



Ministero della Giustizia
IL CONSIGLIERE DIPLOMATICO

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National statement under item 1 (f) “General
discussion”

Delivered by the Minister of Justice of the Italian
Republic, Hon. Carlo Nordio

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- Mister President, dear colleagues, distinguished delegates,
- It is a great honor for me to be here today in Atlanta, leading the Italian delegation at this Conference. My presence confirms the **renewed drive by the Italian Government to play a relevant role at the international level in the fight against corruption**; at the same time, it reaffirms Italy’s unwavering commitment to multilateralism, with a particular focus on **promoting and enhancing the Rule of Law**.

- Italy associates itself with the statement of the European Union but allow me to add few remarks in our national capacity.
- As we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by the General Assembly, we recognize the crucial role played by the Convention, and its implementing institutions, in fighting corruption and promoting the values of integrity, transparency and accountability. Let me **thank the Executive Director of UNODC, Mrs Ghada Waly**, for her great work.
- We are pleased to acknowledge the many achievements of States Parties over the past twenty years to prevent and combat corruption. This Conference is an important opportunity for States Parties to reaffirm in unequivocal terms their resolute commitment to ensuring the full and effective implementation of obligations under the Convention and to explore areas for further progress.
- In the next days the Conference will address several issues and challenges that require our action, such as measures aimed at strengthening accountability, promoting transparency and integrity of public procurement processes; encouraging protection of whistleblowers; consolidating asset recovery, just to mention some of them.
- Corruption very often causes other serious crimes. It is often a catalyst to the infiltration of criminal interests through all the gaps of the public administration. The more cohesive the society is, the less it allows for infiltration. Whenever society exhibits fractures, crime takes advantage of human

vulnerabilities: illegal activities run by organized crime expand consequently, reaching enormous illicit profits, worth trillions of dollars worldwide.

- Italy is presenting, together with Mexico, **a resolution to address the links between corruption and organized crime**. Organized crime is among the major threats to the stability and security of our societies. Criminal organizations often turn to intimidation or corruption to reinforce their presence and expand their illicit activities. It is therefore essential to enhance our common efforts to prevent, detect and combat corruption involving organized criminal groups.
- Our intent is to mark a meaningful connection between UNCAC and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that we have recently celebrated in Palermo.
- I wish to highlight an effective preventive tool: **value education**, which is the practice of spreading the importance of integrity and accountability especially among younger generations. **Value dissemination** is a significantly and effective tool compared to many legislative interventions that, by complicating the regulatory framework, paradoxically end up facilitating corruption itself.
- We also attach significant relevance to international cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities. No country can face the threats in isolation: In this regard, I am glad to announce that Italy recently joined the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities launched by UNODC: we are convinced that the exchange of good practices and the harmonization of

international standards is key to fighting illicit activities with transnational dimension.

- Lastly, let me share with you that it is my intention to include the fight against transnational organized crime in the agenda of **the G7 justice ministerial meeting** that I will host in Venice next year.
- Thank you, Mr President.