



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

**Tenth Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention
Against Corruption
December 11-15, 2023**

Your Excellency Mr. President

Honorable Delegates,

Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to lead the State Delegation of Albania in the Tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Beyond the gathering of global leaders, this esteemed forum rightly commemorates the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UNCAC, a pivotal milestone in the global fight against corruption. We express our heartfelt appreciation to the Government of the United States for hosting this crucial platform to advance our collective efforts in combating corruption.

The Albanian Government, has made significant strides in the ongoing fight against corruption. Aligned with UNCAC principles, our holistic approach encompasses punitive, preventive, and awareness-raising dimensions, guided by the pursuit of integrity, good governance, and the rule of law.

Our unprecedented and radical justice reform, initiated in 2016, included measures to eradicate corruption in the judiciary and build a judicial system that regains the trust of our citizens. This ensures a corruption-free and independent

justice system based on transparency, professionalism, and efficiency, dedicated to serving our citizens dutifully.

Simultaneously, the reform has intensified efforts against corruption and organized crime, with the now fully operational Special Prosecution Office and Special Court on Corruption and Organised Crime. These novel structures have handled numerous high profile cases in the past 3 years, including the sentencing of one former Prosecutor General, and ongoing thorough investigations involving a former Prime Minister, former deputy Prime Minister, and several Ministers and MPs. The message is clear: no one is above the law, and the culture of impunity has come to an end.

These accomplishments paved the way for Albania's initiation of accession negotiations with the EU in July 2022, positioning Albania as the frontrunner in the Western Balkans on rule of law reforms. This transformative step reflects the unwavering political will of the Albanian Government, a commitment that will be further upheld as we progress in our EU accession negotiations, signaling our agenda of transparency, integrity, and adherence to the rule of law.

In addition, we have embraced a comprehensive approach by integrating good governance tools and fostering collaboration with citizens, civil society, and the private sector. The digitalization of state services at a 95% rate in a only two years, coupled with online operations for asset declarations and conflict of interest, has helped us to a great deal to prioritize transparency..

Notably, we will enhance these comprehensive efforts with the adoption of a new Cross-Sector Anti-Corruption Strategy aligned with Agenda 2030. The document will guide the country's perspective on EU integration by implementing measures to further combat corruption and enhance public sector integrity in risk-prone sectors.

In conclusion, this comprehensive mission in fighting corruption would have been way more challenging without our participation and partnership in UNODC, and EU Projects, which have significantly helped in putting an effective anticorruption architecture in place. Albania remains committed to fostering these partnerships, cooperating with international anticorruption bodies within the framework of the UN anticorruption agenda.

Advancing our shared commitments under the Convention, we are confident that this is the right path to take.

Thank you very much!