

**10th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against
Corruption**
(11-15 December 2023, Atlanta, New York)

National Statement of Pakistan

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

and Distinguished Delegates,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement of G-77 and China and has the following to state in our national capacity.

On behalf of the Government and People of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I congratulate you on your election as President of CoSP-10. I appreciate the commendable leadership of H.E. Mr. *Amr* Adel Hosny, the outgoing President of Egypt, and the Bureau over the past two years.

I also express gratitude to the United States for hosting this conference in Atlanta and appreciate the Secretariat's timely preparations and provision of documents.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption, the challenges persist and corruption continues to pose a looming threat to our security, stability, rule of law, and sustainable development.

Recent global challenges, including the effects of climate change, natural disasters, and acts of aggression have underscored the inequitable access to necessities such as food, water, and medicine, as well as the fundamental rights of self-determination and freedom.

Mr. President,

Preventing and combatting corruption stands as a paramount priority for my government. We have a robust legal and institutional framework to combat corruption.

We have signed MLA treaties with several countries for the quick tracing, freezing, confiscation, return, and recovery of assets, along with extradition treaties with 28 countries.

Mr. President,

Regrettably, the existing international anti-corruption framework remains inadequate for the recovery of assets and their return to the countries of origin, which mostly belong to the Global South.

It is, therefore, necessary that we do not shy away from using technology to plug loopholes in the existing international anti-corruption framework. In particular, there is a need for a demonstration of sincerity and strong political will for the removal of all barriers and obstacles to the return of stolen assets.

For these reasons, my delegation urges the full and effective implementation of the Convention, with a specific focus on cross-cutting issues; such as mutual legal assistance, capacity building, technical as well as material support for combating corruption, effective mechanism for recovery and return of assets to their rightful owner states, aligning with the Convention's provisions. Accordingly, we believe that an additional protocol on asset recovery and return under UNCAC is a way forward.

Mr. President,

CoSP-10 presents a unique opportunity to advance our shared anti-corruption agenda through its multitude of resolutions. We express gratitude to fellow State Parties for presenting these resolutions, to which my delegation actively contributed.

Pakistan unequivocally supports the adoption of these resolutions by consensus, a tradition synonymous with our collective efforts. Despite differing opinions, we believe common ground can be achieved, and Pakistan stands ready to bridge any gaps in all resolutions.

Pakistan warmly welcomes Qatar's interest in hosting the 11th Conference of the States Parties (COSP-11) and looks forward to extending support for the conference decision.

Mr. President,

Before concluding, I would like to reiterate Pakistan's unequivocal support for the Palestinian people and its staunch stand against the humanitarian crises unfolding in the Gaza Strip due to Israeli aggression. Pakistan urgently advocates for a lasting ceasefire in Gaza, together with the swift and unimpeded delivery of essential humanitarian aid, food, water, medicine, fuel, and other vital supplies.

Recognizing the non-implementation of the two-state solution as the root cause, Pakistan calls for the immediate establishment of a viable, secure, and sovereign State of Palestine, based on pre-June 1967 borders with Al-Qudus-Al Sharif as its capital.

In conclusion, I am confident that under your leadership, this Conference will be a resounding success. The Declaration and resolutions are poised to propel our collective goal of preventing and combating corruption on a global scale.

I thank you.
