

Tunis, Tunisia, July 11 (Infosplusgabon) - The Assembly of Tunisian People's Representatives (Parliament) on Tuesday adopted the draft organic law on the African Union Convention (AUC) on the prevention and fight against corruption. Voting on the convention was 135 in favour and none against.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sabri Bachtobji, said that the convention was adopted by the 2nd ordinary session of the African Union Conference in Maputo, Mozambique, on July 11, 2003. It came into force in 2006.

This convention aims to promote and strengthen the establishment of mechanisms to prevent, detect, suppress and eradicate corruption and crime by each State Party. It also aims to facilitate cooperation and harmonize legislation among States Parties to ensure the effectiveness of measures and actions in this area.

Mr. Bachtobji cited Article 22 of the Convention, which establishes an Advisory Committee on Bribery in the African Union, which regularly prepares a report to the Executive Council on progress made in the implementation of the Convention by each State Party in the application of the provisions of the Convention.

Tunisia's adoption of the Convention, he said, shows its commitment to the fight against corruption.

On the delay of Tunisia's accession to this convention (adopted in 2003), the Secretary of State explained that several intervening parties asked for their opinion, adding that after receiving the observations, the Ministry sent a correspondence to the government departments which gave instructions to initiate proceedings.

On the detection of corruption cases in certain embassies abroad, particularly in Africa, Bachtobji noted that general inspection and audit missions are being carried out for this purpose.

Several MPs who took the floor stressed the need to make the Convention the starting point for strengthening the partnership with Africa in the fight against corruption, considering that the fight against corruption is the biggest fight in any country in the world.

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