

## **Speech regarding the review of the implementation of UNCAC**

Thank you Mr. President. As I take the floor, I would like to first express my appreciation to the Government of the United States of America for hosting this 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), specially for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all the participants as well as the comprehensive arrangements made for this session.

I extend my hearty congratulations to you and the members of the Bureau for election as officers of this conference. I assure you of full support from the Indian delegation for a fruitful and productive session. I also commend the efforts of the Secretariat for the excellent preparation and documentation for this Session.-.

Mr. President,

I feel honored to address this august gathering as a representative of India, with a profound sense of responsibility and shared commitment to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time – corruption. This assembly, representing nations united under the UNCAC, exemplifies our collective dedication to steering the world towards freedom from the shackles of corruption.

I express our profound appreciation for the Implementation Review Mechanism, which plays a vital role in advancing the Convention's enactment and ensuring adherence to global norms of good governance. The insights gained from country reviews have been instrumental in shaping anti-corruption strategies and legislative modifications, providing support for national entities and enhancing frameworks.

India has, with fervor, embraced this review process, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to implementing every facet and fulfilling all stipulations of the Convention. Our nation boasts a robust legal framework supported by a sturdy institutional architecture dedicated to combating corruption. India's progress in fighting corruption is underscored by noteworthy achievements and innovative practices. Digitalization and e-governance initiatives have added layers of transparency, curbing discretion in administrative processes. Legislations have fortified our defenses against corruption.

The establishment and operationalisation of independent oversight bodies reflects India's commitment to fostering transparency and justice, instilling public trust and confidence.

Mr. President

Economic crimes, encompassing activities such as fraud, tax evasion, money laundering, and embezzlement, pose significant challenges globally. India is deeply concerned with the issue of Fugitive Economic Offenders who commit grave economic crimes in their home country and flee to avoid prosecution. To address this, India enacted the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018, allowing the attachment of property for offenders with offenses worth \$12 million or more. This serves as a deterrent, preventing economic offenders from evading Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

In the 20th year since the adoption of the UNCAC by the UN General Assembly, G20 countries, under India's presidency in 2023, elevated their commitment to the global anti-corruption agenda. The G20 emphasized the crucial link between corruption, economic growth, and sustainable development. The G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group was able to achieve significant progress on anti-corruption cooperation particularly action against fugitive economic offenders and return of assets, guided by the Nine Point Agenda for Action Against Fugitive Economic Offences and Asset Recovery, presented by India to G20 nations in 2018.

During our presidency, G20 countries endorsed the High-Level Principles on Strengthening Law Enforcement-related International Cooperation and Information Sharing for Combating Corruption, as well as the G20 High-Level Principles on Strengthening Asset Recovery Mechanisms for Combating Corruption. These endorsements signify a commitment to leveraging cooperation among relevant authorities, promoting transparency, and maintaining accountability.

The High-Level Principles on Promoting Integrity and Effectiveness of Public Bodies and Authorities Responsible for Preventing and Combating Corruption underscore the commitment to ensuring that such bodies remain open, transparent, and accountable while maintaining necessary independence.

Mr. President,

Gender dimensions of corruption were a focal point of discussions initiated under the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group proceedings in 2023. G20 endeavors to develop evidence-based research as a basis for collective initiatives on this issue by member countries. G20 countries are keen on exploring new, emerging areas and focusing on implementing existing commitments by establishing an ambitious G20 Anti-Corruption Action plan 2025-27.

As we move forward, the next phase of the 2nd cycle review holds immense promise. This phase is poised to delve deeper into the achievements, challenges, and best practices of member states, providing us with a roadmap for future action. India looks forward to actively participating in this phase, sharing experiences, and contributing to the global momentum in our joint fight against corruption.

Let us carry forth the momentum generated by this conference, mindful of the immense responsibilities we bear. Together we can usher in an era where integrity triumphs over malfeasance, transparency prevails over secrecy, and accountability prevails over impunity.

I once again extend my gratitude for your attention and eagerly anticipate our collective deliberations. Thank you very much.