

11 - 15 December 2023

## **New Zealand country statement**

*Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against  
Corruption*

*Georgia World Congress Center*

*Atlanta, United States*

*11 - 15 December 2023*

## **Introduction**

Thank you, Chair and distinguished delegates.

*Rau rangatira mā. Mihi mai, whakatau mai. Tēnei taku mihi atu ki a koutou. Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.*

It is a privilege to be here representing New Zealand.

New Zealand has long been part of global efforts to combat bribery and corruption.

We believe a strong multilateral commitment to the prevention, detection and prosecution of corruption in all its forms is vital in securing a safe and just global society.

Corruption erodes public trust in government, institutions and the rule of law, and takes a significant toll on the global economy.

We recognise that we are fortunate to have a strong culture of integrity in New Zealand, and to have institutions in the public and private sectors that remain free from systemic corruption.

### *Legislative framework*

All of New Zealand's bribery and corruption offences apply to the private and public sector, and to individuals and legal persons.

Beyond the criminalisation of bribery and corruption, New Zealand also has dedicated legislation for whistleblower protections that applies to both the public and private sector.

### *International engagement*

We believe in the vital importance of international cooperation at fora such as this, where we can have frank discussions to enhance our understanding of the Convention, and our obligations under it.

We were excited to be selected as one of the reviewing countries for Suriname's first cycle review, alongside our colleagues in Grenada. We look forward to undertaking the review and hope that this will be of value for anti-corruption practitioners in Suriname and the international community.

We are disappointed that the global pandemic interrupted our second phase review, but we look forward to working with our colleagues in Iceland and the Solomon Islands who will assess our implementation of Chapters II and V of the Convention.

### *Recent initiatives*

To strengthen New Zealand's ability to fight corruption, the New Zealand Serious Fraud Office, Ministry of Justice, and New Zealand Police are developing a National Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy.

With the support of a wide group of stakeholders drawn from the public sector and civil society, the programme aims to prevent and deter corruption by proactively responding to and reducing the risks of fraudulent and corrupt behaviours becoming embedded in New Zealand.

### *Conclusion*

We are honoured to be here. We value the opportunity to be part of this international effort to combat bribery and corruption, and look forward to working with you all to achieve those ends.

Thank you very much.