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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

STATEMENT

by

Mr Robert ŠUMI

Chief Commissioner
Commission for the Prevention of Corruption
Republic of Slovenia

TENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Atlanta, 11-15 December 2023

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I express sincere gratitude on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia to the Government of the United States and the UNODC Secretariat for organising the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC.

Building on the European Union's remarks, Slovenia underscores our collective commitment to combat corruption, recognizing it as a pervasive threat to our societies and values. Corruption undermines democratic processes, jeopardizes the rule of law, and fuels serious criminal activities. Slovenia remains steadfast in implementing UNCAC's anti-corruption policies to counteract this menace.

To keep pace with evolving corrupt practices, we must continuously develop new tools and safeguards. Marking the International Anti-Corruption Day 2023, the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption launched the "Ambassadors of Integrity" project, emphasizing the crucial role of integrity in shaping the society of the future. Through their responsible actions, adhering to what is right, everyone can contribute to a better society. Our Ambassadors of Integrity contribute to this by raising awareness and making complex but crucial topics accessible to the youth and the wider public.

Children, often touted as our future, hold the key to societal integrity and the eradication of corruption—a truth that transcends mere cliché. Raising awareness about the importance of integrity must begin early—within the family and educational system. Experience has shown that many corruption prevention activities performed with the adult population have limited impact in long-term curbing of corruption and that steps are needed to tackle not only the person's behaviour but also one's value system.

Therefore, Commission's comprehensive initiative, "Integrity: Generations' Common Goal," in collaboration with the National Education Institute and other education partners, emphasizes the importance of fostering integrity in children and youth. It advocates for the integration of integrity-enhancing programs throughout the entire educational continuum, from kindergarten to university. The initiative, exemplified by a pilot project in primary schools and a kindergarten, actively involves teachers in designing activities to fortify the integrity of pupils fostering a society that staunchly opposes corruption.

Enhancing integrity of children through national education programme should be prioritised globally as - to use the words of the President of Slovenia - the young generation is the one who should, could and will make changes.

More information about the project will be presented at the Special Event on Education titled "Educating Youth and Society to Foster a Culture of Integrity," on Thursday, 14 December, starting at 13:00 in the Room "Seattle".

In February 2023, the Reporting Persons Protection Act, implementing the EU Directive on whistleblower protection, came into force in Slovenia. This legislation aims to shield whistleblowers from retaliation and establishes procedures for whistleblowing, obligations for internal systems, and powers for monitoring by the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption.

In the same month, the Government of Slovenia adopted a new Programme to strengthen integrity and transparency (2023-2026), focusing on measures for the public sector. This is a crucial step in preparing the wider national anti-corruption strategy - Resolution for the Prevention of Corruption, which is in the final stages of preparation and will apply to all stakeholders, including the private sector, media, and non-governmental organizations.

Recognising civil society as a crucial partner in anti-corruption efforts, Slovenia urges the Conference to include relevant NGOs as participants. We emphasize the importance of collaboration with civil society, media, and private companies in the fight against corruption.

Slovenia upholds the right to access public information, supported by robust policies on digital registers and open data. Our commitment to transparency, as reflected in the UNGASS Political Declaration, positions Slovenia among top countries in national open data policies, enhancing public procurement transparency. Transparent procurement is essential for fair competition, reducing collusion risks, and empowering citizens and watchdog organizations to detect irregularities.

In conclusion, we are pleased to report the finalisation of the UNCAC Second Cycle review of Slovenia, with the full country review report published earlier this year.

Thank you.