



**Video address by Mr. Ivan Malenica, Minister of Justice and Public  
Administration of the Republic of Croatia**

***Agenda item 1(f): General Discussion***

10th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations  
Convention against Corruption

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Mister President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the United States for hosting this important Conference. We commend the Secretariat and other partners for making this Conference possible. We look forward to discussions around the topic of accountability that would help promote the dialogue on this important issue.

Twenty years ago, the UN Convention against Corruption was adopted, giving the world its first binding international agreement for addressing a crime that undermines our collective values.

Croatia highlights the need for preventing and eradicating corruption more effectively by further promoting the full implementation of the Convention.

The fight against corruption and the promotion of transparency is among Croatia's top priorities.

Allow me to share a few important points on anti-corruption efforts, framework and activities in Croatia.

I wish to recall that Croatia was among the first countries to accede to the Convention, thereby affirming our commitment to combat corruption.

Over the past 20 years Croatia has undertaken significant reforms and built solid foundations for an effective and systematic repression and prevention of corruption. Also, we have established strategic approach in detecting and implementing the national anti-corruption priorities through the adoption of a number of long-term Strategies and Action plans.

Concerning repressive mechanisms, Croatia has criminalized all forms of corrupt behavior in its national legislation, aligning its legal framework with key international legal instruments. Also, specialized departments in the police and state attorney's office have been established to combat corruption and organized crime.

In terms of preventive measures, effective legal and institutional framework were established in key areas such as conflict of interest management, public integrity, protection of whistleblowers, access to information, transparency in funding political parties and election campaigns.

Reforms and implementation of anticorruption policies attest to Croatia's dedication to fully implement of Merida Convention and other international instruments which was evaluated and further strengthened in the context of Croatian participation in the Implementation Review Mechanism.

Croatia continues to strengthen its anticorruption framework as part of the OECD accession process. To that end, Croatia recently became the Party to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and joined the Anti-Bribery Working Group, further demonstrating its commitment to the international co-operation in combating corruption.

Despite all the progress achieved so far, corruption remains a key challenge.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Croatia believes that our collective efforts to implement the Merida Convention over the past 20 years have had significant results, and that, working in partnership, we can achieve even greater impact.

Corruption is a threat to our economies, our societies and our values. Working together in fight against corruption is not only our dedications but our obligation towards global community.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish you a successful and productive week ahead.