

Delegation of the Republic of Armenia
12th meeting of the Implementation Review Group
Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention
against Corruption

Vienna, 14-18 June 2021

Agenda item 4: State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against corruption

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished colleagues,

At the outset, we would like to thank you, Mr. Chair and the Secretariat for arranging the 12th meeting of the Implementation Review Group and the Working Group on Prevention.

Armenia thanks the Secretariat as well as the reviewer countries, the Republic of Serbia and Dominican Republic for their detailed work in conducting the 2nd review cycle of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by Armenia, and for the open and effective cooperation.

The Executive Summary on the outcome of the 2nd review cycle for Armenia has set important recommendations aimed to further strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks in Armenia for combating corruption, as well as to assess the technical assistance needs required for that process. In this regard, we are glad to inform that Armenia has already achieved feasible results in implementing the recommendations related to both preventive and asset recovery chapters.

We would like to take this opportunity to present some of the most significant achievements in this field:

1. With active collaboration of all stakeholders, including civil society, the Anti-corruption strategy for 2019-2022 was elaborated and adopted in 2019, ensuring that it is comprehensive and coordinated and promotes civil society participation.
2. In accordance with the new Anti-corruption strategy the national anti-corruption institutional framework is being established, considering the effective exercise and synergy of preventive, investigative and punitive powers.

More specifically:

- o A Corruption Prevention Commission has been formed, which is an autonomous state body with financial independence and a large scope of powers for prevention of corruption. The Commission is tasked *inter alia* with overseeing the process of asset and interest declarations by public officials, carrying out integrity checks of candidates nominated for the positions of judges, members of Supreme Judicial Council, prosecutors and investigators, ensuring the observance of the incompatibility requirements and other restrictions, as well as providing professional consultation and methodological guidance.
- o Another institutional improvement will be the specialized law enforcement body, an Anti-Corruption Committee, which will be established and fully functional by the end of 2021. The relevant law, adopted on March 24, 2021, stipulates that the main competence of the Committee will be to organize and implement pre-trial criminal proceedings on alleged corruption crimes, through operative intelligence activities. The law also establishes merit-based appointment procedure for the Anti-Corruption Committee officials, according to which they will be selected through competition and integrity checks.

3. With regards to the asset and income declarations of designated public officials the scope of the declarant officials (respectively their family members) was enlarged. The scope of the declaration was also expanded: the officials are now obliged to submit not only asset and income, but also interest and expenditure declarations.
4. Another major legislative package adopted in 2021 is aimed at establishing Anti-corruption courts, which are expected to be operational in Armenia from the beginning of 2022.
5. In the field of asset recovery, a Law on Civil Forfeiture of Illegal Assets was adopted in April 2020. According to the Law a Department dealing with cases of civil forfeiture of illegal assets was established within the Prosecutor General's Office of Armenia, which currently conducts ongoing investigation of 239 cases.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate Armenia's commitment to combating corruption in all its manifestations and we are hopeful that through close cooperation with our international partners and all domestic stakeholders, in particular, the civil society, Armenia will find the best ways to implement the rest of the recommendations from the 2nd review cycle.

Thank you for your attention