 2] of the Zondo Commission's report that law enforcement agencies (LEAs) were weakened, making some complicit in corruption and seriously affecting their ability to address corruption, and to give effect to Pillar 5 of the NACS which seeks to strengthen LEAs. Research was commissioned to examine the applicable legislation, mandates, independence and resourcing of these agencies and to make recommendations to enhance the capacity of LEAs.

NACAC hosted a stakeholder workshop on the 26 May 2025 at which research on the OPI and the strengthening of law enforcement agencies were presented to allow representatives from state and non-state sectors to provide their feedback.

NACAC Workstream Three: Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

In November 2024, NACAC members participated in the Futures Literacy Laboratory (FLL) to explore the intersection of gender and corruption in preparation for the national anti-corruption dialogue on December 9, 2024. By participating in the FLL, NACAC members were equipped to use the future as a lens to reframe their present challenges and opportunities, enhancing their ability to navigate and influence an unpredictable and complex landscape.

NACAC and the Platform to Protect Whistleblowers in Africa (PPLAAF) convened a conference in March 2025 to generate actionable recommendations for protecting and supporting whistleblowers (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The recommendations are:

1. Establish an independent whistleblowing authority.
2. Reform the Protected Disclosures Act in line with international good practice.
3. Introduce rewards for whistleblowers, since studies prove that this works.
4. Strengthen reporting systems to ensure that disclosures lead to substantive change.
5. Expand the definition of retaliation and include a range of intimidation.
6. Public education and cultural transformation.