



*Tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations
Convention against Corruption*

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Distinguished President,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for convening this very important event. The interest at the highest level confirms our common commitment to combat corruption and the importance of engaging all possible actors in the process.

Preventing and combating corruption lies at the foundation of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, and is one of the priorities of the Office of Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. Our office works on promoting international co-operation on economic issues, strengthening good economic governance and assisting the OSCE participating States in combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The OSCE sees regional co-operation as essential in addressing the challenges posed by corruption. We cooperate closely with a wide range of stakeholders, including state and local authorities, international and regional organizations, civil society actors, the private sector, academia and think tanks. The OSCE contributes to international and regional fora and is a member of expert working groups pertinent to its mandate and activities. In our work to combat corruption, we have forged close partnership with UNODC, OECD, FATF and RAI among others.

I would like to briefly provide you with some concrete examples of how the OSCE is translating its mandate into concrete activities and supporting our participating States in complying with their commitments to eradicate corruption.

We are working to foster the use of open data to improve the business climate and support economic recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic in the OSCE area. Our efforts bring together a vibrant community of open data/anti-corruption practitioners and have further developed their expertise through enhanced collaboration and networking.

Engaging youth in dialogue and efforts to combat organized crime and promote the rule of law and good governance is more relevant than ever, as socio-economic disparities make youth more vulnerable to joining criminal groups. In response, we are working to educate and raise awareness of the next generations on the dangers of organized crime, drug abuse, and corruption.

Asset recovery is a crucial focus for the OSCE in combating transnational organized crime and corruption. With a solid track record of strengthening capacities in Southeastern Europe, we have extended our efforts to Moldova and Ukraine. We focus on strengthening the entire asset recovery process, from seizing and confiscating criminal assets to managing them in a cost-effective manner and repurposing them for social benefits.

The OSCE understands the importance of new technologies and how criminals may use them for illicit purposes. Therefore, last year we started to implement a project that aims to build the capacities of national authorities to counter the risks of criminal use of virtual assets and cryptocurrencies in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. We plan to expand this project to other beneficiaries in South Caucasus and Central Asia.

We are also assisting Moldova in fulfilling relevant OSCE commitments in good governance and anti-corruption, as well as aligning its national standards with the

UN Convention against Corruption, the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan, and other international standards and best practices.

The OSCE also understands that corruption affects women and men differently and therefore has been actively working to integrate gender perspectives into its anti-corruption efforts in order to improve the efficiency and ensure sustainable impact of our interventions.

One of the recent examples is the OSCE's Mission in Serbia's support to the Agency for Prevention of Corruption to integrate gender perspectives into their daily work. This effort served as a catalyst for a ground-breaking development—the creation of a gender-specific anti-corruption toolkit. This innovative manual, solidified the Agency's commitment to gender-inclusive practices, which will in turn make Agency reach broader and the impact of their actions more sustainable.

Recently, the OSCE also conducted crucial research on the intersection of corruption and gender inequality in natural resource access and management. This research serves as a valuable resource for policymakers and implementing organizations, offering insights for informed decision-making in designing, implementing, and monitoring activities.

These are just a few of the many examples of how the OSCE is working practically to support its participating States in fighting corruption. We are ready to cooperate and share our knowledge and experience on this important topic, with our participating States, as well as with international organization and let me ensure that we look forward to working together with other actors to create stronger partnerships and joint efforts in our common aspiration to prevent and combat corruption.

Thank you for your attention