

Finland

Statement by the Permanent Secretary Pekka Timonen – Ministry of Justice, Finland

AT THE 10TH CONFERENCE OF THE STATE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC)

Atlanta 11 – 15.12.2023

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues

Finland aligns itself with the statement of the EU. We all know that fight against corruption takes continuous effort and requires international cooperation. This fight none of us can win alone.

Regrettably, international cooperation continues to be hurt by Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine. It is nonetheless important that we continue our efforts to prevent and combat corruption. Finland takes this opportunity to congratulate Ukraine for its continued fight against corruption regardless of the extreme difficulties the country is facing. This dedication can serve as an example to us all. Finland stands in full solidarity with Ukraine.

We are proud that Finland ranks high in global Indexes related to corruption. A state that enables the participation of civil society, ensures transparency in decision-making, and principles of democracy and rule of law, to mention a few fundamentals, is able to counter corruption effectively. These are some of the key elements behind the perceived low level of corruption in Finland and the success in the global indexes.

In Finland, the Anti-corruption Co-operation Network is a multi-stakeholder forum promoting anti-corruption practises and policies. Representatives from the civil society, academia and business community participated in the preparation process of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan thus enhancing our understanding of how people perceived corruption and how it affected them. In our experience cooperating with the civil society increases the credibility of the work and dissemination of knowledge to wider audience.

We remain firmly committed the work of UNODC. Finland has been elected to become a member of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the years 2024-2026. As to the implementation of UNCAC and its Implementation Review Mechanism, I express my gratitude to the members of

the Secretariat, Portugal and El Salvador for offering their experts for the currently ongoing review process. Their recommendations, as well as those from the OECD, GRECO and EU, will be taken into account in our future anti-corruption work. They provide objective data on where we still have room to improve.

Finland has signed the UNCAC Coalition Transparency Pledge and aims to full transparency with regard to the UNCAC review process. The Finnish government program 2023 also explicitly notes “...*good and open governance.*” and “*fair and open competition...*”. The principles of openness and transparency will continue to guide our future anti-corruption work. We see this as an enabler of the participation of the civil society as well as a tool for ensuring accountability.

UNCAC represents a multilateral, rules based international order. This is also one of the cornerstones of Finland’s international relations. Particularly, in times like these, co-operation is necessary. This is how we create peace and security to all.

Thank you