



Statement by the Secretary General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) on International Fraud Awareness Week

In the Constitutive Act of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the Member States reaffirm their commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations, in particular those set out in the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Organised Crime and Economic Crime, including Money Laundering. As part of its partnership with the EU, the OACPS is committed to promoting good economic and financial governance in its Member States.

The OACPS therefore welcomes the initiative of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) in organising International Fraud Awareness Week since 2000 and is honoured and humbled to be associated with the 2023 edition of this event as a supporting organisation.

This week is a reminder of the steps that all stakeholders, including public authorities, whatever their role and level of commitment, must take proactively to minimise the existence and impact of fraud by promoting fraud awareness and education. Fraud awareness is essential, especially at a time when it is estimated that organisations around the world lose 5% of their income and revenue to fraud.

Specifically, for the OACPS secretariat, a fraud management and whistleblowing policy has been developed to manage fraud and complaints from staff and suppliers. In addition, the OACPS is currently engaged in a process of compliance with the pillars of good corporate governance, reinforcing the confidence of development partners and stakeholders in the sustainability of our esteemed organisation.

As part of the celebration of International Fraud Awareness Week, which runs from 12 to 18 November 2023, the OACPS Secretariat will organise an online seminar for all staff, suppliers and embassies of the Member States to raise awareness of fraud (knowing it, detecting it and preventing it).

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage every member of staff to take a second to think about the measures we need to take to combat fraud in our daily lives and to promote a fraud-free OACPS.

In the light of the above, I wish you all a wonderful Fraud Awareness Week.

Signed:

for Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti
General Secretary of the OACPS