



**Interpretative Explanation of the Delegation of the Holy See following the adoption of text CAC/COSP/2023/L.14/Rev.1 “Addressing the societal impacts of corruption” presented by Ghana**

**COSP10 of UNCAC**

Atlanta, 15 December 2023

Mr. President,

The Holy See would like to thank the Delegation of Ghana for tabling the resolution before us, and for having ably managed the informal consultations.

The impact of corruption is limited by neither politics nor geography, and it exists in both rich and poor countries.<sup>1</sup> By betraying “moral principles and the norms of social justice,”<sup>2</sup> corruption hampers the eradication of poverty and the attainment of integral development. By undermining trust in public institutions and between the governing and the governed, it compromises the good functioning of a well-organized society. As Pope Francis has said: “society as a whole is called to commit itself concretely to combating the cancer of corruption in its various forms.”<sup>3</sup>

The lengthy and lively informal consultations have brought us to the text we have before us, which seeks, in a comprehensive manner, “to address the societal impacts of corruption” including by identifying “ways in which corruption can affect women and men differently.”

In this regard, the Holy See welcomes the call “to develop and implement policies and programmes to prevent and combat corruption,” and “[to] raise the awareness and enhance the ability of women and girls on how to resist, report and seek redress against corruption.”

Mr. President,

While appreciating the positive aspects of this resolution, based on which the Holy See joined the consensus, in conformity with its nature and particular mission, the Holy See is obliged to make the following explanation of positions on the text adopted:

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, “The Fight against Corruption”, 21 September 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 411.

<sup>3</sup> Pope Francis, Address to Officials of the Court of Auditors, 18 March 2019.

1. Where applicable, the Holy See's reservations, set out in the reports of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development and of the Beijing Fourth Conference on Women, remain valid and in force.
2. The Holy See understands the term "gender" and any related phrase as grounded in biological sexual identity, male or female.
3. The Holy See understands the concept of "*health services*" as applying to a holistic concept of health.

Thank you, Mr. President.