



STATEMENT

by H.E. Mrs. Veronica Mihailov-Moraru, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova
at the general debate of the 10th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United
Nations Convention against Corruption

(Monday, 11th December, Atlanta Plenary, Georgia World Congress Center)

Mr./Mrs. Chairman/ Chairperson

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

Firstly, congratulations for the work that was done in preparation for the Conference of State Parties. I am glad we are all here today to summarize the progress and recognize our diligent efforts in responding to the challenges of combating corruption.

As the Republic of Moldova aligns with the EU statement, let me add that, in order to achieve **consistent results**, my country is fully committed to promote and respect the integrity of the judicial system and generate new best practices in the field.

Anti-Corruption is on the top of Moldova's reform agenda, and we have taken unprecedented measures to improve the integrity of judges and prosecutors. We embarked on an ambitious **external assessment of judges and prosecutors** – a vetting exercise, aimed at verifying the integrity of judges and prosecutors, supported by our international partners, who are there to ensure an independent but also transparent process.

Moreover, the Republic of Moldova will continue with merit-based and transparent appointments of vetted Supreme Court Justices, vetted members of judicial and prosecutorial self-governance bodies, and in appointing a new vetted Prosecutor General. Appointments to the specialized bodies are also vetted.

Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office has been deemed to focus on high level corruption in the country, and after bringing clarity in its mandate and delineating responsibilities with the National Anti-Corruption Center, the Ministry of Justice is now leading an effort for the institution's further development, making sure full independence and capacity is achieved.

Moreover, the legal framework was improved to make the investigation of corruption cases more efficient, and investigation procedures were simplified in order to speed up the results.

Creation of a specialized anti-corruption decision-making body is our next big endeavor. The main goal is to accelerate corruption-related proceedings, with highly experienced judges that have a high degree of integrity and deal exclusively with anti-corruption cases.

We owe our society quick resolution of anti-corruption cases in order to restore people's trust in the justice system.

Moldova's anti-corruption efforts also include closing loopholes used in the banking, court and criminal prosecution systems by oligarchs. In line with Venice Commission recommendations, Moldova put together a detailed de-oligarchization plan, which was just updated and approved last week.

Regulating cash payments and financial flows, or capacity to monitor political financing are just a few of these actions to prevent circumventing the law.

Distinguished delegates,

Parliaments and Governments can only provide tools to boost effectiveness of the fight against corruption, but the task lies with judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement bodies to use the **new streamlined procedural instruments**. Moldova took inspiration from the US and France on the "judicial agreement for public interest" and we are looking forward to seeing results.

Let me emphasize the discharging effect of this type of agreement, since the compliance plan must be implemented by the stakeholder, thereby strengthening the competitiveness of the business sector.

On another note, the Republic of Moldova is committed to **cooperate with authorities in charge of asset disclosure**. As part of a regional treaty of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, we found ways to cooperate on major issues.

We also believe that “crime doesn’t pay off”, thus we call on the States engaged in seizure of criminal assets **to acknowledge the importance – especially for smaller states – to recover assets** which were gained through corruption and money laundry schemes.

The UNCAC has a special chapter on Asset Recovery, recognizing the importance of the issue, confirming that asset recovery should benefit the affected country and its people to the greatest extent possible. I am certain that, through dialogue, we can achieve synergy on the matter.

To conclude, let me express my gratitude for the productive cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and UNCAC state parties, and I am looking forward to important discussions and decisions of this session!

Thank you for your attention!