

Honorable Chairman! Your Excellencies!

Ladies and gentlemen!

My name is Ulan Sarkulov. I am the First Deputy Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Agency of Kazakhstan.

On behalf of the Chairman of our Agency, Mr. Zhumagali, I would like to congratulate the United Nations and everyone present on this significant date.

It is a great honor to be at this remarkable event today – to meet colleagues, exchange opinions, and share best practices.

An **effective anti-corruption policy** is one of our country's priorities. Zero tolerance for corruption is reflected in our national strategy documents and relevant laws.

Following the ratification of the UNCAC, we introduced essential anti-corruption instruments – public control, openness of public bodies, transparency of public procurement and budgetary processes, and digitization of public services.

In recent years, **a strong institutional framework has been established.** It includes new anti-corruption mechanisms.

Among them are:

personal responsibility of senior managers for corruption of subordinates;

anti-corruption examination of draft legal acts;

differentiated system of financial incentives for whistleblowers;

a ban on early release for those convicted of grave and especially grave corruption crimes;

tougher sanctions for law enforcement officers, judges, bribe-givers and intermediaries in bribery.

The Anti-Corruption Agency was established in 2019 as an independent authority accountable to the President.

We devote the key role to prevention. The key indicator of success is the **well-being of citizens**.

Last year, the Head of State accelerated the **democratic transition** and carried out a **profound constitutional reform**. The course is set towards demonopolization of power and economy and the action against oligopoly.

The Law on the Return of Illegally Acquired Assets to the State was adopted.

Let me reiterate and emphasize that over the past two years, we have ensured the return to the state budget

of Kazakhstan about **2 billion US dollars** as assets, property, and cash.

The **adoption of the Anti-Corruption Policy Concept** until 2026 is a vital political decision.

As part of the implementation of this strategy document, the **liability of officials for illicit enrichment was** introduced at the beginning of this year.

An important novelty was the strengthening of **whistleblower protection** guarantees.

Today we actively **cooperate** with the UNODC, OECD, FATF and other international organizations. We are members of the OECD Anticorruption Network, joined the GRECO and the GlobE Network.

Corruption knows no borders, and neither should our efforts to combat it. Collaboration between states, regional bodies, and international organizations is key to building a united front against corruption.

*I would like to share with you a Kazakh proverb: «**Жұмыла көтерген жүк жеңіл**», which means «**Any load is easier to carry together**». In unity is strength. And together we can achieve any aim.*

Thank you for your attention!