

Sarah Lister, UNDP

**Thank you, Mr President. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- **Strengthening the links between the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) Implementation Review Mechanism and the effective monitoring of SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda, is instrumental to preventing and addressing corruption.** The United Nations Development Programme welcomes the declaration and encourages Member States to reaffirm their strong political commitment to address corruption as a development and development financing issue.
- **As noted in the United Nations Common Position to Address Global Corruption Challenges, Integrated and coordinated efforts between all stakeholders are needed to prevent and address corruption effectively.** Effective international cooperation and national coordination are essential, including strengthening the capacity of the judiciary, anti-corruption agencies, oversight and audit institutions, parliaments, electoral bodies, the media and civil society organizations. In this regard, we need to continue to support collective efforts by international development actors, multilateral and bilateral partners; and national and local actors, including the private sector, civil society and communities.
- **With the global issues of illicit financial flows, money laundering, stolen assets, and tax avoidance serving to undermine development financing, strengthened cooperation between economic and governance actors is necessary.** Strengthening accountability and integrity in tackling cross-border corruption, financial crimes and illicit financial flows; enhancing the recovery and return of stolen assets; and promoting transparency in beneficial ownership and taxation, will be crucial in fostering a system of financial integrity for sustainable development and ending impunity.
- **The COVID-19 crisis has taught us that a more robust integration of anti-corruption in sectoral work is crucial to improving access to and quality of basic services, including health services, as corruption acts as an obstacle to sustainable development.** Moreover, human rights and gender equality should also be systematically integrated, as fundamental to the vision of the 2030 Agenda.
- **UNDP is focusing on a ‘Next Generation of Anti-Corruption’ priorities,** by harnessing the benefits of **innovation and technology**; promoting **social accountability** and empowering women, youth and communities; enhancing the implementation and monitoring of **SDG 16** through evidence-based research and data collection; improving public procurement practices to better manage public funds and **promoting business integrity** and private sector engagement to enhance openness and transparency. We appreciate our excellent partnership with UNODC and other partners in this endeavour.
- **We look forward to Member States’ commitment and action in working together with partners to build on the good practices and lessons learned, as we head towards and beyond the UNGASS, in order to strengthen anti-corruption efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.**