



G-77 and China statement during the Ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt, 13-17 December 2021 delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your election as President of the 9th session of the Conference of the States Parties, as also to the other elected members of the Bureau. The Group also thanks the government of Egypt for hosting this meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh and for the warm hospitality and arrangements.
2. The Group commends the Secretariat for making timely preparations for the Conference, including useful background documents made available.
3. The phenomenon of corruption continues to be one of the major challenges to security and stability, rule of law, and sustainable socioeconomic development of our societies. The Group reiterates the need for preventing and eradicating corruption more effectively by further promoting the full and effective implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and underlines the critical role of the Conference of the States Parties in this regard.
4. The Group takes note of the ongoing efforts at different levels to implement the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including its Sustainable Development Goals. Such efforts reinforce the comprehensive approach to substantially reducing corruption in all its forms and at all levels, including measures to address its underlying causes.

Mr. President,

5. The Group welcomes the recent holding of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Corruption, held in New York under exceptional circumstances. We also welcome the resulting Political Declaration “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”.
6. The Group wishes to recall the ‘Kyoto Declaration’ adopted by the 14th UN Crime Congress in 2021, in which the international community in a full chapter committed itself, inter alia, to develop, adequately resource and implement effective policies and measures, to analyze corruption and strengthening the integrity, transparency and accountability of public institutions, in order to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption in a holistic manner for ending impunity.
7. In this regard, the Group underscores the importance of having meaningful, comprehensive and balanced follow-up processes on those outcome documents.

Mr. President,

8. The Group reiterates the importance of developing and promoting effective measures, policies and practices aimed at prevention of corruption, and in this regard stresses the need to enhance efforts in accordance with chapter II of the Convention.
9. The Group deeply regrets that despite the very explicit articles of the Convention, barriers and challenges in the asset recovery process appear to be on the increase. The Group therefore underscores that the return of assets is a fundamental principle of the

Convention as stated in its article 51, and States Parties shall afford one another the widest measures of international cooperation, in particular, in the recovery and return of assets including when settlements and non-trial resolutions or other administrative mechanisms are used in accordance with the Convention and their domestic law.

10. The Group emphasizes that the management, administration, and utilization of returned assets is solely the responsibility of the requesting state and that recovered assets shall be returned without conditionalities and in full respect of the sovereign rights of the states of origin and the Convention.

11. The Group calls on the States Parties, at the present session of the Conference, to commit to accelerating the development of international cooperation, in the area of asset recovery, and urges all States Parties to remove barriers associated with implementing article 46 of the Convention, on mutual legal assistance.

12. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and avoid promulgating and imposing any measures and actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities to address and combat corruption.

12 bis. The Group takes note of the Report of the High Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. President,

13. The Group notes with satisfaction the effective functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Conference, in accordance with its Terms of Reference and the guiding principles and characteristics of the Mechanism set out in Resolution 3/1, which should be fully and consistently respected throughout the review process.

14. The Group remains of the firm view that Implementation Review Mechanism requires sustainable and predictable funding to ensure its efficient, continued and impartial functioning. Therefore, the Group reiterates its position that the Mechanism should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

15. Technical assistance is a crosscutting issue and is crucial for effective and efficient implementation of the Convention, and thus needs to be given special attention. The Group appreciates the role of UNODC in providing, within its mandate and upon request, tailor-made technical assistance activities at national, regional and global levels based on the needs and priorities of State Parties, including those identified during the Review Process. The Group calls for sufficient and stable funding to develop and implement programs and projects for the purpose of capacity-building and technical assistance.

16. In conclusion, the Group looks forward to fruitful deliberations during the current session.

I thank you Mr. President.