



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE
برلمان البحر الأبيض المتوسط

UNODC 10th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)

Draft Speech – Hon. Rita Theodorou Superman, Member of the Cypriot Delegation to PAM

11 – 15 December 2023, Atlanta, Unites States - Pre-recorded Video-message

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*Honorable Delegates,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is an honor to address you on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) on this important occasion.

Corruption is present in all countries, rich and poor, North and South, developed and developing.

Numbers show the astonishing scope of the challenge.

In recent years, growing anger and frustration have erupted at corrupt leaders and governments. In some cases, and at the risk of their lives, people have taken to the streets with demands for social justice and accountability.

PAM not only closely monitors the phenomenon of corruption in its regions, but also is recognized as a trustworthy and respected channel to engage with strategic partners, first and foremost the UN specialized agencies and GOPAC, to share best-practices and implement effective legislative strategies to counter it.

Taking into consideration the direct correlation between corruption and political factors, such as the lack of effective governance, democracy, freedom of press, and the respect of civil liberties in many countries, criminal organizations, often associated with complacent political regimes and their oligarchs, have learned to identify and actively exploit these structural deficiencies to orchestrate their operations.

In addition, corruption is unfortunately linked to many forms of insecurity and violence, triggering, in conflict-ridden countries, illicit trafficking, among others, in arms, drugs and human beings. Corruption prospers where conflicts rage and rogue states govern.

In these days, while COP28 is unfolding, we are also reminded of the need to address the challenge posed by corruption related to environmental crimes.

Our goals in terms of mitigating the climate crisis and supporting energy transition policies are ambitious, but the costs and impacts of corruption on climate actions and in climate-related sectors are still huge and devastating.

To enhance the effectiveness of climate protection initiatives at all levels, from local communities to the international context, it is crucial to engage with parliaments to define, adopt, and implement robust governance strategies, to mobilize and allocate climate funds effectively, tackle corruption and build integrity.

PAM counts on its excellent relation with the UNODC to continue the already fruitful cooperation in this direction.

Thank you for the attention.
