National Statement by the Chairman of Integrity and Anti-corruption Commission of Jordan

At the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Atlanta, United States of America, 11-15 December 2023
• Mr. Speaker,

• Mr. President-designate of the Tenth session of the Conference,

• Ladies and Gentlemen,

• Assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu

The Delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and I wish to express our pleasure to participate in the meeting of the tenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

I also applaud His Excellency Mr. Richard Nephew on the presidency of the tenth session, and we appreciate the efforts made towards the success of this Conference to come up with resolutions and recommendations that serve the safety and security of our countries. Especially since our all will has become more insistent on the necessity of firmly confronting the phenomenon of corruption, which has become difficult to treat and encompass in many countries due to the development of technology that serves the corrupt.
Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has made gigantic achievements fighting against corruption since it is one of the first countries to ratify the Convention against Corruption.

Since ratifying the Convention in 2004, Jordan has progressively continued to tackle corruption crimes, until the proportion of corruption in the public sector has become relatively low.

This is by virtue to the serious political will to fight corruption and dry up its sources, as well as the national efforts to spread the values, principles and standards of integrity and awareness.

The Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission was established under the 2006 law, as a responsible body in charge of dealing with corruption crimes professionally.

It also works with national partners to implement a strategic plan for Integrity and Anti-corruption in which it is updated and reviewed periodically within an institutional framework.
At the legislative level, work was being done to harmonize national legislation with the provisions of the International Convention against Corruption so that the Kingdom can carry out its tasks and fulfill its international obligations under the UN Convention.

In the operational spheres, the Commission follows up its work as a law enforcement authority in prosecuting all corruption offences established by law and relevant legislation, through its main competent departments, that support in dealing with the perpetrators of corruption offences and bringing them to justice.

This is parallel to the Commission's emphasis on establishing a culture of integrity in all sectors of the State by adhering to the National Standards of Integrity adopted by the Kingdom.

I refer here to the Commission’s experience in implementing the National Integrity Index, which measured the extent to which Jordanian public sector institutions adhere to national standards of integrity, engage in the reform process, and fortify public administration against corruption, within the framework of creating an environment for positive competition among institutions in this field.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Commission, with the support of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, has been able to implement a National strategic plan for the 2020-2025 years to obtain powers that have strengthened its capacity to recover looted funds derived from corruption crimes and to conduct settlements and reconciliation to fortify decisions issued by the Commission's Board.

Out of Jordan's keenness to implement the chapters and provisions of the International Convention, the stages of country visits in the Review Mechanisms for the Anti-Corruption Convention were recently completed through the Kingdom's evaluation by the countries of Lebanon and Turkmenistan, or the Kingdom's participation in the evaluation of the State of Singapore.

In the above context, the Kingdom is developing active partnerships with many countries of the world to share experiences in the management of its law enforcement programs, promote standards of integrity, prevent corruption and create a national environment aware of the negative effects of corruption crimes.
Several purposeful projects in this area have been implemented in the public sector, including a project to support the improvement of integrity and accountability in Jordan's public administration at the central and local levels, being currently implemented by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (2022-2025), and by support of the European Union. From which I express great thanks for their progressive support for the projects of the Commission.

The Commission also signed several Memorandums of Understanding with various States with the aim of exchanging experiences and capacity building in the areas of Anti-corruption between the Commission and its counterparts in many States.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Tenth Session of this conference includes proposals that can be built upon and activated, in order to contain and eliminate this scourge.

I mention, as an example, the draft resolution of the Atlanta Declaration related to “Promoting Accountability in its Many Forms in the Fight against Corruption”, submitted by the United States of America.
In addition to the draft resolution entitled “Methodologies and indicators for measuring corruption and the effectiveness of anti-corruption frameworks”, submitted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Jordan certainly supports any resolution that contributes to besieging corruption and the corrupt.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, I thank the Government of the United States of America for hosting the work of this Conference, as well as the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs;

Never failing to thank those concerned at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for their continued efforts aimed at the success and strengthening of the States Parties’ commitment to the Convention.

I wish you all a great success for the conference, reaching constructive and effective recommendations.

Assalamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu

Dr. Muhannad Hijazi

Chairman of the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan