Distinguished Chair,

Excellencies,

First, I would like to sincerely thank the Secretariat of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the invitation to this Session.

It is my honour to address all of you on behalf of my country and share with you the progress made in the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Dear delegates,

As a signatory to the UNCAC, Azerbaijan reflected a high-level political commitment to fight corruption.

During the reporting period, we have prioritised compensation for material damage caused by corruption and asset recovery. Domestic legislation was subsequently amended to motivate perpetrators of economic crimes to compensate victims.

Thus, a short while ago, a structural reorganisation of the Prosecutor’s Office established a new Department for the Coordination of Special Confiscation Issues.

Also, the European Union launched a Twinning Project to support our asset recovery reforms, which involves the Lithuanian Special Investigation Service and the Prosecutor's Office as our counterparts for exchanging best practices. The project’s specific Objective is to transform the named Department into a full-fledged National Asset Recovery Office.

Another result of the reorganisation of the Prosecutor’s Office is the adoption in 2023 of a new code of ethics for the prosecution service. This code included new articles on using a social network, working with media, and norms for preventing corruption and conflict of interest.

Besides, recently Azerbaijan renewed its anti-money laundering legislation by setting up new requirements on beneficial ownership, considering FATF standards.

Furthermore, we recognise the importance of international cooperation in combating corruption. The Implementation Review Mechanism is extremely valuable to us. We also continue cooperating with the OECD Anti-Corruption Network, GRECO, and MONEYVAL as part of their monitoring process.

Excellencies,

While significant progress has been made, we recognise that there is a need for more practical and target-oriented mechanisms to prevent conflicts of interest, inter alia expanding work done in adopting further legal provisions related to whistleblower protection and asset disclosure.

I wish you all fruitful discussions and deliberations.
Thank you for your attention!

Natig EYVAZOV
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