

Draft Statement on International Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption

Madam or Mr President
Excellencies
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen
All protocols observed

Good morning and greetings to you all.

Madam or Mr President, let me first congratulate you on your nomination as President for this Session and I wish you all the best in your work.

On behalf of the Republic of Mauritius and the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Mauritius, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of the United States of America for hosting the tenth session of the Conference, in Atlanta. I also wish to thank the UNODC for organizing this Conference.

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a material fact that financial crime on the international scene has witnessed significant changes particularly with the advent of technology. Today we are faced with challenges whereby perpetrators of crimes have the necessary resources to commit crimes at the click of the mouse. This presents serious challenges to all states and agencies responsible to combat financial crimes. Today, I stand before you to emphasize the imperative of international cooperation as the linchpin in our efforts to combat corruption effectively.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Mauritius recognizes that regional and international cooperation are crucial components of the global strategy to fight corruption. In this vein it is reinforcing international cooperation both formally and informally to make corruption socially and morally unacceptable.

As such, we have signed:

- 10 MoUs with anti-corruption agencies
- recently an MoU with the Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption (PIAC) of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) where a lot of emphasis has been laid on spontaneous sharing of information in the conduct of investigations.

Moreover, Mauritius:

- has become a 'participant' member of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions since in February; and
- was provided the opportunity to participate as guest country in the G20 meetings for the year 2023 under the Indian Presidency.

We also promote informal cooperation whereby it represents an excellent means for encouraging cross-border collaboration thereby facilitating the exchange of critical intelligence and best practices among various stakeholders.

In this respect, we have fully supported the establishment of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) and ICAC Mauritius is a member of the Steering Committee of the GlobE. We are also collaborating on various platforms promoting informal cooperation such as:

- The UK International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre based where MU is an associate member and,
- The informal group of the Law Enforcement Officials (LEO) Meeting of the OECD WGB).

The Financial Crimes Commission

For a more effective approach in the fight against financial crime, Mauritius is in the process of having a complete overhaul of its institutional and legal framework with the setting up of the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC). The FCC will be an apex body to combat white collar crimes, fraud and corruption and financial crimes and more importantly to develop the much-needed synergy between the various law enforcement and intelligence gathering agencies.

The new legislation pertaining to the creation of the FCC will also reinforce regional and international cooperation, by fostering links with agencies for the conduct of effective joint investigations.

The FCC Bill is presently before Parliament.

Conclusion

Let me conclude by reiterating the importance of international cooperation in the fight against corruption. The battle against corruption is a shared responsibility that transcends borders and ideologies. Our success hinges on our ability to forge strong alliances, exchange knowledge, and stand together in the face of this common adversary. Together, we can build a world where the light of transparency dispels the shadows of corruption, and the promise of a just, equitable society becomes a reality for all.

Thank you for your attention.