



NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY

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**HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND
ADMINISTRATION**

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

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

ATLANTA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

11 – 15 DECEMBER 2023

Mr President,

**Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
in Vienna**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to express my appreciation to the Government of the United States of America for hosting this august event: the tenth session of the Conference of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

South Africa associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Africa Group, respectively.

Mr President,

As we commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the UNCAC, my delegation reaffirm its commitment to the UNCAC and its Implementation Review Mechanism. It is undeniable that corruption perpetuates inequality and poverty, negatively affecting the welfare of citizens as they are denied basic services like health, education, etc.

Mr President,

Allow me, **Mr. President** to appreciate the work of the UNODC in providing technical assistance to State parties, including to State Parties in my region, in our fight against corruption and illicit financial flows. Illicit financial flows are not abstract figures. They amount to billions of dollars of missed development opportunities, lost livelihoods, and worsened poverty. This is a quote from the Secretary General of the United Nations

Organisation, yet some who are beneficiaries of this scourge pretend that it does not exist.

Mr. President,

Since the last COSP in 2021, South Africa has engaged in various initiatives to prevent and combat corruption, including undertaking legislative reforms in areas such as public procurement, beneficial ownership, and money laundering.

In accordance with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, our President established the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) in August 2022 to advise the government on institutional arrangements to prevent and combat corruption. The NACAC held its first National Anti-Corruption Summit at the beginning of November 2023 to obtain views of multiple stakeholders, in strengthening measures to fight corruption. We can proudly submit that the first report of this multidisciplinary inclusive entity will be submitted to the President and Parliament in January 2024.

Mr President,

South Africa is of the view that the fight against corruption is a common and shared responsibility of all UN Member States. My delegation is indebted to our regional and international partners for their prompt assistance in the identification, tracing, confiscation and the unconditional return of stolen assets to their Country of origin.

However, we call upon State parties to redouble their efforts in affording one another the widest measures of international cooperation in the recovery and return of assets as stipulated in Article 51. We still face onerous and restrictive conditionalities placed by some State Parties

thereby delaying or outrightly protecting criminals. Surely the COSP must find a solution to this uncooperative behaviour which emboldens perpetrators of crime.

Mr President,

I am pleased to inform this Conference that, as the Chair of the 2023 BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group, South Africa in partnership with the UNODC prioritised the topic of Gender and Corruption and facilitated the hosting of a virtual workshop regarding the gendered impacts of corruption as well as the BRICS Roundtable on Gender and Corruption which immensely contributed to the attainment of SDG 5. To this end, South Africa supports the resolution tabled by Ghana on *“Addressing Gender Inequalities to Counter Corruption”*.

Mr President, South Africa remains committed to the full and effective implementation of the UNCAC as supplemented by the various Conference Resolutions and Decisions. I assure you of my delegation’s constructive engagement during this Conference.

We cannot conclude our intervention without observing that once again, we have witnessed the double standards of some Western countries in dealing with the ongoing Genocide being perpetrated by the racist, Apartheid State of Israel against unarmed and defenceless Palestinian people, both in Gaza and the West Bank. We call for an immediate ceasefire and resumption of negotiations which should lead to a two State solution.

Thank you.