Mr. President, all present

We thank you for giving our organization "AWTAD Organization for Combating Corruption" the opportunity to deliver this statement. Allow me first to express our disappointment that our organization’s delegation was unable to participate due to not being granted travel visas. We call on the countries hosting UNCAC sessions to confirm their credibility by supporting the multi-stakeholder role in implementing UNCAC, by providing facilities to representatives of the organizations. Non-governmental organizations to obtain visas to participate in the conference.

Mr. President: We do not hide from you the difficulties and risks we face as non-governmental organizations as we prepare parallel civil society reports to evaluate compliance with Chapters Two and Five of the UNCAC in countries suffering from conflict. There is no doubt that there are many findings in our parallel reports that contradict the national reports, and therefore we invite you to pay attention to the outputs and recommendations of civil society reports and encourage them.

One of the most important findings that we have reached is that the international community and the states parties to the UNCAC must deal more seriously and effectively in international cooperation and provide technical assistance to implement the UNCAC to countries suffering from conflicts and crises, especially with regard to the recovery of looted and smuggled funds and public assets.

While people in conflict and disaster areas suffer from hunger, and the deterioration of basic services, there are tens of billions of looted and smuggled dollars that have been frozen under international sanctions or from other countries against people or groups involved in obstructing peace and stability.

However, much of this property frozen by international and foreign sanctions is proven to have been obtained from illegal sources, especially through incidents of corruption, plundering of public wealth and exploitation of influence, or from the proceeds of transnational organized crimes and others.
And therefore they are subject to UNCAC, UNTOC, and the STAR Initiative to Recover Stolen Funds and decisions. and relevant human rights conventions, and therefore they must be confiscated and recovered for the benefit of the countries from which they were stolen or obtained.

Therefore, lifting the freeze and international sanctions on property - which has been verified as being acquired through corruption incidents - is considered a serious violation of UNCAC, and significantly reduces the compliance of the relevant states parties with their obligations to UNCAC.

What must actually be done (and what we are calling for here) is to confiscate these properties and return them to their countries, establish funds to absorb them, and develop a transparent and practical mechanism to harness them in financing the sustainable development of those countries.

We therefore call on the Secretariat and States Parties to effectively comply with UNCAC, by providing legal and technical assistance to confiscate that property and return it to their countries. He rejected any attempts to lift the freeze on these properties.

Thank you for listening and peace be upon you.

Mr. Taher AL-Hatef
AWTAD Organization for Combating Corruption