

Delegation of the Republic of Armenia

Statement

10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the

UN Convention Against Corruption

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and other members of the Bureau upon your election. I also take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the United States for its hospitality and thank the Secretariat of the UNODC for the enormous efforts ahead of the Conference.

Mr. President,

Corruption continues to pose a significant obstruction to the development and stability of nations across the globe. It distorts economic systems, erodes public trust in institutions and undermines the foundations of the state and society. Armenia firmly believes that the fight against corruption requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses legal, institutional and societal dimensions.

In this context I shall highlight that Armenia has entered into a new, more targeted phase in the fight against corruption, as reflected both in the Government programme and in the Anti-Corruption Strategies and Action Plans for 2019-2022 and 2023-2026.

It includes the formation of the Corruption Prevention Commission in 2019 as a specialized autonomous body for the prevention of corruption with appropriate guarantees of independence, the establishment of the Department for Supervision over Legality of Pre-Trial Proceedings in the Anti-Corruption Committee of the Prosecutor General's Office, as well as the operationalization of the Anti-Corruption Committee in 2021 as an independent specialized law enforcement body carrying out pre-trial investigation of corruption crimes and operational intelligence measures thereon. The latter within its powers also cooperates with various international institutions in order to exchange experience, acquire new methods and strategies to combat corruption crimes and effectively counter and disrupt transnational offenses of money laundering. From the day of its establishment until December 1 of the current year, 3125 criminal cases were investigated in the proceedings of the Committee's investigators, of which 244 cases were sent to the court with indictment with regard to 570 persons, including 198 officials.

An important undertaking was the operationalization of the civil procedure institute for the confiscation of property of illegal origin introduced to the legal system of the Republic of Armenia in 2020. The procedure is aimed at the return of corrupt

proceeds. A relevant unit of the Department for the Confiscation of Property of Illegal Origin was established subsequently in the structure of the Prosecutor General's Office of Armenia.

The pinnacle of our efforts against corruption was the creation of a specialized anti-corruption judicial system in 2022, which led to a better, more comprehensive and effective solution of cases by specialized judges. The Anti-Corruption Court, the Anti-Corruption Chamber within the Cassation Court of Armenia and the Anti-Corruption Court of Appeal are the key elements of that system.

The revised Corpus delicti related to corruption in line with international best practices, including the institution of criminal liability for legal entities envisaged in the new Criminal Code have further reinforced Armenia's efforts against corruption.

The new legislative acts aimed at broadly identifying beneficial owners of legal entities, as well as establishing an open and publicly accessible registry of beneficial owners of all legal entities, as well as the improved legal mechanisms of the whistleblowing system with a new type of reporting that includes a conflict of interest or violation of the code of conduct or incompatibility requirements, are the key milestones in the success of the fight against corruption in Armenia.

Distinguished delegates,

Unprecedented level of global connectivity, along with the increased mobility of individuals, assets and property across national borders, has resulted in a heightened potential for transnational corruption. Moreover, the existence of legal loopholes within international financial systems further exacerbates the problem. The different manifestations of transnational corruption, such as bribery of foreign public officials, members of parliaments and inter-parliamentary assemblies, officials of international organizations, create additional challenges for the protection and promotion of human rights and regional and global peace and stability. On many occasions, war crimes and crimes against humanity are covered up with the help of such corrupt acts and bribery, extending an atmosphere of impunity for the criminals. Illicit financial flows of the proceeds of corruption and their links to financial and logistical support for the massive recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters and their deployment to areas of armed conflict is another matter of grave concern. Armenia emphasizes the utmost importance of enhanced international cooperation to address these challenges and calls for collective action.

In conclusion, I would like to once again reaffirm Armenia's unwavering commitment to the principles and objectives of the Convention against Corruption. We stand ready to strengthen collective efforts to effectively counter and prevent corruption at all levels.

Thank you.