

The Elders call on all countries to prioritise anti-corruption fight

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders welcome the International Anti-Corruption Summit taking place in London on 12 May and call on all countries to back up their words with actions.

Corruption is a blight on countries' development and destroys peoples' faith in their systems of governance and wider public institutions. It impoverishes nations where millions of people already live in abject poverty, and it also damages the social fabric of countries where the embezzled money is laundered or invested.

[Kofi Annan](#), Chair of The Elders, said:

"Only a concerted international approach can tackle the endemic problem of corruption. All leaders need to show responsibility and tackle corruption when it occurs in their countries and set an example of personal probity. States and governments must analyse honestly how their own legal, financial and political systems facilitate corrupt practices, and take steps to address the problem.

It is time to close all the tax loopholes and move to genuinely transparent and credible financial regulations, so those who engage in corruption know there is no place to hide and no immunity for their criminal acts."

Speaking at the end of their board meeting in London, The Elders join the Africa Progress Panel in urging governments at the London summit to agree and make sustained efforts to fight corruption and show transparency. The Elders will continue to campaign for good governance and ethical leadership across the world.

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About The Elders

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Kofi Annan](#) (Chair), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Desmond Tutu](#) is an honorary Elder.

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For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to www.theElders.org.

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