WHAT MEMBER STATES SAID

The 2021 UNGASS against Corruption

A summary of delivered statements by Member States

The Plenary of the UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption provides the avenue for the Member States to express themselves on anti-corruption national concerns, focuses and measures and their aspiration for relevant international cooperation.

The summary was compiled during the Plenary and combined with the UN Meeting Summary pages. The summary aims to encourage parliamentarians to follow up further on what the countries have delivered, the ongoing implementation, and future national actions on the issues.

SUMMARY

(The list of Member States is made in the order as it is during the plenary of the 2021 UNGASS)

Peru informed the Plenary that combating corruption is a priority as it is also part of the SDGs target, particularly the SDG 16.5. Peru stressed the country's focus on the fight against international corruption. The Lima Commitment to Democratic Governance adopted in the Summit of the Americas (OAS) was an example of international efforts against corruption.

Honduras established the Secretary of State for Transparency in the Cabinet. The country also commits to international collaboration as it is also a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), among others. Honduras established an Inter-Agency Board for Transparency to Combat Corruption. Honduras is involved in the International Open Data Charter as a means to promote tools to combat corruption.

Guatemala signed an inter-institutional anti-corruption cooperation agreement. The country also established a Presidential Commission against Corruption. It is also trying to make efforts to implement an electronic and open government.

Zimbabwe informed the Plenary that the State's National Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Prosecuting Authority are already fully operational. The country has a Money Laundering Act in force. Zimbabwe also established a specialized court for handling corruption and economic crimes and stressed that illicit financial flows cannot be tackled without the full cooperation of the state of origin, transit, and recipient.

Colombia made drug, human, and weapon trafficking, its utmost priority crimes to combat. These crimes fuel corruption. The country welcomed the declaration and stressed its concerns about the asset recovery process, beneficiary registries, and illicit

financial flows (distinguishing between illicit financial flows and those that might be linked to criminal activities will help States to combat them). In 2020, the Government presented a bill on corruption before Congress to help build a culture of equality and foster the efficient use of public resources, allowing the Government to punish Companies that promote corrupt practices.

Sierra Leone shared the success of the non-conviction-based asset recovery process in the country. Its Anti-Corruption Commission has successfully recovered billions of Leones using the method. The country also introduced a new law on anti-corruption, which increases minimum punishment for corruption offences, strengthens whistle-blower protection, shifts the evidential burden for offences involving offering or receiving an advantage, and allows the Commission to appeal against any lenient or disproportionate sentences.

Kenya revealed that assets worth millions of shillings have been frozen and are in the process of being recovered. In this context, efforts to return the stolen assets require international cooperation. Kenya stressed the use of the Kenya Framework for the Return of Stolen Assets as cooperation guidance.

Liberia recently submitted several legal instruments to the national legislatures seeking to drastically improve efforts in the fight against corruption. These measures include strengthening the authority of the national anti-corruption body to fast-track prosecution power of acts of corruption and verify and provide recommendations/sanctions on asset declaration. Liberia also shared that the country has adopted a Whistleblower Act.

Mauritius informed the plenary that its country is undergoing a fundamental digital transformation by introducing e-licensing and e-procurement. New measures are implemented, including efforts to declare assets, establish a financial crime division, and amend the prevention corruption Act of 2020, covering entities other than a person to be legally recognized and therefore punishable by law. It considers empowering the Financial Crime Commission to deal with bribery of foreign public officials.

Serbia promoted e-government. Few features, e-permitting, and e-procurement are proven to provide transparent access and cut physical space for corruption. Currently, Serbia is considered in the Top 10 in the world for e-permitting.

North Macedonia created a new position in the Government focusing on anti-corruption: The Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Fighting Corruption, Organized Crime, Sustainable Development, and Human Resources. The country adopted an Anti-Corruption Plan consisting of 18 measures that work on several pillars such as digital transformation, a new law mechanism to check the origin of property and capital, regulate the confiscation of illegally acquired property, and strengthen the high-level integrity and ethical standards.

Latvia informed the Plenary that its Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau is currently prioritizing the investigation of international corruption cases. In that sense, stronger cooperation in exchanging information and experience and capacity building and training is essential.

Belgium underscored corruption as a transnational crime. It favored strengthening international cooperation by securing the transfer of information among agencies and facilitating access to international cooperation. Belgium pledged a support of € 3 Million to the UNODC to prevent corruption in the environment. Belgium also introduced a Sports Fraud Team within its National Police to deal with corruption in sport.

China stepped up to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery. The country also urged the international community to take a zero-tolerance approach to corruption and cautioned States not to provide a safe haven for corrupt individuals. It remains committed to fostering an international partnership against corruption and supporting the UNODC, the International Anti-Corruption Academy, and the National Anti-Corruption Body of Developing Countries.

European Union shared that its legislation protects the bloc's financial interest against fraud and corruption. The Independent European Public Prosecutor's Office is tasked with fighting crime against the EU budget. It also told the Plenary that the Funds supporting the COVID-19 recovery have built-in mechanisms to prevent fraud, corruption, and conflict of interest. The EU called for stronger efforts in upholding the rule of law, including effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses. It then emphasized that asset recovery is crucial while elaborating that the confiscation of criminal assets is central to the newly adopted EU strategy to tackle organized crime. The EU also strong supported civil society, NGOs, academia, media outlets, and whistle-blowers.

Germany stressed corruption must be prevented by way of transparency and integrity both in the government and business sectors. Germany emphasized that when corrupt offenses occurred, they shall be punished. It includes the bribery of foreign public officials. Money laundering also needs to be addressed, stressing that illegitimate financial flows must be returned to their legitimate owners. Germany underlined that compliance with human rights values and principles is a must, even during combating corruption. Germany emphasized that the international community must ensure and protect the civic space and media work, ensuring their freedom as they are significant contributors to the fight against corruption. It highlighted the need to address the gender dimension of corruption.

Albania saw the persistence need to clean the Palace of Justice. It stressed the urgency of reforming the judiciary and the vetting process of the judge. Fully-fledged anti-corruption institutions are operational. They include the Special Prosecution for Corruption and Organized Crime, the Special Court, and the National Bureau of Investigation. Albania highlighted illicit financial flows and organized crimes cannot hide under the pretext of the national border.

Mexico elaborated that transformative projects are underway. The country introduced austerity legislation and implemented measures for whistle-blower protection. Complete transparency and digitalization are being exercised. Mexico is focusing anti-corruption measures on several high-risk areas, such as health contracts to deal with the COVID-19 emergency, audits for public procurement processes, and transparency on the use of public resources.

Morocco made a separation of powers between the judiciary and the prosecution. It mentioned the urgency for unity in global efforts to fight corruption, as individuals at every level of Government has the potential exploiting international financial networks. Morocco stressed State engagement and the participation of all stakeholders, including the public sector, politicians, the private sector, the media, and civil society, in combating corruption. Morocco drew international documents relevant to prevent corruption, including the Marrakech Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption, adopted in 2011.

Singapore shared ways to combat corruption in its country through strong political will, robust anti-corruption laws, an impartial Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau, and efficient public service. Singapore stressed the need to leverage science and technology to prevent and combat the ever more sophisticated financial crime that abuses the international financial system using technological means. The country believed that international cooperation is essential in combating corruption. Singapore is committed to sharing intelligence to assist countries suffering from great corruption and working to seize and return illicitly acquired assets to States.

South Africa adopted the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in November 2020. It also established a fusion center of all law enforcement agencies as an immediate response to address COVID-19-related corruption. The center has registered 148 corruption cases, with 104 cases under criminal investigation. Twenty-two cases were closed.

Slovakia adopted new legislation on property seizure and reinforced the independence of the judicial system. It underscored the importance of ensuring integrity through refining codes of conduct and protecting whistle-blowers. Also, it is crucial enough to promote a culture of transparency and accountability, including in the public financial sector. In support of such openness, Slovakia elaborated on the need to publish all contracts involving public authorities in a central registry.

The Czech Republic has proposed several legislative measures, including creating a lobbyist registration system and whistle-blower protection. The country also launched a project in 2020 to raise public awareness on the issues of conflicts of interest, whistle-blower protections, and codes of conduct for judges and prosecutors.

Sweden focused on transparency, as it is a recipe for the country to be always among countries with the lowest prevalence of corruption. To support this, the legal freedom of citizens to communicate with the media without fear of penal consequences and the right of employees to report misconduct are essential parts of a free and democratic society.

Whistle-blower needs to be protected from retaliation measures, including in the workplace.

Portugal introduced several measures for better governance and corruption prevention, including citizen awareness-raising efforts and public service digitalization. The recently approved national anti-corruption strategy for 2020-2024 will allow the country to perform ex-ante measures, reducing the need for criminal prosecution.

Switzerland emphasized that trust is crucial for the State to govern. In addition, Switzerland also introduced its first anti-corruption strategy and stressed that if democracy is strong, citizens can criticize – even rectify – mistakes committed by elected leaders.

Guyana welcomed the international recognition of the need to safeguard respect for the electoral process. Guyana has worked to strengthen public accountability, transparency, and good governance. Guyana also mentioned several legal frameworks, including parliamentary oversight, the integrity of the public office, public financial management, and anti-money laundering.

Brazil responded swiftly to COVID-19-related corruption by creating new channels for complaints, grievances, and suggestions. The country also stressed using technology to avert fraud and called for a strengthened commitment to broaden options in criminalizing corruption and recovering assets.

Austria underscored the crucial role of education as the best vaccine against corruption. It also informed the Plenary that the State hosts the International Anti-Corruption Academy and the UNODC. Austria introduced the new Freedom of Information Act adopted by the Parliament to mark a paradigm shift for public administration. Austria viewed that the global community could do a similar approach.

Iran viewed that the proceeds of corruption cannot be accumulated in another geographical area. It stressed that States could not decline the repatriations of such proceeds.

Croatia announced that it will adopt a new Strategy for the Prevention of Corruption (2021 – 2030). The strategy will emphasize efforts to raise public awareness of the impact of corruption and the need to report it. Croatia stressed that prevention is a critical measure in its national development strategy, national recovery, and resilience plan.

Liechtenstein mentioned the result of the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the UNCAC, concluding that the country has a far-reaching legal and regulatory framework for prevention and a well-established regime for asset recovery. Liechtenstein also contributed to the UN, regional, and NGO projects that foster good governance and tackle corruption. The country also paid concern to corruption related to modern-day slavery.

New Zealand informed the plenary that the country has legislation tabled before the Parliament to strengthen its whistle-blowing laws (Protected Disclosure legislation) and its ability to target and seize illicit assets. New Zealand also highlighted its support for country-led anti-corruption initiatives in the Pacific region, including through the pooling of resources.

Monaco proposed the use of artificial intelligence to analyse financial flows, identify and counter corruption. The country also adopted several laws to punish the financing of terrorism, combat money laundering, and ensure the impartiality of judges.

Italy cited the UNGASS Political Declaration as input for preparing the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) Action Plan 2022-2024. Italy emphasized young people's determination to oppose corruption in all its forms. Italy shared information that the G20 ACWG seeks to improve ways to measure corruption as it has already become more complex and sophisticated in recent decades.

The UK viewed the need to redouble efforts to combat money laundering, sanctions, asset freezes, and travel bans due to its country's status as a global financial center. As the President of the G7, the UK shared the need to work towards more open societies, shared values, and a rules-based international order.

Cyprus devised a national action plan as a reference point for corruption prevention and education, legislation reforms, suppression of acts of corruption and its monitoring. It called for greater international cooperation, with the UNODC as an indispensable platform for collaboration and support.

Mauritania redoubled efforts to create a stable political climate by reforming financial laws and the public procurement system, promoting transparency and oversight, and rationalizing relevant mechanisms. It also reviewed the national ethics rule. The country also protects whistle-blowers and establishes an office to deal with confiscated assets. In December 2020, Mauritania created an anti-corruption authority with members encompassing public and private sectors and civil society. At the parliamentary level, a team focusing on transparency and a commission of inquiry were established.

Australia viewed that the international community must embed integrity in its response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The country mentioned the need for States to stay focused on implementing UNCAC to best achieve and improve corruption efforts. Australia also emphasized the role of civil society and the private sector in detecting and fighting corruption and noted the disproportionate impact corruption could have on women and girls.

Azerbaijan mentioned that many reforms, mainly in the judicial sectors, have been put in place to combat corruption. It stressed international cooperation as part of the reform policies and channels to enable innovative tools and solutions towards anti-corruption.

Malta said for any advanced democratic state, the fight against organized crime, money laundering, and corruption is a never-ending one. Malta conducted several reforms with the aim of, in particular, strengthening the independence and impartiality of its judiciary.

Romania emphasized the nexus of corruption and organized crime. In response to that, the country is currently drafting a criminal policy to fight environmental crime, a forthcoming national strategy against organized crime, and a new national anti-corruption strategy. Romania stressed two conventions: the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Convention against Corruption to be equally implemented.

Netherlands called on the international community to fully implement existing international norms and standards established by the United Nations, the OECD Working Group on Bribery, and the Council of Europe.

Armenia informed the Plenary that in November 2019, the country established a Commission for Prevention of Corruption. It anticipates the operationalization of Anti-Corruption Courts early next year.

France established, in 2013, a prosecutor's office with national jurisdiction to fight serious financial crimes. The country also created a High Authority for the Transparency of Public Life as a monitoring office for public officials' ethics. A law on transparency was adopted in 2016, which led to the creation of an anti-corruption agency. France underscored the role of civil society and whistle-blowers and drew attention to the gender dimension of anti-corruption. In terms of asset recovery, France is committed to advocating the full implementation of the related Convention.

Belarus shared efforts the country promotes to fight corruption, including the implementation of the 2016 anti-corruption law, the minimum intervention of the state in economic entities, and others. It called for more international and coordinated work among law enforcement agencies.

Cuba stressed the centrality of the UN Convention against Corruption as the international instrument to combat the crime. Cuba elaborated that the country is focusing on strengthening the rule of law, public transparency, accountability, and public participation as part of national anti-corruption efforts.

Angola mentioned that the country had exercised numerous steps, including through the adoption of a legislation that enable the recovery of assets valued at $5.3 billion in cash, real estate, and securities. Angola has the National Strategic Plan for Preventing and Combating corruption. The plan aims to strengthen the partnership between the Government and civil society, improve the business environment, and improve citizens' quality of life.

Paraguay created a transparent system for medical equipment procurement to address corruption during the crisis. Digital platforms are also being introduced to improve oversight over superfluous expenditures.

Norway viewed the framework of integrity governance can be an effective anti-corruption measure. It emphasized national action and multilateral cooperation to fight illicit financial flows. Norway elaborated that the country focuses on issues of the culture of accountability, transparency, legality, integrity, and fairness in the public and private sectors, and regulatory and supervisory regimes for banks and non-bank financial institutions in the adopted declaration. Norway committed to working for a more robust international framework in advancing the anti-corruption agenda.

Ghana cited several laws enacted to combat corruption: The Public Procurement Amendment Act, Public Financial Management Act, the Companies Act, and the Anti-Money Laundering Act. Ghana stressed the damage caused by corruption lies in the misallocation of resources, distortions created by discretionary incentives, and violation of human rights. Ghana will conduct a national corruption survey with the UNODC in 2021.

Venezuela mentioned that the economic embargo had stripped the country's commercial and financial sectors. The Government will soon begin its second cycle of UNCAC review as part of its open and transparent commitment to combat corruption.

Cambodia underlined that every State Party to the Convention has a role in ensuring no safe-haven for corrupt individuals or their tainted assets. Cambodia suggested that State Parties must work to improve the global anti-corruption governance system based on consensus.

Qatar elaborated that the Constitution of Qatar promotes the principles of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. Qatar's Administrative Control and Transparency Authority is introducing specialized legislative instruments aimed at improving transparency. To ensure the wider participation of the citizens, Qatar will hold the first Shura Council election in October. Qatar is committed to providing technical support to other countries in fighting corruption.

Iceland ratified UNCAC and integrated the Convention's provisions into its legal system, including the definition of corrupt criminal behavior. Iceland has enhanced detection capacities for corrupt acts as recognized by the OECD Working Group on Bribery. Iceland emphasized that civil society and the media must have the voice, space, and freedom to combat and expose corruption.

Ireland committed to engaging with all international partners to promote a culture of zero tolerance for corrupt behavior. Ireland is taking measures to prevent, investigate, and penalize economic crime. The country also strengthened procedures to help developing countries recover the proceeds of corruption and combat bribery. It also pointed out the need to promote responsible business practices at home and overseas.

El Salvador prioritized countering tax evasion crime and has succeeded in recovering around $ 200 million in lost funds in 2020. The country is currently restructuring its

national civil police to improve procedures, planning, and effectiveness in providing security.

Estonia shared how information technology can improve transparency and prevent corruption. It also stressed the need to build social trust, which can be converted into political trust.

The Philippines has taken measures to combat bribery, extortion, abuse of office, and conflict of interest and strengthen the presence of civil society observers in procurement procedures. It emphasized the need for international cooperation to diminish all avenues of crime and impunity.

Argentina underlined the need to recover assets lost through illicit means and provide reparations to those harmed. The country stressed the role of international cooperation to advance the issue as assets are often moved or hidden in foreign jurisdictions and require repatriation.

Israel has acceded to all relevant United Nations and OECD conventions. It recently appointed an anti-corruption coordinator within the Ministry of Justice.

Saudi Arabia mentioned that the country cooperates with a network of international bodies, including the World Bank and UNODC, to fight corruption. It noted the establishment of the Riyadh Initiative Network, which led to the establishment of the GlobE Network and invited all States to participate actively in its activities by sending experts or providing financial support.

Egypt highlighted efforts to recover stolen assets as a vital initiative for developing countries. Egypt cited the importance of implementing chapters IV and V of the UNCAC. It informed the plenary that the Government is preparing to host the 9th Conference of the State Parties to the Convention in Sharm el-Sheikh in December 2021.

Canada underlined the central role of the UNCAC. It supports OECD anti-bribery convention and other international and regional measures. The country has implemented a range of national measures, including the criminalization of bribery. It urged the private sector and media to involve in the fight against corruption.

Bangladesh has established a comprehensive legal framework with measures to prevent corruption, enact criminal law, uphold the right to information and provide protection to whistle-blowers. The country also made efforts to better supervise banking and non-banking financial institutions. It has also broken up influential networks that often operate under the guise of ruling party affiliations. Bangladesh is disappointed that there are barriers to asset recovery, pressing the States concerned to return recovered assets, without conditionalities, to the countries of origin.

The United States of America explained that the country uses existing anti-corruption tools and obligations, including by enforcing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act to combat

corruption. It welcomed the time-bound commitment to fulfill obligations to combat bribery in the adopted declaration. It stressed that prevention is just as crucial as investigation and prosecution and called Governments to see civil society as partners, not adversaries. The country announced a formal candidacy to host the 2023 CoSP to the UNCAC.

Japan mentioned that the country hosted the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, where the Kyoto Declaration was adopted. The document puts forward effective anti-corruption efforts to effectively disrupt the existing links between organized criminal groups and corruption, including through preventing and combating bribery and the laundering of criminal proceeds. Japan advocated both the Kyoto Declaration and the Political Declaration as central to be addressed by the global community.

Lithuania stressed political will is required for effective long-term national reform. Lithuania has made significant progress in creating a transparent environment, with prevention policies based on openness and agreement.

Costa Rica underlined that corruption and transnational crime are a threat to democracy and sustainable development. It called for an international response to address the operation of new and not-yet-regulated platforms such as digital technologies and to prevent them for being used by criminal networks. The country highlighted the establishment of a unified platform and protocol for the publication of open data.

India invested in the decentralization of decision-making by facilitating innovative solutions and digital tools. It has a law that criminalizes bribes-giving and deters both individuals and corporate entities. The country is pursuing policies to bring to justice anyone using loopholes in the international system to do their crime and flee from national jurisdictions.

Finland stressed the importance of engaging all stakeholders to fight against corruption and reinforce civil society, academia, and the media. Finland has just recently adopted its first national anti-corruption strategy, which is closely aligned with the SDGs.

Nigeria emphasized the devastating impact of cross-border corruption. In terms of national efforts, anti-corruption agencies in the country are targeting to combat economic and financial crimes. The country has also strengthened the procurement process, monitored the gatekeepers' activities, and established a Special Control Unit against Money-Laundering.

Madagascar emphasized the need to instilling integrity in students through their school curricula. It stressed the importance of infusing all public and private environments with anti-corruption ethics. The country has an interactive mechanism enabling citizens to lodge complaints online. Madagascar also noted the ongoing efforts to establish laws for the recovery of assets.

United Arab Emirates has supported the UNODC financially as part of implementing the Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted during the 8th session of the Conference of the State Parties to the UNCAC in 2019. It mentioned that corruption hinders development projects while fueling terrorism.

Kyrgyzstan echoed other speakers on the central role of the United Nations to coordinate efforts to counter corruption. The country stressed the need for change in cooperation mechanisms while emphasizing such change should also include mutual legal assistance. The country started to prosecute high-ranking individuals for corruption-related crimes for the first time. Kyrgyzstan also works to prevent bribery and speculation, especially when it comes to the pandemic.

Slovenia underlined that current development urges for an improved training for human regulators and a strengthened use of digital oversight tools. Slovenia ranks the top in terms of open data availability. The country showcased some innovative tools such as the accessible, user-friendly database on public officials. The country also has a tool that matches financial transactions to companies' records. Digital technology, as stressed by Slovenia, has built broad transparency and actively supports civil society to investigate corruption crimes.

Ukraine underlined that strong anti-corruption institutions and digital tools would win the fight against corruption. Ukraine informed the Plenary as the first country to introduce a digital passport with the same legal power as the paper. Within the next three years, Ukraine pledged to make 100 percent of public services available online. Ukraine has developed an open register of e-declarations with more than 800,000 e-declarations every year. In addition, in 2020, Ukraine engaged more than 100 stakeholders in developing a National Anti-Corruption Strategy, a strategy for clear guidelines in reforming judicial and law enforcement, a better business environment, and a corruption-free defense sector.

The Dominican Republic showcased national efforts in tackling corruption by establishing a team of lawyers to represent the State and recover assets taken from public coffers. The country also launched a single portal for payments and contractor salaries, enabling transparency in a public contract. The country also mentioned an ethics education program for civil servants as necessary.

Tajikistan said that in 2007 an agency was established to promote a zero-tolerance policy for corruption. The agency has the authority to conduct investigations and coordinate measures among Government bodies. In cooperation with many international organizations, the country is translating many of its recommendations into national legislation.

The Republic of Korea said the toughest challenges in combating Corruption in Korea are nepotism and favoritism. Several measures are also being taken to tackle corruption, including the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act in 2015 and the Conflict-of-Interest Act in early 2021. Korea also launched, in 2020, a Corruption Investigation Office targeting

high-ranking officials. Korea emphasized that integrity must be at the heart of anti-corruption policies and stated that bribe-taking among public officials must be stopped.

Greece echoed other speakers that technology must be a crucial part of efforts to enhance transparency and accountability. Greece is pursuing a more data-driven approach to public planning and already deployed a red-flags digital tool for possible instances of corruption.

Kazakhstan mentioned efforts to promote political transparency, including decriminalizing slander and streamlining the process for holding political rallies. It also developed an e-government architecture to ease public access to information. The country stressed that digitization had simplified the conduct of business.

Thailand called for global action, particularly in denying safe-haven to offenders and illicit assets. The country also elaborated that all must ensure that safeguards are in place to prevent business, investment, and immigration policies from being abused.

Ecuador stated that the structures of corruption are formed in the upper echelons of power, with an increased sophisticated level of operation. The country stressed that all countries must work together since such crimes can go beyond national borders. Institutional responses against corruption must also include the independence of the judiciary.

Sudan viewed that the country is among those who knew the consequences of corruption. Judiciary institutions are beginning to consider corruption cases and investigations on illicit enrichment of the former President and other high-ranking officials. It also highlighted efforts to revise rules regarding procurement while also implementing a counter-terrorism legislation. The country asked for technical support in the fight against corruption.

Montenegro outlined various national efforts, including the adoption of an action plan to strengthen its judiciary system and fundamental rights. It also emphasized the need for an unwavering response from the society to create a solid basis in reducing the real and perceived levels of corruption.

Uzbekistan elaborated a new phase of reforms aimed at improving the effectiveness of public anti-corruption policies. The country has established a new Anti-Corruption Agency and set targets to develop necessary legislation. The country has an anti-corruption compliance control system regulating integrity, conflict of interest, openness and transparency, public procurement, and assessment of corruption risks. In 2022, the agency will assess and publish the level of corruption in state bodies and regions. Anti-corruption training for civil servants is being developed. Uzbekistan, with UNDP and UNODC, is working on greater involvement of civil society institutions. Uzbekistan supports international cooperation on mutual legal assistance on corruption offences,

improved global system on asset recovery, and extradition for the perpetrators of corruption offences.

Malaysia highlighted the abuse of new technologies, which poses risks for a new breed of corruption, such as cyber threats. Public agencies, corporate entities, and societies need to bolster their resilience and competencies to address such threats. The Malaysia's National Anti-Corruption Plan (2019-2023) has aligned with the UNCAC. Malaysia shared a new initiative, including the new ombudsman law, to enhance transparency by improving public complaints pertaining to the maladministration of public agencies.

Pakistan noted some challenges in returning assets to the countries of origin, such as bureaucratic hurdles and legal barriers. It stressed that stolen assets must be returned in full recognition of the sovereign rights of the country of origin while adding that financial institutions involved in the crime must be prosecuted.

Jordan launched an anti-corruption commission that communicates with the public and private sectors, promoting national integrity, the rule of law, transparency, accountability, and justice. The commission is empowered to investigate the laundering of the proceeds of corruption and monitor growth in officials' wealth.

Equatorial Guinea viewed that corruption works through influence-peddling, bribery, and extortion. It pointed out that certain multinationals and public officials in some countries are involved in such activities. The country has ratified the UNCAC and the African Union Convention on Prevention and Combating corruption.

Myanmar noted that military dictatorship has misused the institution for political interest. It stressed that the eradication of corruption had been a priority for a civil elected government. The people of Myanmar are resilient together despite the military action that has opened a dark chapter in the country. Its representative to the UN called for the international community to provide its strongest support for the people of Myanmar and the National Unity Government.

Iraq highlighted that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires the mobilization of local resources, but illicit financial flows are one of the main restrictions faced by developing countries to mobilize resources. It stressed that corruption is closely related to violence and terrorism. It feeds violence and is a transnational cross-border phenomenon. Iraq warned that no comprehensive response to the corruption could exist if the international community does not hold financial institutions responsible and apply appropriate sanctions to the criminals. Iraq called for reform of the global financial system and noted that the recovery of stolen assets would significantly assist developing countries. It suggested the idea of having an e-government system for the international community to share information, track proceeds, and investigate crimes.

Poland informed the Plenary that all of Poland's civil servants received anti-corruption training. Its special police officers have implemented over a dozen projects, such as digital access to information, professional ethics, and reporting corruption, including among the police force. Poland highlighted that the country exchanges information with the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and the INTERPOL and engages in tackling corruption in sport.

Spain elaborated that its institutions, civil society, media, and citizens are committed to the defense of public values. The country had introduced a legal framework to tackle the illegal financing of political parties and other forms of corruption. It stressed the change in mentality and instilment of a culture of ethics as the most effective ways to combat corruption.

Uruguay showcased the recently adopted standard of conduct for public officials, which sets out rules for behavior and a system of protection for whistle-blowers. The country is also enabling citizen participation in reporting irregularities.

Georgia reiterated its commitment to implementing the UNCAC and upholding democracy, the rule of law, accountability, openness, fair elections, and human rights. The country also elaborated a few basis of an effective government by improving public service delivery, reducing bureaucracy, raising integrity in the public sector, and ensuring citizen participation and freedom of information.

Ethiopia established the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission in 2001. The country highlighted that criminals often transfer their stolen assets to foreign jurisdictions, making asset recovery a difficult task to implement.

Namibia called for a multidisciplinary approach as well as practical international cooperation amongst States and other stakeholders. It stressed illicit financial flows as a problem in the African continent and reminded the plenary that the Convention does not define corruption in a single form. The crime can be committed not only by criminal conduct but also through political and administrative decisions.

Afghanistan has implemented coordinated, effective anti-corruption strategies, including the creation of an independent anti-corruption commission. The country has enforced asset declaration, including travel restriction if government officials have not yet declared their assets. The country called for more cross-border networks citing the direct link between corruption and organized crime.

Rwanda elaborated that the country establishes a solid mechanism of investigation by combining the investigation and prosecution of illicit financial flows and money laundering crimes. It echoed the aspirations of other Member States that the international community must assist each other in asset recovery to ensure transparency, integrity, and accountability.

Hungary focused its anti-corruption policy on crime prevention and detection, believing that effective action is only possible in a properly regulated and consistent legal environment. The country informed the plenary that anti-corruption education and preventive tools and initiatives have helped the country advance the fight against corruption.

Luxembourg outlined several examples of new measures to address corruption, such as the signing of a trilateral agreement on confiscated assets in a case related to a senior official. The country also adopted a new professional code for senior Government officials and submitted it to the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) for evaluation. The country also hosts the European Public Prosecutor's Office, an independent and decentralized prosecution office of the EU, crucial to the bloc's future efforts to combat corruption.

Cameroon said that there had been a change in the citizens' view about corruption crimes. Corruption was perceived as a taboo, but now, it is highlighted by the many and becomes a top priority to be addressed by the country. Cameroon also mentioned that the whistle-blowers are now protected and more oversight is exercised over public goods and funds. For the first time in its history, Cameroon also has a law against corruption. Cameroon also appealed to the United Nations and other international actors to ensure that stolen funds and assets from the country can be repatriated to finance sustainable development targets.

Indonesia noted that international cooperation in recovering criminal proceeds remains challenging on multiple levels. It asked the international community to cooperate in removing barriers to asset recovery. The country also emphasized the need to understand the link between corruption and organized crime aiming to build effective responses to address them.

Tanzania shared its national strategy and action plan dedicated to addressing corruption and governance. The country is building systems of integrity and transparency in public procurement, revenue collection, and the use of resources. It has established a special division of the High Court to hear cases of corruption and economic crimes. Tanzania mentioned that it is also advancing initiatives for the direct mandatory confiscation of stolen assets and has holistic provisions to trace and recover them.

Maldives outlined several national measures to address corruption. The country has formed a presidential commission to recover state assets and ensure that all legal duties in investigating corruption and abuse of power within State and Government institutions are carried out. The country also discloses to the public all financial statements of all politically appointed and elected public officials.

Turkey enhanced its capacity to counter corruption through numerous legislative and administrative steps. The country has adopted and modified laws, including the Law on Ethics Commission for Public Officials, the Law on Public Procurement, and the Law

against the Laundering of Proceeds of Crime. The national strategy against corruption is carried out with the involvement and close partnership of civil society, the business sector, and academia.

Nepal elaborated that the country's Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority serves as an ombudsman to investigate and criminalize corruption cases in the public sector. The country also implemented a related National Strategy and Action Plan. Nepal viewed the Convention's Review Mechanism as crucial and committed to implement the recommendations made during the first cycle.

Lao People's Democratic Republic highlighted the Government's adherence to the Convention against Corruption and various comprehensive national strategies to combat Corruption, including the Law on State Inspection, the Law on Anti-Corruption, and the Law on the Handling of Petitions. Lao also enhanced public awareness campaigns and anti-corruption-related teaching curricula from kindergarten to the university level.

Chile mentioned that the fight against corruption is a central element of the country's foreign policy. It underscored the economic and social consequences of the pandemic and viewed that corruption prospers in times of crisis. It then suggested incorporating anti-corruption strategies into crisis response efforts to ensure an inclusive recovery.

Sri Lanka emphasized that criminal networks have designed their structures to effectively absorb illicitly obtained funds. The task to combat corruption, stressed Sri Lanka, is not solely owned by the Governments. Media outlets, the private sector, academia, and civil society must all play a role.

Haiti spotlighted the recovery of assets as a crucial component, as it lays out a legal framework allowing for the freezing and restitution of illicitly obtained funds. The country outlined domestic efforts, including establishing anti-corruption institutions such as the Supreme Court of Auditors for Administrative Disputes and a National Commission for Public Procurement.

Kuwait called for the formation of global alliances to share best practices on good governance and democracy. Kuwait also introduced several measures, including establishing laws to combat corruption, creating the national strategy in cooperation with the UNDP and UNODC, and the launch of a Government Commission to combat corruption.

Libya shared a concern to the Plenary that the country's instability over the past years has created an environment that fuels corruption. The Libyan people have been pillaged and have lost resources to illicit transfers of funds and assets. It, therefore, established in 2017 an office tasked with recovering the stolen assets. It called for anti-corruption resolutions to prevent the illicit transfer of Libyan resources.

Andorra has put in place a strong normative structure to combat corruption and transnational organized crime. The country is a party to the Council of Europe Criminal

Law Convention on Corruption and is advancing towards accession to the UN Convention against Corruption. The country supported efforts to end environmental crimes, as the crimes are a major obstacle to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development targets.

Tunisia called for a unified global response to corruption. The country also called on the global community to eliminate poor countries' debts which will allow them to focus on the urgent challenges of development and combat the pandemic. Tunisia shared tools to combat corruption, including the already established National Anti-Corruption Authority, legal protections for whistle-blowers, a law against ill-gotten wealth, and a national strategy to combat corruption. It has also created a study center to collect statistics and data on the phenomenon, train officials, and raise awareness of the threats posed by corruption.

Senegal mentioned that governance, institutions, peace, and security are the three pillars of the Government's economic and social policy towards 2035. Senegal plays an important role in cooperation among States. It is home to the African anti-corruption platforms, namely the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

States of the Holy See emphasized that the prevention of corruption requires legal mechanisms and the promotion of a culture of integrity. In line with the Convention against Corruption, the country has taken steps to foster transparency, control, and public contracts competition and enhance the disclosure of potential conflicts of interest among Holy See and Vatican City officials.

> This summary is not intended as a compilation of a formal statement. It serves as an early mapping of focuses, commitments, pledges, or actions mentioned by the Member States. Please refer to the formal statement of your country's representative for further details.