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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT

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**AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

**EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED
NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

Abu Dhabi, 16-20 December 2019

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by congratulating you, Dr. Harib bin Saeed Al Amimi, for your election as the President of the 8th session of the Conference and wish you every success in discharging your duties. In addition to what has been said on behalf of the European Union, I would like to make some additional remarks on behalf of Slovenia.

The Republic of Slovenia is fully committed to the implementation and usage of UNCAC's preventive anti-corruption policies and practices, as well as measures for the recovery of assets that represent the proceeds of criminal offences. I am pleased to inform you that the efforts and progress of Slovenia will be reflected in the upcoming Phase 2 review Report on the implementation of the Convention.

With a two-year Program of Government Measures for Integrity and Transparency, Slovenia emphasized the importance of continuous action and concrete measures to achieve a commitment to the principles and values set forth by the UNCAC. The main goals include strengthening the awareness of civil servants and officials in the field of integrity and transparency, efficient management and control mechanisms in public finance and the transparency and cost-effectiveness in the use of public funds.

According to the latest OURData Index of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Slovenia ranks at the top 10 in terms of openness of public sector data. The National Open Data Portal serves as a single open point for publishing open data for the entire public sector, including government documents and data of the National Statistical Office. The data is to a large extent accessible in a machine-readable format that enables researchers, journalists and entrepreneurs to produce new analyses, applications and visualizations.

In order to provide for a high transparency of money flows from public to private sector, the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption developed an online application called Erar. The application provides the general public with a user-friendly access to information on business transactions of all public sector bodies and matches financial transactions to company records from the Business Register, thus providing a further insight into links between the public and private sphere. Recently, the application was updated with information on tax debtors, lobbying contacts and information on the restriction of business activities. Therefore, Erar presents an indispensable tool for strengthening the rule of law, integrity and transparency, as well as mitigation of corruption risks and conflicts of interest.

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Slovenia is also focusing on establishing an efficient and flexible asset recovery system. We strongly believe that law enforcement authorities and judiciary need available as many avenues as possible to trace, freeze, seize and confiscate unlawfully acquired assets. Therefore, in 2011 we introduced civil forfeiture on top of the established criminal law confiscation, and we believe that it is generally well established. The problem with civil recovery is in international cooperation as not all jurisdictions recognize and accept it. So, we would like to urge all participating states to make a step further in this respect. Crime, and especially corruption, does not know borders, so should not our jurisdictions where assets recovery is concerned.

Finally, let me say that Slovenia appreciates all the work that has been done in preparing this Conference and its resolutions and hopes that our joint efforts will further strengthen our fight against corruption.

Thank you.