

At the outset I would like to congratulate you on the appointment as president of the X session of Conference of Parties. Let me also express our gratitude to the Government of the United States for organising this crucial event. Our appreciation goes as well to the Secretariat of the Conference. We wish you, Mr. President success in guiding us through the session.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poland supports the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and in its national capacity wishes to add following remarks from our perspective:

We note with great sadness and regret that our celebration of 20th anniversary of the Convention is marred by the ongoing brutal, unprovoked and unjustified aggression of Russian Federation in Ukraine. It has brought, for over 21 months, death and suffering for Ukrainian people, uncertainty of the future, destruction of infrastructure and negative global consequences for international food security in many regions of the world. The physical assault on an independent state is complemented by an unprecedented campaign of hatred and slander carried out in a post-Soviet and neo-imperial style by the aggressor.

Our work here has been affected by the Russian aggression undermining trust, international cooperation, restricting capacity to effectively implement the Convention, and timely fulfilling obligations under implementation review mechanism.

Other conflicts, including the one in the Middle East, which have devastating consequences for local population as well as for regional and global stability, also affect the level of readiness to effectively implement obligations arising from the Convention.

Mr. President,

Corruption has immense negative impacts on the functioning of states, their economy and social development. It undermines human rights, democratic processes in the countries, rule of law and good governance. It favours inequality, poverty and crime.

We need therefore comprehensive approach to prevent and combat corruption, continuously strengthening our efforts on every tier of administration and law enforcement and incorporating multi-stakeholders. This includes inter alia safeguarding independence of the judiciary, accountability of decisionmakers and protecting journalists, whistleblowers and those reporting the cases of corruption.

In Poland, we have recently tightened the criminal law, by expanding the system of criminal repression against perpetrators of corruption acts. This amendment in the Penal Code provides for significant limitation of the perpetrators' ability to work in state and local government bodies and institutions, as well as in commercial law companies, in which the State Treasury or a local government unit holds, directly or indirectly through other entities, at least 10% of shares or interests.

These restrictions apply in the event of a conviction of a person holding a public office for the crime of passive corruption, paid patronage, persuasion to vote, certifying untruths in documents in order to obtain material or personal benefits, managerial corruption and disruption of a public tender.

In parallel, the Ministry of Family and Social Policy recently initiated procedure in order to amend the law on the protection of people reporting criminal acts, including acts of corruption.

Poland actively participates also in the implementation review mechanism. As a reviewed state, Poland had its report on the implementation of chapter II and V of the Convention completed in October 2022. In addition in 2022 – 23 my country was involved in reviews of Turkiye and Czechia.

Mr. President,

On the international level of fight against corruption, we believe it is of crucial importance to maintain our firm engagement and dedication while implementing of UNCAC. This means that we cannot backtrack from previously agreed commitments, weaken our obligations and resolutions, ignore new trends and neglect the role of civil society, private sector and academia. No public institution is able to effectively prevent and combat corruption alone, without involvement of these important stakeholders which bring not only different perspective, experiences and expertise, but also genuine enthusiasm and commitment.

In conclusion, let me stress that Poland attaches utmost importance to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and stands ready to share our knowledge, achievements and challenges in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. President.