

## **Statement for the UNCAC COSP 10, 11 December 2023, Atlanta, USA**

### **Delegation of Georgia**

Esteemed President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, I have the honor to speak on behalf of Georgia. I would like to commence by wishing you, Mr. President, success for your work during this session. We would like to express our thanks to the United States for hosting this Conference. It is our privilege to be here today among anti-corruption stakeholders, emphasizing once more the vital role of integrity and transparency in fostering good governance, democracy, and inclusiveness.

Following legislative amendments, in December 2022, the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Georgia was established as an independent agency responsible to prevent and combat corruption. The Bureau operates under special Law on Fight Against Corruption and it is in its exclusive authority to adopt National Anti-Corruption Policy as well as Action-Plan, and supervise their due enforcement. The Head of the Bureau, selected by a commission comprising public institutions and representatives of civil society, and appointed for a six-year term is accountable only to the Parliament of Georgia and the Interagency Anti-Corruption Council, which comprises members from academia, civil society organizations, and relevant government agencies. This once again illustrates the high degree of independence, accountability, transparency and inclusiveness.

Equipped with robust legal tools, including administrative investigation proceedings, the Bureau's main functions, among others, include preventing, identifying, and avoiding conflicts of interest in public institutions, developing relevant proposals and recommendations. We are responsible for managing and monitoring the asset declarations of officials, ensuring transparency, also executing whistleblower protection in accordance with legislation, as well as monitoring the financial activities of political parties.

Georgia's success in fight against corruption is recognized in international evaluation indexes. This includes Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, the Global Risk Profile's Global Corruption Index, and the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index, and so on. These rankings position Georgia among low-level corruption countries rendering it as a regional leader.

One of the strongest mechanisms at the Bureau's disposal is monitoring officials' asset declarations. The legislation envisages broad involvement of civil society and academia in

these proceedings. For instance, an independent commission, consisting of members from civil society and academia, selects a list of officials to be inspected. This serves as a ground for commencing an administrative investigation, including the inspection of an official's finances and potential conflict of interests.

Finally, I would like to emphasize once more the importance of international cooperation in strengthening integrity, transparency and inclusiveness in fight against corruption. The Anti-Corruption Bureau of Georgia confirms its readiness to further international collaboration.