



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**UGANDA STATEMENT AT THE 10TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF STATES PARTIES (COSP) UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC)**

ATLANTA, 11– 15 DECEMBER, 2023

Delivered by Hon. Akello Rose Lilly, Minister of State for Ethics & Integrity

Agenda Item 1(g): General discussion

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr. President upon your election as the President of this Conference and I assure you of Uganda's support throughout the session.

On behalf of Uganda's delegation, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of the United States of America for hosting this 10th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in this beautiful city of Atlanta.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat - UNODC for all the preparations and documentation for this session.

Mr. President,

It is an honor and a privilege for me to be part of this important session as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the cornerstone of our international anti-corruption efforts. Uganda underscores the impact of UNCAC in shaping the international anti-corruption agenda. It is undoubtedly that a lot has been achieved in the past two decades, yet more remains to be done. Uganda reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the implementation of UNCAC and the aims of this Conference and calls upon States Parties to do the same. Over the past 20 years, we have adopted various resolutions aimed at supporting the implementation of UNCAC including the UN General Assembly Political Declaration adopted on 2nd June 2021 entitled “*Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implement measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.*” It is now our common and shared responsibility to act. As we gather again to deliberate policy interventions and to provide guidance for effective implementation of UNCAC, it is Uganda’s hope that the discussions we shall have throughout this session will offer great opportunities to enrich our experiences and enable us identify areas of improvement and new and emerging issues.

Mr. President,

Uganda recognizes that corruption is a global challenge that undermines our efforts towards sustainable development and rule of law. Corruption has continued to negatively impact the livelihood of citizens and the development of societies despite the various anti-corruption efforts put in place by Governments. We need to recognize the need to renew our commitment to enhance our anti-corruption efforts

to target the key gatekeepers that facilitate corruption and laundering of proceeds of crime. International cooperation and partnerships at all levels remain vital in order to bust the criminal syndicates. Uganda acknowledges the crucial role played by various actors in anti-corruption and asset recovery and return including media, private sector, civil society, academia and Development Partners. In 2019, Uganda adopted a Zero-Tolerance to Corruption Policy and its five-year Action Plan which the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2019-2024 which we are vigorously implementing at the national level. Our key interventions include; strengthening partnerships with stakeholders and promoting citizen participation in anti-corruption efforts. Uganda urges States Parties to support and adopt resolutions aimed at promoting collective responsibility and citizen participation in anti-corruption and strengthening partnerships for effective implementation of the Convention.

Mr. President,

Uganda has continued to actively participate in the Mechanism for the review of the implementation of UNCAC. Uganda underscores the importance of the Implementation Review Mechanism in assisting States Parties to implement the Convention and appreciates the work of the Working Groups under UNCAC especially the Implementation Review Group. The Review Mechanism has influenced various policy, legal and institutional reforms at national and regional levels and offered opportunities to experts and practitioners to share experiences and good practices in anti-corruption. The onus is on us to build on these successes and learn from experiences.

Mr. President

Uganda takes note of the challenges faced by the States Parties and the Secretariat that make it impossible to have the 2nd review cycle completed by June 2024. To this end, Uganda commits to complete its review by June 2024 and supports further

extension of the cycle until December 2025. The Secretariat may need to intensify efforts in providing technical assistance to States under review to assist them expedite the conclusion of pending reviews.

Further, Uganda pledges support to the next phase and future of the Implementation Review Mechanism. The outcome of the evaluation of the performance of Mechanism, experiences and lessons learned from other review mechanisms should guide the next phase. The next review phase should take into account the guiding principles and strengths of the Mechanism and focus on effectiveness of the measures implemented by States Parties.

In closing, as we reflect on new policy interventions to leverage UNCAC, let us build on the successes achieved, establish and support strong and independent anti-corruption institutions, ensure effectiveness of measures adopted and renew our shared commitment and obligations for accountable and transparent States.

I re-iterate Uganda's commitment to full implementation of UNCAC.

I thank you all for your attention.