



**Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to  
the United Nations Convention against Corruption  
on the adoption of the political declaration on corruption**

7 May 2021

Mr. Claudio Nardi, Head of Delegation, Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President,

We wish to thank you for hosting today's important meeting of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Let me first and foremost commend H.E. Ambassador Eric Anderson Machado, the Permanent Representative of Peru, and H.E. Ambassador Hamad Al Kaabi, the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates, for guiding us through the informal consultations with so much patience. We warmly congratulate you for your strong dedication and leadership to building consensus. We also wish to commend the secretariat for their tireless support in crafting the political declaration on corruption.

Mr. President,

We welcome the adoption of the declaration, which makes a strong commitment to end impunity for corruption offences. We are also pleased that the declaration encourages us to continue improving cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations and making appropriate use of relevant information in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work.

We believe it is commendable that the declaration also expresses its concern that "so called" petty-corruption can have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, exacerbate poverty and inequality and may disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged individuals in society. Further, we welcome that the declaration commits us to improve our understanding of the linkages between gender and corruption.

Liechtenstein is pleased that the declaration encourages the establishment of public-private partnerships in the prevention of and fight against corruption. Public-private partnerships and a strong role for civil society, independent media and academia have proven to be effective in identifying and preventing corruption in all its forms. Liechtenstein has championed successful public-private partnerships, most prominently the "Liechtenstein Initiative on Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking" equipping the financial sector with concrete tools to respond to these crimes that often involve corruption. Unfortunately, an explicit link between corruption and Human Trafficking was not possible, even though there is ample empirical evidence.

Mr. President,

We would have welcomed that the declaration clearly reaffirms that corruption undermines all three pillars of the United Nations: international peace and security, sustainable development as well as human rights. We believe a successful fight against corruption is a precondition to progress in all these areas.

We would have preferred a much stronger commitment towards ensuring a free, safe and enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders, the media and journalists in which they can operate without intimidation and reprisals. We are of the view that the declaration lacks behind when it comes to adequately welcoming the role these important actors play in effectively identifying and preventing corruption in all its forms.

Liechtenstein is committed to the fight against illicit financial flows while we have consistently pointed out that different types of such Flows require distinct analyses with respect to their source and support addressing those relevant to the fight against corruption within the legal framework applicable to them. In the declaration we would have preferred Convention language to define the issues that are being subsumed under this internationally undefined term.