

Mr. President, Your Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Twenty years ago the Convention against corruption was adopted **with great hope** that this new instrument can make **a real difference** to the quality of life of millions of people around the world. Two years ago we discussed the increase of corruption during the COVID pandemic. Today we are facing the situation of the multiplication of armed conflicts and corruption is one of the **key factors** against.

That leads us to the well-known conclusion that **corruption poses a constant risk and has corrosive effects** on the stability, security, economic development, values of democracy and the rule of law.

I agree with the vision of the **proposed Atlanta Declaration** that the twentieth anniversary of the Convention provides a meaningful opportunity to renew our shared commitment to prevent and counter corruption. Integrity, transparency and accountability should remain the leading words in our future discussion and action.

The effects and sustainability of anti-corruption measures should be more clearly manifested not only in **reducing the level of corruption**, but also in reducing the **opportunities** for corruption.

The **Implementation Review Mechanism** should continue to play a key role in implementation process. The current practice of continuous dialogue, identifying both good practices and challenges in implementation we consider inspiring and satisfying.

I especially agree that governments have a responsibility to ensure accountability.

**The new Slovak Government** will pay attention to the **prevention corruption** and perceives it as a space for the improvement of systemic anti-corruption measures at all levels of public administration.

For example, we intends to improve the management of corruption risks on a vertical and horizontal level and to create the conditions for the preparation of legislation regulating the management of corruption risks.

The Government will adopt a new National Anti-corruption Strategy, which will be based on pillars such as improvement of the relevant legislation, capacity building, education and communication on the topics of integrity and prevention of corruption and management of corruption risks.

To conclude, I would like to fully subscribe to the **EU statement**. We share all the points expressed therein.

Mr. President, Your Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

This Conference is an **exclusive and important platform** for exchange of experiences and determination of future objectives to strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

I would like to **thank the host country** for organizing the Conference and I wish all participants fruitful discussions and exchange of best practices.