

Annex 2 [Note verbale reference: CU 2023/225/DTA/CEB/CSS]

“Progress made and challenges encountered in implementing resolution 9/1”

States parties are invited to provide relevant information in line with paragraph 25 of resolution 9/1, entitled Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, in which the Conference:

*[Requested] the secretariat to submit to the Conference of the States Parties at its tenth session a report on **progress made and challenges encountered in implementing [resolution 9/1]**¹.*

A. Contact Information

Please provide contact details for potential follow-up questions. Contact details will be treated confidentially.

Country: Albania

Government Agency: Ministry of Justice/National Coordinator Against Corruption

Department: General Directorate of Anticorruption

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B. Questions

1. Progress made

Please describe the measures or steps your country has taken (or is planning to take, together with the related appropriate time frame) to implement operative paragraphs 1 to 21 of resolution 9/1. *Please state the relevant operative paragraphs in your answer.*

Since the adoption of the current anti-corruption strategy in 2015, Albania has undergone a number of reforms aimed at stepping up the country’s ability to prevent and deter corruption.

A large number of these reforms have been guided by and delivered results in the framework of the implementation of the ISAC. Some of these include:

¹ Please note that the secretariat has collected information on the implementation of paragraphs 22 and 23 of resolution 9/1 separately.

- *the strengthening of the transparency framework across the institutions in the three branches of the government (executive, legislative, judiciary and independent institutions that report to the parliament),*
- *the alignment of the legislation on procurement with the strengthening of the EU and the strengthening of the framework and capacities on transparency and accountability,*
- *the improvement of the system for the declaration of assets and the framework of integrity,*
- *the adoption of the law whistleblowing and protection of whistleblowers and the establishment of the implementation framework,*
- *the expansion of the digital systems aimed at reducing administrative corruption by removing the human factor in the delivery of services,*
- *the adoption of the framework for the periodical evaluation of corruption risks and the development of integrity plans to prevent corruption at agency and ministerial levels as well as at local government level,*
- *the improvement of the system of auditing of the party finances at strengthening their integrity of the political parties and elections.*
- *the strengthening of the capacities of the law enforcement agencies and the prosecution, to investigate and prosecute corruption and broader economic crime,*
- *the strengthening of the inter-institutional and international cooperation,*
- *the stepping up of the investigation of high level corruption,*
- *the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework for the administration of the seized and confiscated assets,*
- *the consolidation of the collection and processing of the statistics on the track records of corruption.*

Albania is working on a new anticorruption national strategy. It will be a three-approach strategic document focused on prevention of corruption, repression and awareness raising against corruption. It is to be adopted by a decision of the Council of Ministers of Albania within 2023.

Based on the vision, “substantially reduced corruption in Albania by 2030 and setting the path towards the achievement of a corruption-free country, with transparent and accountable government institutions and business sector”, and the combined approach, the new strategy sets out as policy goals.

- *The decision making and administrative processes across the branches and levels of government allow for greater monitoring, transparency, and accountability.*
- *The public officials are held accountable for the misuse functions and engagement in corrupt practices.*
- *The public employees/civil servants are empowered to resist to corruption, to report corruption and are to be adequately protected and supported when they report corruption.*

- *The sectors more at risk and vulnerable to corruption are continually identified and adequately protected.*
- *The citizens are aware about the risks and consequences of corruption and report and react when they are faced with corruption.*
- *The business sector develops and operates in an ethical and values driven environment that fosters compliance and integrity.*

The new strategy main specific objectives related to the repressive approach are oriented to:

- *Effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of corruption, with a special focus on : Cadastre; health; Customs; Local government; Police and Judiciary*
- *Strengthening cooperation among law enforcement agencies in the criminal prosecution and punishment of corruption by: Improved cooperation between Albanian law enforcement bodies and international law enforcement bodies, and Improved bilateral cooperation, support and coordination between Albania and other countries.*
- *Strengthen the culture of integrity and professionalization of the law enforcement and judiciary by: Reduced prevalence of corruption in the State Police - Reduced prevalence of corruption in the Customs Administration, Tax Administration, - Reduced prevalence of corruption in the judiciary.*
- *Strengthen the resourcing, transnational cooperation, performance and independence of dedicated anticorruption bodies (SPAK and Special Courts).*

A special objective of the new strategy will be: Protection of sectors most vulnerable to corruption; Protection of public finances and assets from abuse and Protection of professionalism and integrity of the public employees.

2. Challenges encountered

Please describe any challenges your country has encountered in implementing operative paragraphs 1 to 21 of resolution 9/1 regarding strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery. *Please state the relevant operative paragraphs in your answer.*