

U.S. Statement

Thank you co-facilitators for giving me the floor. I would like to start off by thanking you both, as well as the Secretariat, for guiding us through this intense negotiation process these many months and helping us to arrive at a consensus on the text. We would not be here today without your leadership, support, and patience. Thank you also to member states, civil society and international organizations for all of the input and inspiration provided, as we embarked upon negotiations. Working towards consensus, we are able to finalize a text that prioritizes, in some capacity, each of our national objectives and as a result, generates sustained and impactful action to combat corruption. I commend my fellow delegates for committing to consensus and working so hard to find agreement with the spirit of Vienna as our guide and without letting bilateral differences getting in the way of final adoption of this Political Declaration. Through this document, we will make a difference in our shared goals to prevent and combat corruption.

Looking ahead, the UNGASS on corruption in June is an opportunity to take stock of our accomplishments, acknowledge continued challenges, and shape the future of the global fight against corruption. Our Political Declaration reflects these priorities as it is rooted in the existing anticorruption framework and pushes us all to acknowledge our strengths and weaknesses in hopes of enabling us to better fulfill our obligations and commitments under this framework. We do regret that we could not reach agreement on the proposed initiative to promote case cooperation and technical assistance for asset recovery but we will continue to work with member states on constructive ways to bolster practitioner efforts. That said the Political Declaration affirmatively includes a number of steps forward. For example, the declaration includes, for the first time, a timebound commitment to fulfill our obligations to combat bribery, including foreign bribery, which will strengthen our compliance in this important area. The declaration is also balanced, forward leaning, and aspirational, recognizing that effectively preventing and combating corruption is a common and shared responsibility that requires us to devote equal attention and resources to preventing corruption as we do to investigating and prosecuting it. Additionally, the declaration highlights the essential and invaluable role civil society plays in supporting our collective efforts to prevent and combat corruption.

My delegation looks forward to a successful UNGASS against Corruption next month where we will officially adopt this important document.