

Mr. (vice) President,

Excellencies,

ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to address this Conference of State Parties in the national capacity of Lithuania.

Today, we convene in Atlanta at the occasion of 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Corruption to reinforce our shared commitments in fighting corruption, fortifying justice, and ensuring sustainable development goals, as combating corruption underpins all efforts to achieve them.

Let me start from sharing with you Lithuania's perspectives in fight against corruption, strengthening justice and fostering sustainable development.

Over the past decades Lithuania has made a significant strides in national anti-corruption legal and policy frameworks. First, an independent anti-corruption agency has been established, which successfully fostering a corruption-resistant environment in both public and private sectors. Next, the Register of Beneficial Owners has been established, creating an effective coordination system tackling a corruption links and allowing to take a preventive measures within the top executive bodies and law enforcement agencies. Third, a strict declaration system in public sector has been established, to ensure key accountability components by monitoring incomes, assets, and interests of our civil servants. These efforts have been showing a meaningful change of society's attitude, also developments in legal environment and changes of political agendas.

Lithuania also set ambitious goals for future. For example, digitalizing public services and providing open data access key features for corruption resilient environment and surveillance. Lithuania strives for transparency and openness. The same must apply for public procurement as one of the largest areas of public-private interactions.

Another example concerns different initiatives in public healthcare system, which for a long period of time has not been enough corruption resistant, as well as other initiatives in public land, properties management, public administration. I believe that measures that we are implementing and those we are going to introduce in day to come will lead my country to a more transparent, efficient, and equitable habitat and governance.

All mentioned before, I believe is in line with the review reports of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as Lithuania fully recognizes the importance of common understanding on the importance of preventive measures, asset declaration, financial disclosure systems, prevention of conflicts of interest, identification of beneficial ownership and prevention of money laundering, asset recovery as key to the effective fight against corruption. Lithuania commits itself to implement all necessary directives and take measure to strengthen justice and ensure transparency in society.

Lithuania fully supports and respects international community's global efforts in combating corruption, therefore Lithuania is open and ready to cooperate with international partners and stakeholders in the field of corruption prevention. We actively participate in international forums and collaborate with other countries and international organizations to exchange best practices and coordinate actions. We understand that national level efforts shall be coordinated, and global standards is common ambition. Moreover, close cooperation shall help in combating corruption at multilevel and international cases.

Let me also emphasize, that the interaction between international independents evaluations and national legal frameworks is crucial. The international independent evaluation of anti-corruption and justice-building measures plays a crucial role in the continuous improvement of the legal system of each country. Such evaluations not only allows to double-check our efforts and their effectiveness, but also provide invaluable feedback for an improvements and work towards best practices.

It is also reinforces states' commitments for human rights protection and good governance.

We are all to contribute to a good governance attitude and tackling the corruption. For some of us it is a path to be done at a very difficult times and circumstances. Therefore, I would like to emphasize the efforts and progress made by Ukraine, which is under unprecedented war of aggression and still at the same time implementing necessary and ambitious reforms towards European integration and global democratic values. Lithuania and others shall support every step of Ukraine's reforms strengthening the rule of law and transparency for the sake of modern democracy values, in fight against imperialistic, autocratic, oligarch and corrupt regimes.

To conclude, let me thank all member states of this conference, as the efforts of each state are crucial in creating a more transparent, just, and sustainable world. I invite every state for openness and cooperation, share best practices, and work together towards our common goals.

I thank you Mr (vice) President.