

Australia Country Statement

UNCAC CoSP Special Session – 7 May 2021

It is a pleasure to address you today at this Special Session of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Australia thanks the Secretariat for the invitation to speak at this session. We also thank the UN for providing a vehicle for the international community to renew our commitment to tackling corruption through the adoption of the UNGASS political declaration.

Australia commends the delivery of a collective commitment to tackling corruption. This commitment is particularly important in the context of the challenges presented by the global pandemic. It is critically important that we, as an international community, embed integrity in the response to, and recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic.

The existing international anti-corruption architecture provides an effective and robust framework for preventing and combatting corruption. Australia is pleased to see the UNGASS political declaration reaffirm states' strong commitment to the UNCAC and its integration into domestic legal systems. While there is always scope to improve our collective response to corruption, Australia believes this can be best achieved through a continued focus on improving states' implementation of the UNCAC and building capacity to fight corruption in accordance with its provisions.

We encourage states to enhance engagement with civil society and other groups outside the public sector in these efforts. It is vital for governments to acknowledge the value of external perspectives in the development of effective anti-corruption policy, as well as the role civil society and industry can play in capacity building and in the detection of corruption.

Responding to the disproportionate impacts that corruption can have on women and girls is a high priority for Australia. Accordingly, we strongly support the political declaration acknowledging the linkages between gender equality and anti-corruption, and including commitments to address this.

Australia places tremendous value on coordinated anti-corruption efforts. We look forward to the adoption of a political declaration at the UNGASS that strengthens our collective resolve to combat and prevent corruption.