

STATEMENT BY THE BUSINESS COALITION AGAINST CORRUPTION

"No bribers, no corruption"

Yaounde, 16 February 2011

WE, international and local companies operating in the private sector in Cameroon,

FOLLOWING a working session to seek ways and means of combating corruption in all its forms in our businesses in particular and Cameroon as a whole, and based on our common vision of an era of national cooperation between the private sector and the Government of Cameroon, the civil society and anti-corruption agencies, cooperation that takes effect this 16 February 2011;

HAVE DECIDED TO JOIN FORCES in this coalition against corruption.

CONVINCED THAT CORRUPTION

- destroys the moral values of society;
- violates the social and economic rights of underprivileged and vulnerable people;
- hinders democracy;
- undermines the rule of law which is the foundation of any civilization;
- stifles development;
- keeps off investors;
- deprives businesses of the benefits of fair competition–

FURTHER CONVINCED THAT:

- the fight against corruption involves everyone and not only Government;

- combating corruption means protecting and consolidating ethics in our businesses;
- the support of the Government of Cameroon is a major element in the achievement of our goals;
- the willingness to join such a coalition is a test for any company wishing to evaluate “its commitment to the fight against corruption”;
- the involvement of the private sector is of paramount importance in checking any resistance put up by those who wish to maintain the status quo, and in rallying the people behind the reforms;
- the private sector must wage a war against corruption through a well designed campaign in which company managers must take the lead in their respective companies given that “to properly clean a staircase, it is necessary to start from the top steps”;
- the private sector should adopt high standard practices of transparency and accountability;
- special focus should be put on strengthening financial management systems, and to transparency in budgetary procedures;
- members of the coalition are expected to ensure a balance and efficiency of their professional codes of ethics with respect to the guidelines adopted this day, and adopt measures of repression of members who encourage or practice corruption.

WE WELCOME THE PARTNERSHIP WITH the Government of Cameroon, the international community based in Cameroon, the National Anti-Corruption Commission, ANIF, CHOC, GIZ, Transparency International, and call on all organizations wishing to mobilize their efforts and energy for this cause, to join us so that together, we can efficiently combat this scourge.

CONSEQUENTLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE PROFESSIONAL CODE OF ETHICS ADOPTED THIS DAY, WE HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. We, members of the coalition, undertake to comply with all the laws, regulations and legal provisions in force on unfair competition, corruption, and money laundering.
2. We will set up mechanisms to ensure that our managers, directors, and employees from all services as well as all affiliates, intermediaries or subcontractors comply with the above-mentioned laws, regulations, and legal provisions.

3. We, members of the coalition, both directors and employees do not encourage or participate, for any reason, in any act of corruption be it established or suspected.
4. We, members of the coalition, both directors and employees, undertake to cooperate with Government authorities during investigations involving our businesses, in particular investigations relating to corrupt practices.
5. We, members of the coalition, both directors and employees will avoid compromising ourselves by accepting gifts and other distractions. We shall never offer or accept gifts or distractions other than those offered under business relations and intended to build and consolidate our business relations rather than bribe the beneficiary.
6. Members of the coalition will conduct proper investigations into any issue, information or report on established or suspected involvement of its directors or employees in acts of corruption.

Date	Name of Business	Name of General Manager	Signature of General Manager