



10th Session of the Conference of the States Parties United Nations Convention against Corruption

Statement by the Hon. Dr. Ian Borg,
Minister for European Affairs and Trade

[CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Representatives of civil society,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing gratitude to the Government of the United States for organising this conference and for their hospitality.

Malta fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

As we mark the 20th anniversary of the UNCAC this year, we remain cognizant of the fact that corruption continues to undermine the core values of democracy, particularly the rule of law and the legitimacy of public institutions. It threatens economic growth and prosperity, thus impacting all members of society.

To this end, we commend the United States for selecting the theme of 'promoting accountability' at this year's CoSP, and further advancing the implementation of the UNCAC.

This whole-of-society approach is a crucial aspect of our global anti-corruption effort, as we work to enhance societal resilience against crimes related to corruption.

This effort must be built on the foundation of the principles of inclusiveness, democratic values, and good governance.

In this regard, we highly welcome the strong emphasis placed on multistakeholder participation and their important role in detecting and countering corruption.

Mr. President,

Since the last UNCAC CoSP in Sharm El-Sheikh, Malta has made significant strides to advance national legislation, and has multiplied its efforts in the fight against corruption.

This is manifested in the progress made in Malta's fulfilment of recommendations made by the Financial Action Task Force. And these advances were duly acknowledged and recognized by the FATF, most evidently, when Malta was taken off the list of countries under closer scrutiny last year.



In the area of justice, various reforms have been enacted to strengthen the legislative and the institutional framework. This has been done through investment in reinforcing the independence of our justice system – in line with international standards and recommendations.

Notable efforts are being undertaken to implement a number of secure digital solutions and tools supporting the justice sector, its users and stakeholders, to facilitate increased accessibility to justice and to enhance the efficiency and transparency of our national system and procedures.

These include the increase of budgetary and human resources as well as training and public awareness measures.

Mr. President,

We are satisfied with the progress registered and remain steadfast in our commitment to push for further reforms, and to engage more effectively with our international partners, to battle the global challenge of corruption.

Malta continues to underscore the importance of multilateralism, across state institutions, UN agencies and civil society organizations. We are pleased to announce that the Malta Police Force will formalise its intention to become the first national entity to join the GlobE Network, in a testament to its commitment to step up technical international cooperation against corruption.

We also welcome the UNODC's positive and constructive efforts to invest and empower young people, to create a society in which they may thrive – a goal which is also in line with Malta's foreign policy priorities.

We are thus proud to have been the first country to provide funds to the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE), which has helped to launch its first initiative, the YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board.

Promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity needs to start at an early stage, and forms part of value-based education. As part of our cooperation on the GRACE project, Malta has implemented ethics and integrity education in its National Curriculum to foster a culture of integrity and rejection of corruption.

We look forward to sharing our experiences in a special event organized together with the European Commission and the UNODC on Thursday, from 13:00 – 14:45hrs.

Thank you, Mr. President.