

UGANDA'S STATEMENT AT THE 8TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES (COSP) TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC), 16TH - 20TH DECEMBER, 2019 IN ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Delivered by Hon. Simon Lokodo, Minister of State for Ethics & Integrity

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to congratulate the President upon your appointment and to thank the out-going President for a job well done.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this 8th Session of the Conference of States Parties to UNCAC. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Secretariat for organizing this Conference and for all the documentation.

I am honored, again, to be part of this important Conference. The high-level representation and the large number of delegates gathered here for this Conference reflect the great importance put at preventing and combating corruption at a global level. This is a timely opportunity for States Parties to reflect on the achievements made on previous resolutions; share experiences, successes and challenges; and renew our anti-corruption efforts.

Mr. President,

Uganda appreciates the progress made by States Parties and the Secretariat on implementation of Conference resolutions 7/5 and 7/6 aimed at promoting the implementation of the Convention. We take note of the various initiatives undertaken

by States Parties to prevent and combat corruption, and the technical assistance provided by the Secretariat. We would like to encourage continuous sharing of information on experiences, good practices and challenges in anti-corruption.

Mr. President,

Uganda has continued to actively participate in the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of UNCAC. The recommendations emanating from the 1st review cycle have been implemented to a greater extent through legal, institutional and administrative reforms. Uganda has adopted a Zero-Tolerance to Corruption Policy, 2019 and a National Anti-Corruption Strategy, 2019 – 2014, a five-year Action Plan aimed at implementing the Policy. Anti-Corruption Authorities and specialized Units have been established and/or strengthened to deal with investigation of sophisticated grand corruption offences and to trace and recover stolen assets.

Mr. President,

In the 2nd review cycle, Uganda has participated in the review of Burkina Faso and is currently being reviewed by Central African Republic and Bosnia & Herzegovina. A Self-Assessment Checklist was submitted and we are yet to receive observations from the Reviewing States and to organize a country visit. The review mechanism and the intergovernmental working group meetings continue to offer a great opportunity to experts and practitioners to share experiences and good practices in anti-corruption. We express our support to the future work plans of the Working Groups and encourage continued financial support to States Parties, specifically, the developing countries to participate in the review mechanism.

Mr. President,

In order to make our joint anti-corruption efforts more effective, there is need to address the challenges and technical assistance needs of States Parties in the implementation of the Convention. Uganda appreciates the technical assistance provided by the Secretariat, World Bank, Norway, Sweden, UK, USA, Germany and International Anti-Corruption Academy, towards enhancing capacity of our Anti-Corruption Authorities. Uganda recommends tailored assistance to States Parties based on the technical assistance needs identified in their respective reviews.

Mr. President,

I believe that the discussions during this Conference will enrich our experiences and enable us to refocus our anti-corruption efforts.

I would like to end my remarks by reiterating Uganda's commitment towards full implementation of the Convention.

I thank you.