



SPEECH PRESENTED

TO

**THE 10th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
STATE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

BY

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**Your Excellencies,
Head of the UNODC Secretariat,
Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies here present,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen. All protocol is duly observed.**

1. As I am taking the floor for the first time, I wish to congratulate you, Your Excellency for your appointment as Chair of this very important meeting. As we commemorate the twenty-year anniversary of the first global anti-corruption instrument, the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), I wish to thank the UNODC Secretariat for their excellent work in the preparation of meetings and reviews in the past twenty years. I wish to also extend my sincere gratitude to our host the Government of the United State.
2. As UNCAC reaches its twentieth year of existence, it offers us all a period to reflect on the efforts made to tackle corruption globally and the extent of implementation by Member States of this very important tool.
3. Zimbabwe signed the UNCAC on 20 February 2004 and ratified it on 8 March 2007. As a state party to these conventions and protocols, Zimbabwe affirms that corruption is a serious problem which needs to be tackled

and commits itself to fight the scourge. Zimbabwe has therefore undertaken to put in place measures and mechanisms that eliminate corruption.

4. I am pleased to report that Zimbabwe has participated in both the review mechanisms provided by the Convention which have been completed. In addition, Zimbabwe has reviewed four (4) countries namely Republics of Zambia, Benin, Central African Republic, and the Russian Federation.
5. Zimbabwe has domesticated the convention through several legal frameworks which include the Constitution of Zimbabwe amendment No. 20 enacted in 2013. This Constitution created two institutions under Chapter 13 responsible for combating corruption in Zimbabwe and these are the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).
6. The Government embarked on reform initiatives aimed at fighting corruption and recovery of stolen assets by gazetting several acts and amending various pieces of legislation. The Money Laundering Act of 2019 criminalises money laundering, empowers the law enforcement agencies to seize unexplained wealth, allows for civil

recovery of proceeds of crime, established a Financial Intelligence Unit, Recovered Asset fund and an Asset Management Unit. To date the country has made USD\$26 million in forfeitures to victims, USD\$11.6 million to the State and preservation orders worth USD\$100 million in way of freezing seizures, interdicts, and unexplained wealth orders.

7. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act of 2018 criminalises abuse of functions in public entities and the procurement sector. The Public Entities Corporate Governance Act of 2019 enhances transparency and accountability in the public sector and provides for the declaration of assets for all Board members of Public Entities and Heads of all Public Entities.
8. The Companies and other Business Entities Act of 2019 criminalises the fraudulent, reckless, or grossly negligent conduct of business, falsification of records and obligates companies to maintain and file beneficial ownership information.
9. The Government conferred powers of arrest to the ZACC Officers through the amendment to the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act [Chapter 9:07].

10. Zimbabwe launched the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) for 2020-2024 which encompasses a multi-stakeholder approach in the fight against corruption. The NACS has provided an inclusive and participatory mechanism for Government, Civil Society Organization's, Non-Governmental Organizations, Law Enforcement Agencies, and the Private sector in anti-corruption issues.
11. Zimbabwe introduced the National Development Strategy (NDS1) 2021-2025 which promotes production and productivity through implementation of policies for ease of doing business, strengthening of property rights, and combating corruption among other issues.
12. Government support for anti-corruption efforts has significantly increased by 300%.
13. The country has established Specialized Courts at the Magistrates and High Courts of Zimbabwe. The conviction rate of corruption cases has increased to 72%.
14. Your Excellencies, as a corruption prevention measure, the ZACC facilitated the establishment of Integrity Committees within various public sector institutions. This model revolves around building strong institutions that can detect and put measures to fight corruption within their spheres of control. To date over one hundred (100)

institutions including Local Authorities, Independent Commissions, State Enterprises, Universities, have established Integrity Committees and in 2024 this concept will be cascading to all the Ministries.

15. The concept of Integrity pledges has also been introduced; this is a voluntary pledge signed by an individual as a commitment to fight corruption. Zimbabwe has established an internally driven Corruption Perception Index survey which is part of the corruption measurement.
16. In a bid to ensure coordinated and amplified efforts at local level from all stakeholders, ZACC has signed thirty MOUs with key stakeholders in law enforcement, CSOs and the Private Sector and these include the Auditor General and the National Prosecuting Authority.
17. Zimbabwe as a member of the SADC Anti-Corruption Committee (SACC), Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) and Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA) is making great strides to ensure measures that guarantee maximum cooperation is given to States Parties during requests for extradition processes and the return of stolen assets.

18. To further enhance regional cooperation, ZACC has signed four (4) memoranda of understanding on Cooperation in Combating Corruption and Economic Crime with the Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime and the Economic of Botswana, Special Investigations Unit of South Africa, and Anti-Corruption Bureau of Malawi. These MOUs will include cooperation on joint investigations, asset recovery, skills enhancement, and extradition among others.
19. Internationally, the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission, National Prosecuting Authority signed a consultancy agreement with the Basel Institute on Governance International Centre where we are working closely with the organization in the process of identification and recovery of stolen assets and capacity building in financial investigations.
20. Zimbabwe has received capacity building training from Development partners in financial investigation, procurement investigations and the Prosecutor training Programme.
21. Zimbabwe in the process of coming up with whistle blower and witness protection legislation and an

amendment to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act to include sector specific offences of corruption.

22. ZACC has launched a whistle blower application that allows the members of the public to report anonymously to the Commission.
23. ZACC in partnership with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education have commenced nationwide consultations with the intention to introduce a curriculum on corruption, ethics, integrity in schools and Universities starting from early childhood learning.
24. Your Excellencies, Zimbabwe is also making great strides to ensure measures that guarantee maximum cooperation is given to States Parties during requests for extradition processes and the return of stolen assets. Zimbabwe is currently amending the Criminal Matters (Mutual Assistance) Act to extend the scope of application of the Act also to those States which have not been designated to date.

In conclusion, I wish all the delegates a restful end of year and a prosperous year in 2022. Stay safe.

I thank you.