

Statement of Romania
The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations
Convention against Corruption

11-15 December 2023 - Atlanta, USA

Mr. Chair,

Honourable delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to attend the tenth edition of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

We fully align with the statement delivered today on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We would like to add some additional remarks in national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

My presence here today confirms Romania's commitment to the fight against corruption and to the UNODC agenda. In the current landscape of global challenges, international cooperation is key. Romania uses the UNCAC as a legal base for international legal cooperation in criminal matters. We encourage all State Parties to take full advantage of this legal instrument.

Cooperation and collective action play a vital role in navigating the complexities of our interconnected societies. Starting from this premise, I would like to mention the most recent achievement of my country. Romania became member of the *OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions*.

As part of this focus on cooperation, Romania fully supports the mechanism for the evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. We have recently finalized the executive summary of our report and our experts are deeply involved in other on-going review processes. State Parties must stand by the agreed review schedule.

In this cooperative effort, whistleblowers are the frontline defenders of integrity. Romania acknowledges the importance of safeguarding these individuals and has implemented measures to consolidate their legal protection.

Romania also reaffirms the importance of the participation of the civil society in all aspects of the fight against corruption. At the same time, a whole of society approach must take into consideration two important dimensions: gender equality and youth involvement.

We believe that a strong and just society is built on the foundations of transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. In light of this commitment, we reaffirm also our availability to support the UNODC with our expertise.

Speaking of Romania's latest developments in fighting corruption, we have taken significant steps to strengthen our institutions and legislative frameworks. We have implemented comprehensive measures to enhance the effectiveness of our anti-corruption agencies, ensuring they have the resources and independence necessary to carry out their vital work. Additionally, we have embraced technologies to streamline our processes, making it more difficult for corrupt practices to find refuge in the shadows.

One of the current priorities of Romania is the fight against the misuse of EU funds, a commitment underscored by our strong support for the European Public Prosecutor's Office. We have

demonstrated this by allocating considerable resources, including the appointment of a comprehensive team of 20 delegated European prosecutors.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Romania supports the adoption of the Atlanta declaration, "*Promoting Accountability in its many forms in the Fight Against Corruption*," which is not merely a symbolic gesture; it is a tangible commitment, a statement that will stand as a declaration of our collective determination to build a future defined by accountability, fairness and integrity.

In conclusion, let us seize this moment not only to celebrate our achievements and acknowledge the progress made, but most importantly to renew our commitment to a future free from the scourge of corruption.

Thank you for your attention.