

Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair of Transparency International

Special Session of UNCAC CoSP, 7 May 2021

Statement

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates, members of the international community,

It is a privilege to address you today on behalf of Transparency International.

It has been eight months since the first intersessional meeting, when I urged you to accelerate your efforts in addressing the global crisis of corruption.

Since then, we have done our part to help make the next month's UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption truly a pathbreaking event. We provided UN members with proposals rooted in Transparency International's extensive knowledge and based on evidence generated during the last two decades.

And, today, we are pleased to witness the progress you have collectively made.

In particular, we congratulate you for reaching a consensus on a number of new commitments that can help advance the fight against cross-border corruption. These fill important gaps in the UN Convention Against Corruption.

We are particularly pleased to see commitments to (1) enhance beneficial ownership transparency and (2) scale up efforts around confiscating and returning stolen assets to victim populations.

And while we commend the UN membership for being unafraid to debate solutions to a number of other contentious corruption problems, we cannot hide our disappointment at the apparent failure to tackle them as part of this important forum.

The political declaration completely misses on the opportunity to address high-level, large-scale and transnational forms of corruption – such as state capture and grand corruption.

UN member states have also been unable to recognise the crucial role of civil society in enforcement, asset recovery and other processes.

Evidently, it also proved difficult to reach a consensus on the need to fight gender-based forms of corruption, such as sextortion.

We urge you to continue debating these and other remaining issues at the UNGASS against Corruption and as part of other forums. With regard to the new commitments you have made, we ask you to announce arrangements for their monitoring.

The world needs you to aim higher and to be more ambitious in our collective efforts to end the scourge of corruption.

Thank you for your attention.