STATEMENT

By

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AT THE 12th SESSION OF THE RESUMED IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP

06-10 September 2021

Vienna

Check against delivery
Chairperson,

Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for affording South Africa the opportunity to address this august gathering on the occasion of the 12th Resumed Session of the Implementation Review Group.

We welcome the timely holding of this Session to allow member states to share best practices, challenges and way forward in the implementation of Chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly on the measures put in place for the direct recovery of stolen assets/property by a foreign party.

My delegation would like to extend its appreciation to the Secretariat for continuing to assist member states to implement the recommendations and observations made during the review process through the provision of technical assistance and capacity building initiative.

Chairperson,

Following the conclusion South Africa’s second review cycle by Cook Islands and Niger in December 2020, the process of implementing the recommendations and observation began in earnest.

Emanating from the conclusion of South Africa’s second review, the Minister for the Public Service and Administration issued a Directive on other categories of employees to disclose their financial interests, extending the financial disclosure framework to further categories of employees in the public service, effective from June 2021.

Other reforms includes the revision and promulgation Extradition Act so as to align South Africa’s international obligations with domestic laws.

My delegation looks forward to the Secretariat’s report on the status of implementation of the UNCAC and will make further observation and comments accordingly.
Chairperson,

As one of the guiding principles for the functioning of the review mechanism of the UNCAC, the Implementation Review Group is expected to be transparent, efficient, non-intrusive, inclusive and impartial. To this end, it is important to ensure that adequate funding is availed to the working group so as to be able to achieve its mandate.

We therefore call on member states and international donors to assist with un-earmarked or unburdened extra-budgetary resources to protect the integrity of the review mechanism and enable it to be non-confrontational

I thank you