

Statement

by Consul General Melanie Moltmann
Head of the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Conference of States Parties
to the UN Convention against Corruption

General debate

Check against delivery!

At the outset and on behalf of the German delegation, I wish to thank the United States for hosting the 10th session of the Conference of States Parties. I also congratulate the Chair on the election and would like to thank you for guiding us through the conference. Please be assured of the full support of my delegation.

I also wish to thank UNODC for preparing and organizing this conference in these difficult times.

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. I wish to add the following comments in my national capacity.

Germany remains fully committed to preventing, detecting and prosecuting corruption and to foster integrity in the public and private sector. We continue to join forces with other states, but also civil society, business and the media that have a crucial role in the fight against corruption.

In the past two years, we continued to enhance and improve our domestic anti-corruption framework. A new system for a comprehensive protection of persons reporting criminal offences including corruption has become operational in July. Whistleblowers can play a crucial role in uncovering and ending corrupt practices both in the public and private sector. Implementing and going beyond the EU's whistleblower directive, the new legislation provides for anonymized external reporting channels and effectively shields whistle blowers from retaliation by employers.

Germany is also stepping up its fight against the laundering of proceeds of crimes including corruption. Corruption offenders must not benefit from their ill-gotten gains and those who launder money for them must be brought to justice. Last month, the Federal Government adopted a bill establishing a new federal agency responsible for fighting financial crime including major cross-border money laundering. The new force will also be tasked with tracing assets stolen by corrupt actors and will help to recover and return these assets to their legitimate owners.

Furthermore, legislation to amend and strengthen the offences of bribery of member of parliamentarians is currently being prepared by law-makers.

I would also like to highlight the detrimental effects corruption can have on protecting the environment and mitigating climate change. Efforts taken by the international community to safeguard natural resources for us and future generations must be prevented from being undermined by corruption. This is why climate action requires high standards of transparency and integrity and why strong anti-corruption measure must be in place for those responsible for protecting the environment such as forestry authorities.

Another topic that continues to be of particular importance to us are linkages between gender and corruption of which we want to get a better understanding. Addressing the discriminatory and gender-specific effects of corruption is crucial to our efforts in advancing equal participation by all people in social, political, and economic life.

Germany remains committed to supporting countries all over the world in their implementation of the UNCAC through different bilateral, regional and international activities. In 2022 and 2023, Germany has continued to fund the Implementation Review Mechanism and to support UNODC in assisting States parties in their reviews and implementation of recommendations. In our support to partner countries, Germany will prioritize the human rights, gender, environmental and climate dimensions of our anti-corruption programming. This is why I am happy to announce that we co-sponsor three Side Events at this year's CoSP on:

- (1) the Consequences of Corruption for Human Rights,
- (2) Critical Minerals and Financial Crimes, exploring how to mitigate corruption risks in the energy sector and
- (3) Initiatives for a more transparent and effective Implementation Review Mechanism.

To conclude I would like to underline that fighting corruption, as important as it is, must never become an end in itself and must never come at the cost of disrespecting fundamental rights, due process and the principle of proportionality. Due process safeguards might sometimes appear as an obstacle to a corruption investigation or prosecution. However, ultimately, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of the press and civil society participation, are our most valuable allies in the fight against corruption. This is why we must adhere to these principles at any time.

Thank you!