

**THE 10TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

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**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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**Mr President,
Distinguished delegates,**

I am honoured to attend such a high-level conference and deliver a statement on behalf of my country on the 20th anniversary of adoption of UNCAC.

Your Excellencies,

Corruption is a common challenge for all of us.

And using this opportunity, I would like to briefly inform you on efforts of Azerbaijan in combatting this social evil.

Since the last COSP session in 2021, Azerbaijan continued implementation of complex measures to curb corruption.

Majority will agree that political will has the first and foremost importance for the success of anti-corruption initiatives.

Anti-corruption reforms of Azerbaijan are based on strong political will of Mr President Ilham Aliyev.

As a reflection of it, in April last year, new anti-corruption Strategy was endorsed by the Presidential Decree. The "National Action Plan on Combatting Corruption for 2022-2026", was adopted through a transparent and public procedure with a participation of all relevant stake-holders, including wider representation of civil society.

Notable, almost all proposals of civil society were included in this strategic document which envisages implementation of more than 60 measures in the next 5 years, including modernization of national legislation, wider application of high technologies in delivery of public services and justice system, strengthening anti-money laundering framework and ensuring transparency of financial and public procurement systems, enhancing cooperation with civil society and international partners and awareness raising.

Implementation of this Strategy has already beared some fruits, which I would like to note.

Public procurement is considered as one of the most corruption vulnerable areas. Therefore, a new Law “On Public Procurement” was developed based on best international standards. The law which will come into force starting the 1st of January the next year, aiming at more transparency in this field ensures e-procurement as the only procurement method.

Also, in February this year, a new AML law, developed in-line with the recommendations of the MONEYVAL Committee of the COE came into force. In paralel, to eliminate the practical challenges in prosecution of money-laundering offences, the Plenary of the Supreme Court adopted a landmark decision.

Measures were adopted to enhance independence and effectiveness of judiciary. Structure, election procedures and composition of the Judicial Legal Council – a self-governing body of judiciary was revised.

During this period the Prosecutor’s Office continued implementation of the EU sponsored Twinning Project aiming to turn the newly established Special Confiscation Department of the PGO into full-fledge asset recovery office.

As already mentioned, in Azerbaijan, high attention is paid to application of e-technologies in public service delivery, as well as justice system.

E-Court system is fully functional.

This year the Prosecutor’s Office also launched E-Prosecution system and currently we are working on integration of those systems, which is planned to involve other law enforcement agencies as well.

By these measures we aim to fully digitalize criminal justice, which will allow us deeply analyse dynamics of crime, and develop more effective and accurate responses to it. It will also reduce costs and by minimising “user-provider” contacts will contribute towards more transparency.

Esteemed delegates,

We are fully aware that by its nature corruption is not an only a legal problem. It has also economic and social implications. It is also a development and collective action problem.

Taking into account its complicated nature Azerbaijan employs inclusive approach in combatting corruption. In other words, our anti-corruption strategy involves not only punitive methods, but views economic development and awareness raising as an integral part of its anti-corruption reforms.

We believe that, cooperation with our international and regional partners has utmost importance for importing best international standards and practice, therefore we are dedicated to cooperation in the framework of monitoring processes implemented by the UN IRM, Istanbul Action Plan of the OECD, GRECO of the COE, MONEYVAL and others.

Finally, I reaffirm Azerbaijan's commitment to the goals and standards outlined in UNCAC and wish you all successful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.