



G20 ANTI-CORRUPTION MINISTERIAL MEETING

Speeches and Remarks

Summary

This document contains all speeches and remarks given during the first-ever G20 anti-corruption ministerial meeting.

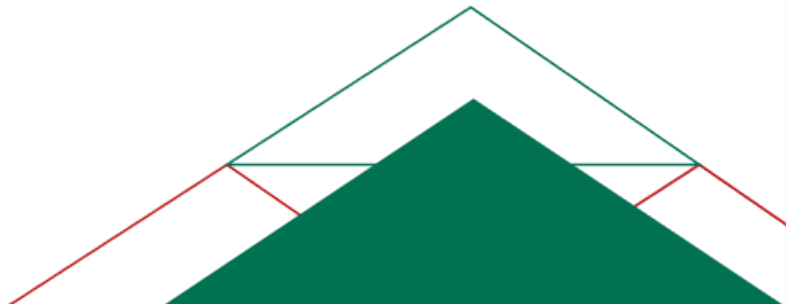


Table of Contents

Opening remarks by Saudi G20 Presidency	4
<i>President of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority</i>	4
<i>Minister of Justice</i>	8
<i>Public Prosecutor</i>	10
Remarks by Troika members	12
<i>JAPAN – State Minister for Foreign Affairs</i>	12
<i>ITALY – Minister of Justice</i>	14
Remarks by International Organizations	17
<i>UNODC – Executive Director</i>	17
<i>INTERPOL – Secretary General</i>	21
<i>OECD – Secretary General</i>	23
<i>FATF – President</i>	25
<i>EGMONT GROUP – Chair</i>	27
Remarks by G20 countries, guest countries, regional and international organizations	29
<i>ARGENTINA – Director of Anti-Corruption Office</i>	30
<i>AUSTRALIA – Attorney General, and Minister for Industrial Relations</i>	32
<i>BRAZIL – Minister of the Office of the Comptroller General</i>	34
<i>CANADA – Director General, Bureau for International Crime and Terrorism</i>	36
<i>CHINA – Vice Chairman of National Commission of Supervision</i>	38
<i>EGYPT – Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority</i>	40
<i>EUROPEAN UNION – Commissioner for Home Affairs</i>	42
<i>FRANCE – Minister Delegate for Public Accounts</i>	44
<i>GERMANY – Director at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection</i>	46
<i>INDIA – Minister of State for Personal, Public Grievances and Pensions</i>	48
<i>INDONESIA – Chairman of Corruption Eradication Commission</i>	51
<i>JORDAN – Chairman of the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission</i> ...	53
<i>MEXICO – Minister of Public Administration</i>	56

<i>REPUBLIC OF KOREA – Commissioner in the Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission</i>	58
<i>RUSSIA – Head of the Directorate of the President of the Russian Federation for the Issues of Countering Corruption</i>	61
<i>RWANDA / NEPAD – Minister of Justice and Attorney General</i>	64
<i>SINGAPORE – Director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau</i>	67
<i>SOUTH AFRICA – Minister for the Public Service and Administration</i>	69
<i>SPAIN – Minister of Justice</i>	71
<i>SWITZERLAND – Secretary of State, President of the International Working Group on Combating Corruption</i>	73
<i>TURKEY – Deputy General Director of the General Directorate of Foreign Relations and European Union</i>	75
<i>UNITED ARAB EMIRATIS – President of State Audit Institution</i>	77
<i>UNITED KINGDOM – Minister of State for Security</i>	79
<i>UNITED STATES – Acting Under Secretary State for Civilian Securities, Democracy, and Human Rights, U.S. Department of State</i>	81
<i>IMF – General Counsel and Director of the Legal Department</i>	83
<i>IsDB – President</i>	85
<i>GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL – Secretary General</i>	88
<i>WORLD BANK – Vice President of Integrity</i>	90
Closing remarks	92
<i>ITALY – Minister of Justice</i>	92
<i>SAUDI ARABIA – President of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority</i>	94
Remarks by the Engagement Groups	97
<i>Business 20 (B20) – Chair</i>	97
<i>Civil 20 (C20) – Chair</i>	99
<i>Women 20 (W20) – Chair</i>	102
<i>Academia 20 (A20)</i>	104

Opening remarks by Saudi G20 Presidency

President of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority

His Excellency Mr. Mazin Alkhamous
Chair of the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you to the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting and start by thanking you all for accepting our initiative to establish this meeting.

It is unfortunate, that I cannot welcome each of you in-person on such a special occasion due to the current unprecedented circumstances, but I am truly optimistic that I will have such a pleasure under future Presidencies.

Despite the speed of the pandemic's outbreak taking the world by surprise, the G20 spared no effort in demonstrating the leading role that it plays in international policy, through coordinating our collective efforts and delivering a global response to the pandemic.

This has been proven by the concrete actions taken by our G20 leaders during their Extraordinary Leaders' Summit, held on March 26. Also, the commitment of Saudi Arabia, leading by example as the Chair of the G20 in 2020, in pledging USD 500 million to support such global response towards bridging the financing gap in order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this regard, and in line with our Leaders' Statement, the Anti-Corruption Working Group showcased its own critical role by identifying core areas of action to strengthen our individual and collective efforts in combating corruption. These efforts are built on the principles of "transparency", "governance", and "integrity" as set out in the Call to Action on Corruption and COVID-19.

In addition, the Anti-Corruption Working Group developed the G20 Compendium of Good Practices on Combating Corruption in the Response to COVID-19. This Compendium will further our ability to better mitigate COVID-19 corruption risks. Hence, I would like to

express my gratitude to the UNODC for their outstanding work in leading the development of this document.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In light of the challenges posed by the pandemic, we express our deep gratitude to our Anti-Corruption Working Group for their great efforts on the development of the following key milestones:

Our first deliverable is the Ministerial Communiqué, which represents the most important anti-corruption output this year by highlighting our agreed principles and achievements, as well as laying down a roadmap for our future collective actions against corruption, with a particular emphasis on cross-border issues, such as Asset Recovery, Beneficial Ownership Transparency, Denial of Safe Havens and Foreign Bribery.

Our second is the Riyadh Initiative, which aims to strengthen informal cooperation between anti-corruption law enforcement authorities. Today, I am delighted to announce that Saudi Arabia will contribute 10 million US Dollars to the UNODC in order to launch this initiative under their umbrella. We thank them very much for their cooperation in hosting this important initiative, and in their capacity as the guardian of the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Our third deliverable is the Scoping Paper on International Co-Operation Dealing with Economic Crime, Offenders and the Recovery of Stolen Assets, prepared by the (OECD) in collaboration with the FATF, the UNODC and the World Bank.

Building upon this paper, the Anti-Corruption Group developed our fourth deliverable outlining G20 Action on International Cooperation on Corruption and Economic Crimes, Offenders and Recovery of Stolen Assets.

Our fifth achievement comes from reforming the G20 Anti-Corruption Accountability Report. For the first time, the new approach provides an in-depth review of our collective progress on international cooperation and asset recovery. It will also inform potential future areas for the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group.

Our final accomplishments are the development of three separate sets of G20 High-Level Principles. These comprise:

First, the G20 High-Level Principles on the Development and Implementation of National Anti-Corruption Strategies, which can assist countries in coordinating their anti-corruption efforts;

Secondly, the G20 High-Level Principles on Promoting Public Sector Integrity through the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), which can assist countries in recognizing the potential anti-corruption benefits of deploying ICT in the delivery of public services, and

Thirdly, the G20 High-Level Principles for Promoting Integrity in Privatization and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), which can serve as guidance on good practices in this area.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests,

Ten years since the creation of the Anti-Corruption Working Group, this meeting represents the enduring commitment of G20 members to build a culture that rejects corruption and ensures that G20 members continue to play a leading role in combating corruption.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our leadership for approving the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting within this year's Agenda.

Without a doubt, the launch of this meeting under the Saudi G20 Presidency demonstrates the political will of the government of Saudi Arabia, towards combating corruption. It also demonstrates a commitment towards strengthening collaboration amongst the international community in addressing cross-border issues.

As part of Saudi Arabia's continuing efforts to lead by example in the global fight against corruption, I am pleased to take the opportunity on this special occasion today, to inform you that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken a first step towards joining the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, by officially requesting to join the OECD Working Group on Bribery.

As we seek to round off this Presidency by endorsing our first Ministerial Communiqué, I would like to express my true wish for the Ministerial Meeting to be reconvened in the following years to reaffirm our Leaders' anti-corruption commitments, as well as to guide the future work of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group.

Before I conclude, allow me to take the time to thank the Anti-Corruption Working Group chair and his team, Italy as a co-chair, and all members, guest countries and chairs of regional and international organizations for their immense efforts to achieve our deliverables.

With that, I will hand over to The Minister of Justice for Saudi Arabia.

Minister of Justice

Dr. Waleed Alsamaany

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you once again to the first G20 anti-corruption ministerial meeting. Allow me to take this opportunity to talk about some of the challenges that we face with regard to asset recovery, particularly from the judiciary's perspective. Thus, I will focus my speech on how G20 countries can strengthen their collective efforts against corruption.

To start with, I believe that the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) should guide the work of G20 Countries in their fight against corruption. As the UNCAC is the only legally binding universal instrument, we as G20 countries, should build on this convention and share best practices in the following four areas:

The first area is the prevention of corruption in both public and private sectors;

Secondly, the criminalization of all corruption offences covered under the UNCAC;

Thirdly, the enforcement of anti-corruption laws and policies; and

Fourthly, international cooperation and asset recovery.

For the sake of time, I will limit my remarks to international cooperation and asset recovery. From an international perspective, asset recovery has been the most challenging topic in the corruption arena. In the period between 1997-2011, the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR) estimated that less than 1% of assets lost due to corruption were repatriated. This clearly demonstrates the need to enhance asset recovery efforts across all countries.

As G20 countries represent the major economies of the world, they are well placed to overcome challenges associated with asset recovery issues. To do so, we should lead by example in the following areas:

Strengthening cross-border judicial cooperation;

Facilitating the process of the mutual legal assistance for asset recovery, including the enforcement of non-conviction-based (NCB) confiscations;
The enforcement of denial of safe haven for corrupt individuals;
and
The use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in international cooperation, particularly on sharing information and communications in a timely manner via secured platforms, such as the one established under Riyadh Initiative for Enhancing International Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation.

In this regard, I encourage future G20 presidencies to further explore how G20 countries can strengthen their collective efforts in the aforementioned areas, including through sharing experiences, and developing unified G20 asset recovery policies and procedures.

Excellencies, distinguished guests,

Judicial authorities represent an integral part of the global fight against corruption and play a significant role in the return and recovery of stolen assets. We, as G20 countries, should take all necessary measures to protect the independence, integrity and impartiality of the overall judicial process as they represent the cornerstones of achieving justice at all levels in the fight against corruption.

Coming to the end of my speech, I congratulate all attending G20 Ministers with responsibilities for preventing and combatting corruption, for the notable commitments made in the first G20 anti-corruption ministerial communiqué, as well as the significant progress on monitoring the implementation of our previously endorsed high-level principles by our leaders. Finally, I wish continued success for the Italian G20 Presidency next year.

Thank you.

Public Prosecutor

Mr. Saud Almojeb

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen.

I am glad to be present here today for the inaugural of the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting, which by holding this meeting, the G20 not only facilitates conversation at the highest level between relevant authorities in our countries, but also signals to the world the importance of fighting corruption and safeguarding our communities.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to speak briefly on three key challenges related to international cooperation:

Our first challenge is the limited use of joint investigations in cross-border corruption cases. The new reformed accountability report issued under the Saudi Presidency shows that there have been limited instances in which G20 countries have conducted such joint investigations.

Our second challenge is the lack of practical informal cooperation between law enforcement authorities and prosecutors. Over 100 developing countries, including the vast majority of African and Middle Eastern countries, do not participate in any global or international informal cooperation platforms. Given the sophistication of organized crime and transnational corruption crimes, informal cooperation between relevant anti-corruption authorities has become more important now than ever to uncover and investigate these crimes. I therefore applaud and thank the Saudi Oversight and Anti-corruption Authority for their leadership in the development of the Riyadh Initiative for Enhancing International Anti-Corruption Cooperation.

Our third challenge is connected to the second, which relates to the significance of voluntary information sharing between anti-corruption authorities and prosecutors, on a proactive basis.

With respect for states' sovereignty, and in light of the United Nation Convention against Corruption, as well as previously endorsed high level principles by our leaders, I encourage G20

countries to discuss and share experiences on how to overcome these three challenges.

To conclude, I am optimistic that this meeting, and the endorsement of the Ministerial Communiqué, will crown the collective efforts of this group to lead by example in promoting justice, safeguarding the rule of law, and protecting our citizens and residents' fundamental human rights in our efforts to fight corruption.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

To H.E the President of the Saudi Oversight and Anti-corruption Authority, and all G20 Ministers with responsibilities for preventing and combatting corruption, I applaud you for your leadership throughout this extraordinary year, and for all the efforts made to achieve our Leaders' ambitious anti-corruption goals. Thank you once again.

Remarks by Troika members

JAPAN – State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. UTO Takashi

G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting
Statement by UTO Takashi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Japan

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

My name is UTO Takashi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. It is my great honor to have this opportunity to deliver my statement as a G20 Troika at the 1st Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the convening of the Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting for the first time within the framework of G20 under the great leadership of Saudi Arabia amidst the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis the international community faces.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year marks the tenth anniversary since the establishment of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) was decided in the Toronto Summit Declaration in 2010. Corruption not only has significant negative impact on economic growth and sustainable development, but also the link between corruption and organized crimes has been pointed out, making it a global challenge the international community needs to tackle together. For this reason, since its establishment, G20 ACWG has been focused on enhancing international cooperation towards preventing and combatting corruption. We welcome the development of a number of deliverables including the Ministerial Communique and Call to Action, highly appreciating the leadership and efforts of Saudi Arabia.

Anti-corruption measures remain important amidst the COVID-19, and Japan is committed to maintaining and enhancing our anti-corruption efforts nationally and internationally in close cooperation with relevant ministries. Today, I believe that the G20 Ministers gathering together and discussing the future anti-

corruption efforts sends a strong message to the international community and becomes a great opportunity to further enhance international cooperation towards preventing and combatting corruption.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last year, Japan set strengthening whistleblower protection and enhancing transparency in the infrastructure development as our priorities under the Japanese Presidency, and led the development of two deliverables, “G20 High-Level Principles for the Effective Protection of Whistleblowers” and “G20 Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Infrastructure Development”. We believe that follow-ups of these deliverable including the high-level principles are crucial in terms of ensuring the effective implementation.

Next year, we will work on the development of the new Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2022-2024 under the Italian Presidency. As our priority, Japan would like to include strengthening the whistleblower protection in the next Action Plan, for the sake of stressing the importance of follow-ups of the deliverables endorsed by our Leaders.

Mr. Chairperson,

The 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto Congress) will be held in Kyoto next March utilizing the online platform in addition to the in-person participation, where the anti-corruption measures will be discussed.

Furthermore, the UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption (UNGASS) will be held next June. Japan continues to be engaged in promoting the effective implementation of the existing international conventions such as the U.N. Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention as well as contributing to the global efforts against corruption. I am looking forward to the active discussions among the G20 ministers today.

Thank you very much for your attention.

ITALY – Minister of Justice

Mr. Alfonso Bonafede

FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH BY MINISTER ALFONSO BONAFEDE
AT THE G20 ANTI-CORRUPTION MINISTERIAL MEETING

FIRST SPEECH

Thank you, Mr. President, Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to express my greeting to all the delegates, and I am really pleased to take part in this important meeting on the fight against corruption, the first ministerial meeting in the history of the G20 for which I would like to thank the Saudi Presidency.

In December Italy will take over the new G20 Presidency and I can say today that it was a privilege for our delegation to work with the Saudi Presidency, whose efforts we recognize in this difficult period, to support the fundamental role of multilateralism and provide effective responses to the fight against corruption, including by monitoring the implementation of our common commitments.

It is essential to continue developing an improved understanding of the multiple dimensions of corruption and its socio-economic impact at a global level. We believe that to this end it is possible to examine stronger measures to develop further anti-corruption policies, also through a stock-taking of current methodologies and related statistical data, which helps to anchor the measurement of corruption in the rule of law to objective data.

Furthermore, we must take into account that globalized economy has opened new and sophisticated pathways to corruption, increasingly linked to financial crime in relation to which it is necessary to take prompt action.

In particular, this phenomenon is not separated from the frequent infiltration of organized crime into the public sector. We firmly adopt the content of the important Ministerial Declaration that we are going to approve in a context of unprecedented global social and economic fragility caused by the pandemic.

We all agree on the need for multilateral cooperation to strengthen our political will in preventing and fighting corruption.

Italy considers the G20 to be the relevant place of choice to raise and increase awareness of emerging threats and provide guidelines in this field also in order to promote strengthened and coordinated action between States.

The next action plan should therefore constantly assess the most vulnerable areas and sectors, such as health or sports, and provide political guidance in this regard.

Saudi Arabia has led the G20 towards sharing best practices in response to the pandemic by galvanizing everyone into action.

An anti-corruption law has been in force in Italy since January 2019, which has resulted in a very important step forward in the fight against corruption. In general, our system is based on some main points, which we would like to share in this authoritative and important session. The main pillars concern prevention activities also through the imposition of greater investigation transparency, enhancing the use of new investigative techniques and enhancing whistleblowing in the public administration, suppression of offences against the public administration by tightening up the penalties for corruption offenses also as regards the execution of the sentence.

The commitment in this sensitive area, combined with the pursuit of this vision, led Italy to pass the second UNCAC review in the fundamental and crucial issue of Asset Recovery.

Mr. President, colleagues, anti-corruption has so far been a hallmark of efficient multilateralism. Thanks to the experience gained in harmonizing common standards between different national legal contexts, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group continues to be in a privileged position to face current challenges, characterized by integrity, transparency and accountability in the global fight against corruption. In particular, I would like to recall that 2021 will be a special year thanks to the UN General Assembly first special session on corruption.

The G20 Italian Presidency will work with great conviction with this group to provide a high-profile contribution to the preparation and carrying out of the UN special session, with the aim of promoting an increasingly global and far-sighted context in the fight against the treacherous phenomenon of corruption.

But the results will follow on the basis of the increasingly closer collaboration between our States.

Thank you for your attention.

Remarks by International Organizations

UNODC – Executive Director

Ms. Ghada Waly

Remarks of the UNODC Executive Director
G20 anti-corruption ministerial meeting
Thursday, 22 October 2020

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is truly an honour to be with you at the first G20 anti-corruption ministerial meeting.

I very much hope that the G20 members will take forward the good practice of the Presidency of Saudi Arabia and make this an annual tradition.

The leadership of the G20 in the global fight against corruption is needed now more than ever as we join forces to recover better from the COVID-19 crisis, and to get the world back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The G20's high-level commitment is being reinforced by concrete action with the Riyadh Initiative for Enhancing International Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement, and with Saudi Arabia's funding pledge of 10 million dollars over the next five years.

This much-needed initiative will launch a Vienna-based, global network for anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to enhance informal cooperation through regular meetings; an online hub and secure communication platform; and knowledge- and capacity-building programmes and tools.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime looks forward to serving as secretariat of the new network, which will build on the results achieved through the UN Convention against Corruption, and act as a force multiplier for existing anti-corruption networks and cooperation.

It has been an honour for UNODC to support Saudi Arabia's G20 Presidency, which has pursued an ambitious anti-corruption

agenda and has advanced needed, practical improvements, including a new Accountability Report format for G20 countries to measure progress in implementing their anti-corruption commitments.

I very much welcome the focus of the new Accountability Report on international cooperation and asset recovery.

Particularly in the current economic crisis, we need governments to do more to detect, recover and return the proceeds of crime and corruption, to the countries and people who desperately need and deserve these resources.

Illicit capital flight out of Africa is some 88.6 billion dollars annually, equivalent to 3.7 per cent of the continent's GDP, according to our partners at UNCTAD. This is nearly as much as total annual inflows of official development assistance and foreign direct investment combined.

As countries with the world's largest economies and developed financial sectors, the G20 can lead by example in denying safe haven to criminals and their ill-gotten gains.

UNODC is also proud to have assisted the G20 Presidency in producing a collection of Good Practices on Combating Corruption in the response to COVID-19. This continues to be a much-needed reference as governments direct enormous resources to protect public health and safety, as well as provide large stimulus packages to sustain economies in the ongoing crisis.

UNODC's anti-corruption support also draws on our interlinked mandates on crime, drugs and terrorism, and I am pleased that the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group during Italy's presidency in 2021 will focus on the links between transnational organized crime and corruption. The nexus is obvious, and you cannot address one without tackling the other.

Furthermore, I wish to commend the Saudi Presidency for engaging with business, civil society, women and academia, and I salute the B20, C20 and W20's powerful contributions. All these stakeholders represent powerful protective factors against corruption, and by ensuring diversity we strengthen accountability.

Excellencies,

The G20 has a leading role to play as the UN General Assembly works towards its first-ever Special Session against corruption in June 2021.

UNODC counts on the support of G20 leaders in the preparations for the UNGASS against corruption, to help ensure that Member States adopt a concise and ambitious political declaration, which can then be taken forward at the session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption that will be hosted in Egypt after the UNGASS next year.

We have the momentum and the opportunities to keep anti-corruption action at the forefront of the global agenda in 2021.

The Riyadh Initiative is coming precisely at the right time, and can provide a crucial, operational link between high-level pledges to pursue international cooperation and the ability to cooperate in practice.

The network, supported by UNODC in partnership with INTERPOL, OECD, FATF, the Egmont Group and others, will tap into existing networks and cooperation channels, and enhance direct and informal contacts between anti-corruption actors.

In this way, we will empower and enable anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, globally and in developing countries, to engage in informal, cross-border cooperation and information exchange, which can be decisive in successfully pursuing complex corruption and money-laundering cases, and in tracing and recovering stolen assets.

In closing, I wish to thank the G20 countries for your trust in UNODC. I am grateful to the Presidency of Saudi Arabia for its leadership in advancing the network and for its generous financial support.

We rely on all the G20 members to contribute to the sustainability and success of the Riyadh Initiative.

Even as the global pandemic has exposed and worsened inequalities in and between countries, and even as the crisis has deprived governments of resources to address these challenges, I remain confident that together we can achieve greater integrity and justice, and break the cycle of poverty and exclusion.

Solidarity holds the key to unlocking the possibilities of a better and fairer future for all, and UNODC is here to support you.

Thank you.

INTERPOL – Secretary General

Mr. Jürgen Stock

Excellencies,
Honorable Ministers of the G20,
Distinguished Heads of International Organizations and INTERPOL
partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me and for INTERPOL to join this First G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting under the auspices of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As we know too well, corruption almost spontaneously becomes a borderless crime that crosses jurisdictions in the shadows.

Yet when information is shared securely and joint action is coordinated, then we will unlock opportunities to bring those responsible to justice.

Allowing decisive information to cross borders securely, is why INTERPOL exists as the single global organization with the mandate, the technical capacity and the legal framework to enable law enforcement to exchange personal information and investigative data globally and securely.

The arrest in Malaga, Spain and extradition to Mexico of the former CEO of Petroleos Mexicanos to face corruption charges linked to the massive Odebrecht case, is a perfect example.

This represented only one outcome out of the almost one thousand six hundred INTERPOL alerts issued through our channels against suspects involved in alleged corruption and bribery offences by 99 countries, and for a large part, G20 Member Countries.

In addition, the Global Focal Points platform created in 2009 under the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the World Bank and UNODC currently connects nearly 250 experts from national law enforcement agencies, judicial and administrative authorities from 136 member countries, to respond to emergency requests for assistance.

This remains the sole, global asset recovery cooperation network, which G20 countries rely heavily on.

I have personally pledged INTERPOL's support to the objectives of the Ministerial

Communique and to the Riyadh Initiative to His Excellency, President ALKAHMOUS. Just days ago, Executive Director WALY and I discussed how INTERPOL and UNODC will work closely to this end, within their respective and complementary mandates.

The Riyadh Initiative can be a powerful incubator for new, cross-border corruption cases to be identified, traced and pursued. As such, it is a natural feeding line into INTERPOL's global operational channels. It is my hope we will seize this invaluable opportunity.

This is especially crucial as the COVID-19 pandemic offers fertile soil to predation against public emergency funds and stimulus packages, and therefore the future of our economies.

This is why INTERPOL also welcomes the incoming G20 Presidency's priorities for 2021.

Under Italy's leadership, INTERPOL is already spearheading joint operational action against the 'Ndrangheta' network, present in more than 30 countries, using corruption as a weapon of choice.

Italy is also among the most active players within our Corruption in Sports programme, which has also witnessed new spikes in threats by organized crime. Thus, we look forward to pursue these strands of effort in the year to come.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this journey against corruption, through its specialized expertise, global reach, and round-the-clock support to investigations, you will find INTERPOL at your side.

Thank you.

OECD – Secretary General

Mr. Angel Gurría

Dear Friends,

Big congratulations for organising the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting. Congratulations on all the deliverables. Now is the time for G20 Ministers and Leaders to send a strong signal that ensuring integrity of our economies and societies will be an essential part of the G20 response to the COVID-19 crisis.

We have the legal instruments and the standards to help guide this endeavor. Now, let's turn them into action!

Starting at home. Many countries are facing integrity threats when responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Implementing the OECD Recommendation on Public Integrity shows that promoting e-procurement, allowing remote access to records by auditors and establishing well-defined risk tolerance frameworks can go a long way in addressing these risks.

But you should also make sure that your companies operating around the globe contribute to the global recovery. The OECD Anti-bribery Convention remains the gold standard on combatting transnational corruption and the stakes are high! Our analysis¹ clearly show that a rise in the perception of corruption reduces investment by companies.

So let me congratulate Saudi Arabia for the very positive signal it is sending with its intention to move towards adherence to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. By taking this first step and requesting participation in the OECD Working Group on Bribery, Saudi Arabia is leading by example in building a fairer multilateral system and a level playing field. We hope all G20 countries will follow this example.

Yet no country can do it alone. International cooperation between and within law enforcement agencies is paramount. The OECD law enforcement networks have been active for the past 10 years. With this expertise, we look forward to harnessing synergies with the Riyadh Initiative.

More can be done to ensure a whole of government approach to fighting corruption. We welcome your efforts to better connect corruption to other economic crimes and look forward to leveraging the OECD Oslo Dialogue and our work in supporting asset recovery through tax collection.

Finally, we cannot manage what we cannot measure! OECD's new Public Integrity Indicators represent a generational leap in measuring the vulnerability of national frameworks to corruption risks. Several G20 members have contributed to their development, making them actionable and robust. We are already engaging under Italy's leadership on this critical agenda.

So, count on us to help you design and implement better policies for a more transparent and fairer global economy.

Thank you.

FATF – President

Dr. Marcus Pleyer

FATF President – Dr Marcus Pleyer’s speech
At the Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting

Thank you, I am grateful for the opportunity to address the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial.

Even as the world battles COVID-19, criminals and corrupt officials are misappropriating funds and misusing government contracts for personal gain.

This damages our communities. Money is flowing out of economies at precisely the time health services need it most.

As long as it remains profitable, corruption will continue. That is why stopping money laundering is vital to making sure corruption does not pay.

205 jurisdictions have committed to FATF’s global anti-money laundering standards. The FATF carries out comprehensive evaluations that go beyond law books and look at real-world implementation. We hold countries to account for significant failures, including public identification or calls for countermeasures in the most severe cases.

The hard truth is that, despite some successes, the vast majority of countries are failing to implement the necessary measures.

Which is why it is so important for G20 countries to show leadership.

This means going beyond rhetoric, and tackling persistent problems:

Overall, compliance costs are high, but confiscations of dirty money are low. I recognise the constraints on budgets, but there needs to be investment in law enforcement to ensure that it has the necessary resources to follow the money. To take money out of the pockets of the corrupt, and put it back into communities.

We need to plug the holes in the availability of beneficial ownership information. Countries need to make sure that up-to-

date and accurate information is rapidly available to authorities so we can stop anonymous shell companies laundering funds.

We must increase our oversight of the non-financial sectors. The gatekeepers to the financial system – such as lawyers, accountants and company service providers – need to be inside the regulatory tent so law enforcement agencies have relevant information to build cases.

Some of these issues are in politically challenging areas. Many require coordination at the ministerial level.

The starting point for G20 members is full implementation of the FATF standards at home. Even small loopholes in big financial centres can cause significant problems in the global financial system.

If the G20 shows leadership, it will spur others into action.

By tackling money laundering, you will tackle corruption.

The FATF is here to help. We will warn you of emerging threats and advise on effective policy responses. Which is why the FATF became the first international body to define and regulate cryptocurrencies.

As Covid-19 changes the world, now is a transformative moment. I urge you to take this opportunity to build political will and capacity in your countries to address the persistent problems and to work together to make corruption unprofitable.

EGMONT GROUP – Chair

Mrs. Hennie Verbeek-Kusters

*Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units
G20 Virtual Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting
22 October 2020*

EGMONT GROUP TALKING POINTS

Dear audience,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting.

As the Chair of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, I feel privileged to be among the speakers for today's meeting. This meeting addresses a topic that has become more and more important over the last years. The general knowledge of corruption's severe costs and possible societal disruption has become more evident to the world's relevant parties.

FIUs are uniquely positioned to act as intermediaries between the private and the public sectors. They are the only organization in each jurisdiction to receive suspicious/unusual financial transaction reports related to money laundering, their predicate criminal activities (including corruption) and terrorism financing.

The establishment of one single Financial Intelligence Unit in every jurisdiction is based upon the Financial Action Task Force's Recommendations. Having one FIU in each jurisdiction, combined with the secure infrastructure and the Principles that Egmont Group provides for information exchange, allows for a smooth international cooperation. This translates in FIUs being able to follow the proceeds of corruption across borders, which is one of the assets our members can bring to this fight. The other one is knowledge.

Between 2018 - 2019, Egmont Group members received more than 700 million reports from the private sector. Within the same interval over 23000 information requests were sent by Egmont Group members to each other. Through the Egmont Group network and international cooperation, this information can be used to the benefit of all the Egmont Group members' analyses.

The fight against the laundering of corruption proceeds remains a priority item on the Egmont Group's agenda. The Group has produced many important papers to support the dynamic role of FIUs in the fight against corruption, such as the 2013 report on "*The Role of Financial Intelligence Units in Fighting Corruption and Asset Recovery*" and the 2019 report on "*FIU Tools and Practices for Investigating Laundering of the Proceeds of Corruption.*"

FIUs' role in the fight against the laundering of corruption proceeds was a central theme during the Egmont Group's March 2018 meeting in Buenos Aires. The results of this meeting were, amongst others a set of red-flag indicators for FIUs and the private sector to detect transactions that are possibly related to the laundering of corruption proceeds. The indicators were shared with the global community.

Since FIUs are positioned to collect and analyze sensitive financial information, we consider operational independence and autonomy of an FIU to be a fundamental condition to effectively combat corruption, money laundering, and other serious crimes. To this purpose, a *Guidance on Operational Autonomy and Independence of an FIU* has been published by the Egmont Group, to further detail the FATF requirements intended to prevent undue influence or interference on the work of the FIUs.

The Egmont Group is very aware that the fight against corruption is a fight we must undertake in close collaboration with relevant organizations in this field. As indicated in our letter to the Saudi Arabia authorities, the Egmont Group fully supports the Riyadh Initiative of creating a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities and its goals of fighting corruption by consolidating international efforts.

In this regard, the Egmont Group proposed several important elements to support the various components of this Initiative, including:

- Providing subject matter expertise;
- Promoting the network to EG members and encouraging them to contribute to it;
- Sharing project reports, typologies, and red-flag indicators that EG has been releasing related to the fight against corruption and combatting the laundering of corruption proceeds with the network.

Only through more efficient and effective cooperation will we, jointly, be able to fight our systems' abuse better. This concept is

entirely aligned with our Strategic Plan, which was accepted and endorsed by our members. One of the Strategic Plan's main objectives is reaching out and working with other international partners and stakeholders to give effect to the resolutions and statements of the United Nations Security Council, the G20 Finance Ministers, G7 Finance Ministers, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

I hope we can all have an open mind to explore ways and means to further our work collaboratively in the fight against corruption.

Egmont Group is grateful for the opportunity to participate in such an important event and would like to thank Saudi Arabia for the invitation.

I wish you all a very fruitful meeting.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Remarks by G20 countries, guest countries, regional and international organizations

ARGENTINA – Director of Anti-Corruption Office

Dr. Felix P. Crous

Thank you, Chairman. I also thank the other delegations for their participation.

Argentina applauds the 10th anniversary of this working group and the first holding of a Ministerial Meeting, marking the importance of the fight against corruption at international level, the need for cooperation between the actors of each sector involved in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption crimes, and the importance of transparency and accountability that governments must observe, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the growing challenges that it poses us day by day.

The pandemic has put governments around the world to the test, not only in terms of the ability of their agencies to maintain effective operations while responding to the urgent needs of the population, but also highlighting the need to reinforce existing control mechanisms and adapt them to make them agile and effective faced with the current demands.

The effects of this exceptional situation will be evident for many years, so it is important to recognize the impact they will have on economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, as well as on the relationship of trust between governments and their citizens around crisis management.

Argentina has developed several strategies to reduce the impact of COVID-19 at all levels of the national public administration, in particular, the transparency of procurement processes, with a special focus on the Healthcare sector.

At the institutional level, the current administration introduced two major changes:

First, the hierarchy of the Anti-Corruption Office, which in December 2019 became a decentralized body with ministerial rank.

Second, the National Anticorruption Plan is being reformulated, expanding the number of actors involved, redefining its central initiatives and providing it with a federal scope, considering the realities of the entire national territory, in accordance with the High-Level Principles for the Implementation of National Anti-Corruption Strategies adopted by this Working Group earlier this year.

I would also like to highlight the new format of the Accountability Report, which allows us to better reflect all the progress that the Group's collective work has achieved, and the work ahead.

Finally, my wishes of success to Italy, as the next chair of this Working Group, and to India, as it joins the G20 Troika. I would like to express to both ministers that, just as we have accompanied Japan and Saudi Arabia, we are fully committed to actively support them in the new cycle that is beginning.

We thank the Saudi G20 presidency for their leadership through a challenging year and for convening the first Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting. We celebrate its performance, overcoming all difficulties, sustaining the collective commitment of all the actors, and bringing the Group closer to the proposed objectives.

I am convinced the G20 will continue to be an essential space to build the consensus needed to guarantee the responsibility of governments in the transparency and integrity of their actions and in an effective fight against corruption that will lead us to societies with more justice and equality.

AUSTRALIA – Attorney General, and Minister for Industrial Relations

Mr. Christian Porter MP

The Hon Christian Porter MP
Attorney-General
Minister for industrial Relations
Leader of the House

Remarks for the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting
Thursday, 22 October 2020, 10pm-1am Canberra time (2pm-5pm
Riyadh time)

[CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]

It is a pleasure to address you today at this landmark meeting.

I thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its leadership as G20 President this year and this important opportunity for us to collectively renew our commitment to tackling corruption.

Australia recognises the key role of the G20 in setting standards and demonstrating leadership internationally and domestically in combating corruption.

It is critically important that we embed integrity in both the health and economic responses to COVID-19. Left unchecked, corruption will reduce the quality of health care and undermine the global economic recovery.

A strong response to corruption supports democratic institutions, promotes stability and trust, and fosters clean, open and efficient markets for economies and societies to thrive.

Australia's fight against corruption

Strong anti-money laundering regimes is a powerful tool in fighting corruption. Last month I approved a \$1.3 billion penalty against one of Australia's largest banks for breaches of its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws. The biggest corporate penalty in Australia's history. This domestic action has international consequences, with the breaches including the failure to report international funds transfers worth more than \$11 billion, some of those funds directly linked to serious crimes in foreign countries.

The Australian Government is committed to establishing a Commonwealth Integrity Commission to enhance accountability across the public sector. The Integrity Commission will be a centralised, specialist centre for the investigation and prevention of corruption in Australia.

In addition, our reforms last year targeting doping, match-fixing and illegal betting and the establishment of a national sports integrity agency demonstrates our commitment to integrity in sport.

The Australian Government is also working to establish a deferred prosecution agreement scheme to better tackle serious corporate crime, while also pursuing other reforms to improve the effectiveness of our foreign bribery laws. This includes reforms to criminalise corporate failures to prevent foreign bribery. Australia's capacity building contributions in the Pacific, Southeast Asia and South Asia have totalled more than \$20 million over four years, making us one of the region's leading anti-corruption donors.

G20 leadership on Anti-Corruption

While Australia works to strengthen our own anti-corruption regimes and to assist partners in strengthening theirs, we place tremendous value on coordinated international efforts. It is critical for the G20 to demonstrate strong support for the established international anti-corruption architecture, particularly the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

We warmly congratulate Saudi Arabia on its intention to join the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. We sincerely hope this provides inspiration for the remaining G20 members yet to do so. Accountability and transparency are at the core of the international architecture. The G20 can lead by example by engaging openly in peer evaluation processes, and by including civil society groups and media in the fight against corruption.

Conclusion

We thank Saudi Arabia for this important opportunity to work together more closely to strengthen the G20's response to corruption.

BRAZIL – Minister of the Office of the Comptroller General

Mr. Wagner de Campos Rosário

Thank you, Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Ministers and Delegates

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Saudi presidency for convening this first G20 anti-corruption ministerial meeting. I would also like to recognize the importance of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, whose efforts in the past 10 years have greatly contributed to the global fight against corruption.

We are currently going through unprecedented human and economic crisis, which puts at stake some fundamental aspects of our anti-corruption efforts. We have seen an increased risk of corruption, fraud, and misappropriation.

Bearing in mind that an effective and timely government response would directly impact lives, income, and economic activity, Brazil's anti-corruption institutions quickly mobilized to adopt measures to mitigate the risks and impact of corruption in its national response, while maintaining the necessary agility in government action.

In particular, the Office of the Comptroller General of Brazil has emphasized its institutional perspective of not only combating corruption, but also providing public officials with resources and guidance to make better decisions and achieve more effective policy results.

Our Office has created a taskforce to assist the Ministry of Health conduct realtime monitoring and risk assessment analyses on critical emergency procurement contracts. This coordinated approach has allowed public officials to make informed decisions in a short amount of time and adopt preventive measures to address operational and corruption risks.

As an overarching strategy to reduce corruption risks and promote public and private integrity, Brazil has adopted a policy of broad transparency and promotion of civic oversight.

To that end, the Brazilian government is actively publishing relevant information about Covid-19 related initiatives through

several easily accessible channels, such as the Transparency Portal, a centralized informational website, and several online platforms with information on available resources, contracts, and beneficiaries of relief programs.

By providing open and accessible information, Brazil seeks to encourage the oversight of government activities by civil society organizations and individuals. The specific reporting channel created to receive complaints and suggestions related to Covid-19 initiatives has experienced an all-time high in terms of engagement with our platform. This indicates widespread buy-in from society as a whole.

Brazil has also deepened its commitment to promoting a culture of integrity in both the public and private sectors. Brazil continues to implement effective integrity programs in all public entities, as well as promoting the adoption of integrity policies in the private sector, especially as it interacts with the public sector.

The current crisis has further increased the use of technology and innovative tools for fighting corruption. A concrete example is the payment of the emergency economic relief benefit. Brazil has already paid 36 billion U.S. dollars in economic relief to more than 65 million people who have lost their income during this crisis.

By employing advanced techniques to cross-check several government databases to detect fraud in the payment of the relief, we have been able to identify almost 1.2 million individuals who unduly received the benefit. Through these actions, Brazil recouped public funds and guaranteed that this benefit reached the most vulnerable in our society.

Lastly, we recognize that this is a collective crisis and believe that national responses and international multilateral efforts should complement and coordinate with each other. I look forward to a continued dialogue within the G20 that will further strengthen international cooperation and promote a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability.

Thank you.

CANADA – Director General, Bureau for International Crime and Terrorism

Ms. Jennifer Loten

1st G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting
October 22, 2020

Statement by Canada (as delivered)

Minister Alsaamany, Mr. Almojeb, Mr. Alkahmous, esteemed Ministers and colleagues, first and foremost, Minister Blair sends his greetings and expresses his thanks to the G20 Saudi Presidency for hosting the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting. Canada considers this a landmark event for the G20 and for the international fight against corruption.

Corruption undermines public trust, democracy and the rule of law; corruption contributes to inequality and breeds organized crime; corruption disproportionately affects women and vulnerable populations. It hinders economic growth and good governance and it can decay the very fabric of society.

Canada strongly believes that preventing and combatting corruption is essential to strengthening trust in public institutions and preserving and protecting the rules-based international order.

As Minister Uto just mentioned, Ten years ago in Toronto, Canada, our leaders reiterated their commitment to prevent and address corruption in all its forms by establishing the G20 Anti-Corruption Working group.

Since its inception, the group has lead by example, making significant valuable and practical contributions to international efforts to combat corruption and by supporting the full implementation, by all G20 members, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

As new challenges arise, old ones endure. It is essential that we stay focused while we look to the future.

It is increasingly clear that corruption can have an undermining effect on the response to the current pandemic, depriving people of essential health care and services.

Some governments have invoked emergency measures, accompanied by a reduction of oversight of major public expenditures. In so doing, it is important to remain vigilant of the potential for the significant misappropriation of funds.

This risk increases when governments enact extraordinary measures or indefinite states of emergency in order to secure the power to make critical decisions expeditiously, without oversight of democratic institutions or public scrutiny.

It is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that emergency measures, policies and strategies to address the pandemic are transparent, responsive and accountable, as well as necessary, non-discriminatory, time-bound, and proportionate, all in accordance with our international obligations.

By adopting the G20 Call to Action on Corruption and COVID-19, the G20 is once again showing leadership in facing, head on, one of the greatest challenges of our generation.

We collectively commit to combat corruption during and after the pandemic, focusing on short, medium and long term measures and we look forward to future work on corruption and emergency responses by the Working Group.

Lastly, while both women and men are affected by corruption in its many forms, women's often marginalised roles prevent them from gaining full access to their civic, social and economic rights and make them even more vulnerable to corruption.

Canada strongly supports and encourages the work to better understand the differentiated impacts of corruption as we believe this will help the global community identify more inclusive and effective ways to prevent and address corruption.

In closing, let me underscore that Canada is committed to the eradication of corruption in all its forms, and to collaborating with G20 members, civil society and the private sector to that end.

Canada thanks once again the Saudi Presidency for the amazing work it has accomplished in an extremely difficult year and we welcome the Italian Presidency. We encourage all present to redouble their efforts to fight this scourge, to implement existing anti-corruption instruments, and to work together to build a global culture of intolerance to corruption in all its forms. Thank you.

CHINA – Vice Chairman of National Commission of Supervision

Mr. LI Shulei

Address by H.E. Mr. LI Shulei at the G20 Anti-Corruption
Ministerial Meeting
22 October 2020

Distinguished President Mazen,

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to attend the first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the G20 ACWG, we are gathering here for this ministerial meeting, not only to review history and draw wisdom, but also to build consensus and look to the future. China will support the endorsement of the ministerial communiqué and work with all parties to implement the consensus. Here, I would like to share with you three observations and suggestions.

Firstly, we should work in a coordinated way to combat corruption in COVID-19 response and recovery in light of the new situation. COVID-19 is the most serious infectious disease in the world for a century. The current pandemic is far from over and the challenges in the response and recovery efforts remain daunting. The anti-corruption agencies of all countries should exercise effective oversight and safeguard the implementation of response and recovery measures. China has coordinated the efforts in containing the pandemic and fighting corruption, paid much attention to the management and use of materials and funds, investigated and punished embezzlement, false claims and misappropriation to ensure fairness and transparency of the measures. China is willing to exchange with all G20 countries and learn from each other the good experience. On December 8 this year, China will hold an international workshop on integrity in COVID-19 response and recovery and you are welcome to participate in the workshop.

Secondly, we must stay committed to the fight against corruption and take effective measures to prevent and combat corruption. Preventing and combating corruption are always ongoing. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, the Central Committee with General Secretary XI Jinping as its core, has

followed the principle that there is no off-limits, no stone left unturned, and no tolerance shown for corruption, and build systems where officials dare not, can not and will not corrupt. In the first half of this year, the supervision organs nationwide filed 286,000 cases and sanctioned 240,000 officials, including 13 at ministerial-level. By the end of this August, the "Sky Net 2020" operation had brought back 799 fugitives, including 152 officials. China's efforts have been supported by all G20 member states. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all delegates present here today.

Third, we should further consolidate consensus and actively promote international cooperation against corruption. China holds the view that international anti-corruption cooperation should safeguard the authority of the UN, uphold multilateralism, sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs. All parties should implement G20 leaders' consensus on denying safe haven to corruption, and strengthen practical cooperation on pursuit of corrupt persons and asset recovery. All parties should not only maintain zero tolerance against corruption, but also actively build zero-loophole systems and conduct zero-barrier cooperation for win-win results. China appreciates and supports the Riyadh Initiative, and believes it will strongly promote the global anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In 2021, the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on "challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation" will be convened with a political declaration. China is willing to strengthen communication with all G20 members, contribute to the Special Session together to push forward the practical anti-corruption cooperation globally, foster a clean business environment and uphold the dignity of the law, social fairness and justice.

Thank you!

EGYPT – Chairman of the Administrative Control Authority

Major General Hassan Abdel Shafi

At the beginning, I would like to seize this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Mazen Ibrahim Al-Kahmous, Chairman of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority "Nazaha" of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Also, I would like to extend my thanks the Government of Saudi Kingdom for its generous invitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen representatives of Countries and Governments members of G20.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Arab Republic of Egypt appreciates the priorities of the Group of Twenty that aim to achieve macroeconomic stability, sustainable development and encourage environment for the flow of trade and investment. The belief of the G20 in the necessity of having a decisive standup against the phenomenon of corruption is clearly evident, moreover Egypt has been adopted an effective and coordinated policies to fight and eradicate corruption through inauguration the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,

We affirm our interest in exchanging experiences at the regional and international levels, in this respect, Egypt has honored to host the African Anti-Corruption Forum in 2019, in addition to the implementation of several training courses and workshops at the National Anti-Corruption Academy of the Administrative Control Authority, however there are still many challenges facing countries in the fields of asset recovery, international cooperation in criminal matters, as well as the technical assistance.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to seize this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its proactive and continuous cooperation. I also appreciate the

Office's report on corruption prevention in light of the Corona pandemic.

Also, Egypt is looking forward to more support from the G20 in the field of preventing and combating corruption, which will contribute to overcoming the biggest obstacles to development, achieving real change in the quality of life around the world and providing a way for everyone to seize the opportunities of the 21st Century.

We affirm our appreciation and support for “Riyadh’s Initiative towards Strengthening International Cooperation,” and we note that Egypt is looking forward to participating with its expertise and training capabilities through the National Anti-Corruption Academy.

Finally, the year 2021 will be an abounding in events related to the combating of corruption. Hence, for the first time, the UN General Assembly will be holding an exceptional session on the combating of corruption. Moreover, in 2021, Egypt will have the honor of hosting the 9th, Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption that will come in concurrence with the International Anti-Corruption Day.

In this context, the Arab Republic of Egypt calls on the G20 to think of the themes of “Corruption & Its Impact on Development & Economic Stability” to be the main topic of the coming convention so, the year 2021 will be a global challenge to corruption, and prompt response from the full spectrum of the International Community to stand up to corruption, which threatens the sustainable development of nations.

Thanks for listening, Peace be upon you

EUROPEAN UNION – Commissioner for Home Affairs

Ms. Ylva Johansson

[Check against delivery]

I. Intro

On behalf of the European Union, I thank the Presidency for your leadership in convening the first Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting.

I congratulate you for effectively steering the Working Group on Anti-Corruption during the current challenging times.

Corruption was already a problem before the COVID-19 crisis. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of strong governance and exposed areas vulnerable to corruption even more. I commend the work done by the Working Group also in this respect.

II. EU Priorities

The international community has long recognized how damaging corruption is. Corruption is the enemy of economic growth. Corruption is the abuse of power for private gain. Corruption is a threat to security. Corruption harms democracy, the rule of law, and good governance.

Over recent years, the EU has made important progress. We have put in place new legislation to combat money laundering, to protect persons reporting wrongdoings, to improve public procurement, and to recover criminal assets more efficiently.

We have introduced a package of measures on the protection of the EU financial interests. Including the new European Public Prosecutor's Office, with a mandate to investigate, prosecute and bring to judgment crimes against the EU budget.

But, there is no room for complacency. The European Commission will present major legislation in early 2021 to create a single rulebook and an EU supervisor for Anti-Money Laundering.

We will present a new EU strategy for fighting organised crime. And we will issue guidance on the role of public-private partnerships to enhance data sharing between the private sector and law enforcement authorities.

III. Existing and new avenues at a global level

For an effective fight against corruption, we need good international cooperation to prevent crime, investigate and prosecute cases, and confiscate and recover criminal assets.

The European Union attaches great importance to multilateralism. It is essential that we implement existing global and regional instruments, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the relevant Council of Europe Conventions, and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

The Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly dedicated to the fight against corruption, planned for June 2021, will be a great opportunity to advance the fight against corruption at global level.

And promoting a constructive and inclusive dialogue with civil society and the private sector is critically important for combatting corruption.

I look forward to our continued cooperation.

FRANCE – Minister Delegate for Public Accounts

Mr. Olivier Dussopt

FICHE INTERVENTION DU MINISTRE DÉLÉGUÉ CHARGÉ DES COMPTES PUBLICS	20/10/2020
<i>Réunion ministérielle du groupe anticorruption du G20, le 22 octobre 2020</i>	DG Trésor

Intervention en anglais

First of all, I would like to greet the Saudi presidency for its efficiency in leading the work of the working group ;

While the world is facing an unprecedented crisis, requiring recovery plans of unprecedented scale, the collective fight against corruption is a key factor for improving the effectiveness and the accountability of economic governanc. But this is not only a political challenge; fighting against corruption is as well a necessary condition for our common objective of an inclusive, sustainable and equitable growth for all.

France is fully committed in the fight against corruption and has significantly strengthened its monitoring framework, which now reaches the best international standards ;

We pay particular attention to the effectiveness of our national system. Since April, the French government has set up a Covid-19 Task Force to prevent the threats and vulnerabilities linked to the pandemic in terms of corruption, economic crime and money laundering. We welcome the efforts of the G20 in sharing national experiences in this area.

Fighting against corruption is a priority of our international agenda. In this regard, we consider the OECD Convention against Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions as one of the most effective tools in ensuring the level playing field in the international market. This is why, in line with our commitments and as we recalled in the ministerial communique, we need to keep on advocating all G20 countries to adhere the Convention in the near future. For those who have

already done it, we need to continue to deepen its implementation ;

I would like to commend Saudi Arabia's step forward who has expressed the wish to participate as an observer member in the OECD working group on bribery ;

I would like to greet as well the international organizations for maintaining standards against corruption at the highest level in their requirements ;

Finally, I take this opportunity to warmly welcome the civil society, NGO's, Academia and Business sector, for their participation and involvement in this fight, which concern us all.

GERMANY – Director at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection

Mr. Dirk Mirow

Statement
by the German representative at the
G20-Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting
22. October 2020

Check against delivery!

Chair!
Excellencies!

On behalf of the Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, I would like to thank the Saudi Arabian G20 Presidency for its leadership during the year and for convening this ministerial meeting which marks the tenth anniversary of the G20's Anti-Corruption Working Group.

It was good that in 2010, G20 leaders decided to make the fight against corruption a priority on their agenda and to establish a Working Group dedicated to anti-corruption. Over the last ten years, the Working Group has produced an impressive range of ambitious and robust anti-corruption standards, showing that the G20 are dedicated to leading by example and to making a difference in the fight against corruption.

The anti-corruption framework that the G20 have built needs to be backed up by our own ongoing commitment to adhering the highest standards of integrity in our daily political work, and to implementing and honouring in practice what we have laid down in our principles.

This conference gives us a unique opportunity to renew our political will to stop corruption. We must show leadership by being transparent and committed to the common good in our dealings with the private sector and business interests, by ensuring that corrupt officials and those who corrupt them are held to account and that the proceeds of corruption are recovered.

Over the last ten years, the G20 have on the whole been very successful in leading by example. There is, however, one critical

commitment that has not yet been fully implemented by all the G20 countries. This is the criminalization of foreign bribery which – under the United Nations Convention against Corruption – is mandatory and binding for every G20 country. Germany therefore very much welcomes the fact that this year, the G20 countries have agreed to demonstrate concrete efforts towards criminalizing foreign bribery by 2021.

In these current times of crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and marked by corruption risks in connection with the financial support provided to fight this pandemic, a multilateral and coordinated response to prevent and combat corruption is more urgent than ever. In our fight against corruption, we must rely on a combination of crime prevention and criminal justice responses, as well as on international cooperation in criminal matters, while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Constructive and inclusive dialogue with civil society and the private sector is also essential for successfully combating corruption. Equally important is the role of a free and independent media – in particular, the job done by journalists and media workers. Independent and pluralistic media and civil society actors are vital for combating corruption. They can shine a light on corrupt practices in both the public and private sector.

Today, we endorse a declaration that includes an impressive number of principles and papers developed by the Anti-Corruption Working Group. I would like to close by thanking the Saudi G20 Presidency and Italy –who co-chaired the Working Group– for their relentless efforts and leadership and the international organisations for their invaluable support in preparing these outcomes.

INDIA – Minister of State for Personal, Public Grievances and Pensions

Mr. Jitendra Singh

Speech of Hon'ble MOS (PP) at the 1st ACWG Ministerial 22nd October 2020

Hon'ble Chairman of the session, Hon'ble Ministers at this meeting and respected member of various G20 countries. A very warm Namaste from India. At the outset it's my proud privilege to congratulate the presidency Saudi Arabia and the organizers for holding this G20 meeting which is the first of its kind, in the sense that it is happening at the Ministerial level, the meeting of the Anti Corruption Working Group and this is in fact also a reiteration of the resolve of the group to carry on this movement against corruption notwithstanding the constraints of the circumstances that we face currently.

For the past several months, as all of us know the world is confronted with an unusual epidemic which is the first of its kind, one was not prepared for it. But while India along with the world is fighting it out valiantly, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, trying to spread across the world the mantra of maintaining a physical distance of 2 meters and wearing a mask to cover the faces, at the same time, the show goes on. It is gratifying to note that the Anti Corruption Working Group of the G20 has held this meeting under the shadow of the COVID pandemic. They are sending out a message loud and clear across the world that even COVID cannot deter our fight, our crusade to eradicate corruption.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it also gives me an opportunity to highlight India's commitment and India's resolve against corruption and to reiterate that India, under Prime Minister Modi, is committed to eradicate corruption. Over the last 6 years, ever since Narendra Modi took over the head of the state, there have been a number of the paths breaking measures in the direction of the eradication of corruption.

It was in the beginning of this government's tenure, that the Prime Minister gave us the mantra of 'maximum governance, minimum government', which essentially envisages our 'zero tolerance towards corruption' along with, of course, transparency and increasing citizen centricity.

This has been evident from the fact that India's Prevention of Corruption Act, which came into being the year 1988, was amended for the first time after 30 years, to live up to the commitments which are also close to the heart of the member countries of this group and a number of new provisions were incorporated, one of which was aimed at checking the Act against Corporate Bribery, and checking the vicarious liability; so that the actual Bribe Giver could also be exposed and there could be a penalty not only for the Bribe taker but for the Bribe Giver as well.

At the same time, it was in the recent 2 years, that the office of the Lokpal was operationalized in India, in order to keep a check on corruption in high places including the first line of governance.

Therefore, as I said, as my government moves forward in its crusade to achieve the ultimate target of 'zero tolerance against corruption'. I am sure I speak for everyone in India, that we share with the distinguished delegates attending this meeting, the emerging challenge of Fugitive Economic Offenders and Assets. India's Economic Offenders Act was brought in 2018 and empowers the authorities for Non-conviction-based attachment and confiscation of proceeds of crime and properties and assets of a Fugitive Economic Offender.

The member delegates would bear with me and endorse when I say that another challenge faced by all of us is that the accused takes shelter in foreign country and concedes the proceeds of Bribe. The legal structure spread across the countries would also have to reorient themselves accordingly and therefore in this regard, India shares the concern of the other member countries of the G20 group. I, on behalf of my government, and on behalf of the people of India, convey my appreciation to the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group which has sought to bring together the opinion of the international organizations to take the fight ahead in this direction and also in the right direction.

To conclude I would just sum up by saying that India has been, by tradition and by legacy, the land of Gandhi, the land of Buddha, the land of Apostles of honesty, truth and peace and Prime Minister Modi is seeking to carry forward the same legacy with a reinforced Commitment across the Globe. Therefore, India's commitment against corruption can be no less and can be no otherwise.

I conclude by wishing the G20 community to carry forward its steadfast and strong commitment to combat the menace of

corruption and I congratulate Saudi Arabia for the successful Chairmanship of G20 in 2020 and look forward to work with Italy in 2021.

Thank you, Dhanyawad

INDONESIA – Chairman of Corruption Eradication Commission

Mr. Firli Bahuri

**STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF KPK AT THE
G20 ANTI-CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP MINISTERIAL
MEETING
22 October 2020**

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates

1. Allow me to thank Saudi Arabia for its leadership in guiding us through the tenth anniversary of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, at a time where almost every aspect of our society has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathies for the tragic loss of lives and suffering caused by the pandemic. In the spirit of solidarity, my delegation reiterates Indonesia's commitment to continued collective and coordinated action to combat corruption in the global effort to address the ensuing challenges.

Mr. President,

3. I would like to underline that corruption prevention remains high on the Indonesian government's agenda, which has been translated into numerous policies involving all national ministries and local governments.

4. In order to maintain transparency, we also invite public participation in monitoring the progress of each program implemented as a result of these policies.

5. Each anti-corruption program that we have implemented since March 2020, has been prepared by taking into account our response to the COVID-19 crisis. So far, Indonesia has allocated US\$ 47 billion for the pandemic handling and recovery efforts.

6. However, recognizing that each program could be vulnerable to corruption, we continuously promote the use of advanced technologies to capture, analyse, and share data to prevent, detect, and deter corrupt behaviour in the use of the budget.

7. We are also committed to ensuring that law enforcement agencies re-double their efforts to investigate and prosecute corruption, in order to mitigate disruptive effects caused by the crisis.

8. The pandemic has reminded us of the growing importance of beneficial ownership transparency as well as the need to establish an international system to facilitate information exchange on beneficial ownership.

Distinguished delegates,

9. International Cooperation is essential and Indonesia has been actively engaged in the fields of extradition and mutual legal assistance, including to recover assets from abroad.

10. Successful cooperation is possible when requested countries make genuine efforts to understand the challenges faced by requesting countries, with a view to assisting them by opening channels of effective communication.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. As part of Indonesia's preparation for the G20 presidency in 2023, we look forward to exploring measures to prevent corruption through anti-corruption education, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption authorities, in line with the spirit of the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies.

12. To conclude my remarks, I would like to share our belief that it is timely for the G20 to continue to seek concrete solutions in addressing corruption, to achieve the common vision of a world free of corruption.

13. I thank you.

JORDAN – Chairman of the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission

Mr. Muhannad Hijazi

You're Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished guests and Colleagues,

First of all, it is my sincere pleasure to thank G20 and the Government of Saudi Arabia for the kind invitation to participate in this meeting,

Whilst more, allow me to express our deepest condolences and sympathies to those who have been affected by COVID19.

We are also thrilled to congratulate you on the tenth anniversary of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG).

We do appreciate being a part of this meaningful and influential Initiative effort in communicating and supporting political and economic stability in all regions of the world.

It's absolutely obvious that the great progressive work done by the leadership of this conference, reflects the seriousness of the government of Saudi Arabia to eliminate the scourge of corruption and exchange international experiences related toward combating and preventing corruption as well as increasing international efforts to reduce the damage caused by corruption which affects the security and stability of developing societies and their economy.

Dear Colleagues,

Jordan participation in this international event is an expression of the government's willingness to actively participate in such events, and explore international best practices launched against corruption and implementing the best means of its prevention.

Ever since the announcement of its ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption in 2005, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has sought to adapt the requirements of the agreement in line with its National Legislations.

The G20 will continue to lead the global fight against corruption through demonstrating and promoting leadership, utilizing effective governance, and accelerating practical implementation of anti-corruption commitments, by addressing a set of High-Level Principles endorsed by G20 leaders.

The role that Saudi Arabia takes this year to enhance the informal cooperation between the countries is related to Asset recovery; since Tracing, freezing / seizing, confiscating and returning the proceeds of corruption are usually a difficult and lengthy process, involving multiple jurisdictions and routinely involves technical, legal or political processes. Recognizing the need to facilitate the recovery of corrupt proceeds, asset recovery efforts have been guided by the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) allocated Chapter 5 to talk about asset recovery, preventing and disclosing transfers of proceeds from the crime.

Attention to asset recovery has been crowned by several bilateral initiatives and agreements among states, including the Star Initiative in cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank. Also, the importance of informal cooperation has been highlighted in several international treaties such as, United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards.

This initiative is a joint effort to help states activate provisions related to recovery of the proceeds of corruption to develop the ability to respond to requests for mutual international legal assistance, adopt and implement effective confiscation procedures, including legislation based on no conviction, enhance the transparency and responsibility of public financial management systems, and to help monitor refunds If requested by states.

In this regard, we, in Jordan, believe this will be an effective next step towards strengthening cross-border law enforcement cooperation, and hereby welcome the launch of the Riyadh Initiative.

Dear Colleagues,,

For it is absolutely obvious that the COVID-19 pandemic is considered an exceptional event on the international level, Jordan has found itself obliged to resort to exceptional legislation as well

as to activate it in order for the state institutions to be able to deal with the crises, and accordingly, the Defence Law of 1992 has been activated. It is stipulated in its second article that can be activated within certain cases, including the spread of a specific epidemic.

Jordan, as an identical case to many countries', takes into consideration that crises are usually an opportunity to violate the standards of integrity and the rule of law, which is one of the most important of such standards, especially with regard to drug bids and public safety tools related to health.

Finally, I would like to thank all G20 leaders for their efforts to fight corruption, and the government of Saudi Arabia for their invitation and for the great efforts it has devoted in preparing its work to make it a success. We also appreciate the work done on the survey of G20 countries, which will form the basis for a Compendium of Good Practices on Combating Corruption in responding to COVID-19.

No one can deny that the Riyadh Initiative network undoubtedly holds the potential to unlock progress in stamping out corruption and recovering stolen assets, building on what we have achieved through the UN Convention against Corruption.

We, in Jordan, are fully convinced that this meeting will be a constructive and effective step to contribute to eliminating corruption, reducing its effects and realizing the aspirations sustaining the hopes of our peoples for progress, reform and growth.

Thank you for Listening,

Muhannad Hijazi
Chairman
Jordan Integrity and Anti-corruption Commission

MEXICO – Minister of Public Administration

Dr. Irma Eréndira Sandoval Ballesteros

FIRST MEETING OF THE G20 ANTI-CORRUPTION MINISTERS
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, October 22, 2020

MEXICO ´S STATEMENT

Irma Eréndira Sandoval Ballesteros, PhD.
Minister of Public Administration

SALUTATIONS

- Chair, Ministers and Anti-corruption authorities,
- I am honoured to represent Mexico, while it's undergoing a historical change, the fourth transformation of our polity.

STATEMENT

And it is precisely our fight against corruption and the restoration of integrity in the public sphere, what marks the essence of such revolution.

Corruption cannot be taken as an exclusive problem of the public sector and the State should not be perceived as the only scenario of corruption. It is in the intertwined relationship between public and private spheres where we find the foundation of this problem, that affects both developed and developing countries.

Corruption is a form of public domination and social disempowerment. It is an institutional and political problem that requires structural solutions: empowering citizens, reducing impunity, and strengthening democracy.

In Mexico, corruption was strongly linked to privatization and deregulation. The so-called "neoliberalism" was not an economic project but a political one, benefiting a few in the top, while taking heavy toll on society, increasing inequality, state capture, and poverty.

Currently, Mexico is fighting corruption by fostering citizen participation, transparency, and accountability. The Government of Mexico implements cross-sectoral policies and strategies aimed at reducing corruption and impunity, in line with the provisions of the Merida Convention.

We have reallocated public resources that were lost to corruption to meet social welfare needs in favour of the most vulnerable population, especially in this difficult time, due to the COVID pandemic.

For the last months, we strengthened transparency and promoted open data policies. We increased the oversight of public procurement processes to tackle the health emergency, launched new platforms to simplify citizens' reports of corruption, and ensure that private sector performs with ethics and integrity.

CONCLUSIONS

As members of the G20 our countries must lead by example in preventing private interests from taking precedence over public ones.

The Ministerial Communiqué we have stated includes important commitments and strategies, valuable products that clearly reflect the power of international cooperation against corruption and impunity.

I congratulate Saudi Arabia's presidency for its leadership in the G20 this year and I reaffirm Mexico's commitment to the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group to the Italian presidency in 2021.

Thank you.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA – Commissioner in the Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission

Mr. Euywhan Kim

Ministers, members of the G20 ACWG

I am grateful to Saudi Arabia, the chair of the 1st Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting, for showing its leadership in this difficult year.

Please allow me to speak some different views from my colleagues before me.

Despite the progress of the last ten years, I am wondering whether many anti-corruption conferences, declarations, doctrines and principles that we agreed, are really providing practical and feasible solutions for reducing corruption. Furthermore, many governments call for 'Zero Tolerance'. However, this would be empty rhetoric if it is not accompanied by strong political will and actual action. Accordingly, what matters most would be not about making more to-do lists, but about getting results. Question is how to make the anti-corruption systemwork in the countries where corruption still happens severely.

Therefore, I hope that the G20 Anti-Corruption working group as well as Ministerial Meeting will be focused on sharing anti-corruption outcomes and concrete solutions that will bring the practical achievements rather than introducing each country's anti-corruption policies and listing tasks. Otherwise, they will be just wasting time and money by talking same topics repeatedly, no progress no outcomes!

In this regard, I am confident what Korea has achieved over the past decades will be a good model for most developing countries not only in the area of economy but preventing corruption. This is because Korea was one of the few developing countries that achieved world-class economic growth and high level of transparency in the public sector out of the extreme poverty and rampant corruption. It would be difficult to deny that the ACRC, the Korean anti-corruption agency, has played an important role to such a big progress of Korea. In particular, Korea has developed world-top class ICT and spread it to the public as well as the private sector, dramatically improving the transparency of the whole country, will be of great help in preventing corruption in many

countries. For your understanding, Korea was ranked first and rarely second place on the ICT Development Index (IDI) during the last ten years.

As the best ICT based preventive measure against corruption, e-procurement which Korea started as early as 1980's would be one that many governments can easily adopt to prevent corruption. The reason I emphasize the e-procurement is because this is something that can have a real impact on preventing and detecting corruption in a sector that accounts for up to 20% of countries GDPs. According to the Jakarta Post today, average 13% of GDP is spent on government purchase. I think this will be useful to my colleagues in Indonesia.

As of 2019, over 83.3% of Korea's public procurement was traded through its e-procurement system, and Korea was ranked first on the e-government development index in 2010, 2012, and 2014 and also on the e-participation index in 2018.

In my view, it would be much better to establish new ICT systems in the government than maintain thousands of corrupt officials in that ICT will make unnecessary for citizens to meet government officials face to face any more. For a good example, the UK has funded and initiated the FairBiz project with UNDP. The FairBiz project has been promoting a fair biz environment in the south East Asia through five platforms including Procurement.

As all the G20 members are sharply aware, G20 High-Level Principles for Promoting Public Sector Integrity through the Use of ICT is one of the important agenda of the 2020 G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. Therefore, more attention and collaboration from and among G20 countries by harnessing their resources and strengths on ICT and anti-corruption will benefit not only G20 but also non-G20 countries in the future.

In addition, I would suggest that the G20 members will look at carefully the new technologies such as Blockchain, AI, advanced data analytics that could be brought to national Public Procurement agencies and beyond in order to prevent and detect corruption in public tenders.

I believe that new technologies based on ICT and digitalization will greatly contribute to overcoming the limitations of traditional anti-corruption policies and law enforcement based on mostly prosecution and punishment.

Now, I will finish my presentation introducing the 19th IACC which will be held virtually from Dec 1 to 4, 2020. This event is co-hosted by the ACRC Korea and the Transparency International. I have no doubt the conference will become all the more meaningful with the participation of the G20 ACWG.

Thank you for your attention.

RUSSIA – Head of the Directorate of the President of the Russian Federation for the Issues of Countering Corruption

Mr. Andrey Chobotov

Distinguished Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the high level of organization of the G20 Anti-corruption working group in this challenging time.

Today we have convened for the first time in this new format. It is no coincidence that the Officials in charge of elaborating and implementing of anti-corruption policies began to interact directly in the year that marks the tenth anniversary after the G20 first viewed anti-corruption issues. Now the anti-corruption activities of the G20 have covered the key economic and political issues and anti-corruption cooperation is always on the leaders` agenda. The ACWG, founded ten years ago, was a response to the G20 intention to leverage new integration formats and anti-corruption mechanisms.

The passed decade proved that the ACWG remains relevant and highly sought.

Today it is an effective instrument of coordinating the anti-corruption efforts of our countries acting on the consensus principles and allowing for an open, constructive discussion of any acute and indeed significant issues in a non-politicized manner.

We hope that a new format, which is a ministerial interaction, will make a considerable contribution to the global response to the corruption threat.

The G20 ACWG has traditionally tended to go beyond conventional frameworks of international cooperation, discover new topics, the study of which requires a collective approach. Elaborating High-level principles, drafting good practices compendia on different anti-corruption aspects strengthened the anti-corruption cooperation capacities.

The G20 role in comprehensive anti-corruption aspects and anti-corruption efforts is predicated on «lead by example» principle, which we have tried to stick to over the past ten years.

Our collective experience consolidates and makes a great contribution to anti-corruption efforts of other global forums.

This year we are glad to welcome the initiative of Saudi Arabia to strengthen the expert potential of the ACWG through engaging the academia. On our part we are ready to continue to pursue the practice of showing presentations made by Russian experts.

We believe that there will be an important center of anti-corruption expert opinion, which cooperates with ACWG, and it is the International Anti-Corruption Academy.

I would like to say that the ACWG reflects our efforts to fight against corruption and our collective best practices help us effectively fight against this evil within our country.

Recent G20 anti-corruption achievements are factored in by Russia while developing a new National anti-corruption action plan for 2021-2023, which is by tradition approved by the President of the Russian Federation, who at the same time presides over the Council for countering corruption.

We hope to further strengthen our interaction within the G20 to counter corruption next year under the Italian presidency.

We share the priorities declared by Italy, which will be the ACWG chair next year, including countering corruption in sport, developing a scientific evidence-based corruption measuring tool and links between organized crime and corruption.

We are ready to closely cooperate with our Italian colleagues to implement these priorities.

Distinguished Mr. President!

Let me once again thank Saudi Arabia for good organisation of the G20 work. In this challenging time of the pandemic Saudi colleagues managed to maintain a high professional level of work and organisation of the G20 that matches the scope of its tasks.

And finally I would like to express my gratitude to the participants of the ACWG for the work done and wish everyone success.

Thank you.

RWANDA / NEPAD – Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Mr. Johnston BUSINGYE

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
G20 – ANTI-CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP MINISTERIAL
MEETING 22/10/2020

Honourable Chairperson;

Honourable Ministers;

Distinguished delegates;

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my great honour and pleasure to join you today at this G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Ministerial Meeting.

On behalf of NEPAD and the Republic of Rwanda, I would like to extend my best compliments to the Chairperson of this Meeting and the Host Country for their distinguished leadership demonstrated from the beginning of this G20 - meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The G20 forum exerts great influence in global politics and takes the lead in development, initiation and implementation of socio – economic projects.

Building on this global influence, I am certainly convinced that eradicating corruption is something achievable in the near future, because it is at the core of G20 principles and aspirations.

Proposed resolutions contained in the Draft Ministerial Communique and the Riyadh Initiative, are a clear testimony that fighting corruption is one of core missions of the G20.

Ladies and gentlemen,

African countries, like other countries in the world, have set economic development goals and targets. NEPAD, which Rwanda

represents at this meeting, is a Development Agency whose mandate is to coordinate and execute priority and continental projects to promote regional integration, among others.

We however acknowledge that economic development can never be achieved without strong and effective mechanisms to fight corruption.

In particular, the Republic of Rwanda has made modest strides aiming at minimizing and ultimately eradicating corruption. Measures put in place through policies and legal frameworks always bear fruits as testified to by various Corruption Perceptions Indexes, which, consistently, have ranked Rwanda among least corrupt countries. A few measures we have instituted include:

- Empowering the Specialized national corruption body (Ombudsman's office) with investigative and prosecutorial powers;
- Making corruption offences imprescriptible;
- Establishment and monitoring the implementation of the Leadership Code of Conduct;
- Making use of the access to information Law;
- Receiving and verifying assets of Government Officials and other Public Servants that the law obliges to declare;
- Creation of Anti-Corruption Clubs, composed of Youth in secondary schools and in higher learning institutions;
- Establishment of the National Advisory Council to fight against corruption and injustice (Public Institutions, Civil Society Representative and Private Sector ...). This forum deals with serious matters on the prevention of corruption and injustice;
- Publication of the list of persons definitively convicted for the crime of corruption;
- Promoting Public Sector Integrity through the Use of ICT (e-justice, e-procurement, e-recruitment, e-payment to mention but a few).

Ladies and gentlemen,

We all know that corruption is the enemy of economic development. It robs funds destined to developmental projects, infrastructure, schools, hospitals, and other services.

Corruption is however, one of the most complex and sophisticated crimes which, in most cases, involves more than one country. This is why fighting corruption requires concerted efforts by all countries. Efforts by one country would be futile if criminals are granted safe havens in other countries.

International cooperation, through mutual legal assistance and other frameworks, is of paramount importance and should be encouraged.

We believe that the idea proposed in the Riyadh Initiative, of creating a Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, will usher in more cohesion on a global scale and will be an even more effective and coordinated way of fighting corruption and bringing criminals to book.

To conclude, Ladies and gentlemen

I trust that this G20 meeting is a useful platform to exchange ideas and make decisions that have far reaching impact in the global arena. Effective implementation of proposed resolutions in the Ministerial Communique and other documents should be everyone's responsibility.

On behalf of NEPAD, and the Republic of Rwanda in particular, we commit to do our fair share towards achieving a corruption free society.

SINGAPORE – Director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau

Mr. Denis Tang

Statement by Director/CPIB

At the Inaugural G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Ministerial Meeting, 22 October 2020

1 Good afternoon Chairman, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. As the Director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau of Singapore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Saudi Presidency and the Italian co-chair for your hard work in organising this Ministerial Meeting during these difficult times caused by COVID-19.

2 As Singapore's sole anti-corruption agency, CPIB is committed to investigating bribery offences across the public and private sectors in Singapore, and into Singaporeans committing acts of bribery overseas. We continue to leverage the strong political will to fight corruption, since the times of our founding fathers, to set a solid foundation of effective governance and strong corruption control and legislative framework. In our recent Public Perception Survey conducted with over 1000 members of the public, an overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated that corruption is firmly under control in Singapore and they are confident in CPIB's anti-corruption efforts. The survey results also underscored political determination to stamp out corruption and heavy punishment for corruption offences as the two most important factors contributing to the low corruption rate in Singapore.

3 In this day and age, there has been an unprecedented acceleration in the use of technology to conduct corrupt transactions surreptitiously. Given the globalised nature of our financial systems, international cooperation and partnerships are essential in tackling corruption. On this note, I wish to state that Singapore remains committed to the implementation of the UNCAC, which forms the bedrock of our international engagements. Elsewhere, CPIB is an active participant in key international and regional anti-corruption fora, such as this G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption

Initiative for Asia-Pacific, APEC ACTWG and the ASEAN-Parties Against Corruption.

4 Singapore is committed to combatting corruption through multilateral efforts. An example is our active involvement in the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) based in London. The IACCC brings together law enforcement officers from various agencies around the world into a single location to enhance information sharing in strengthening the global efforts against grand corruption.

5 Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are happy to see that the Ministerial Declaration has been endorsed during this meeting, which will no doubt ensure that the G20 continues to lead by example in the global fight against corruption. On this note, we would like to state our unwavering support for the Ministerial Declaration and our full commitment in contributing to the international efforts to combat corruption.

6 Thank you and we wish all a very fruitful Ministerial Meeting. Do stay safe and stay well.

SOUTH AFRICA – Minister for the Public Service and Administration

Mr. Senzo Mchunu

G20 ANTI-CORRUPTION MINISTERS MEETING
22 OCTOBER 2020
MINISTER'S INTERVENTION NOTES

Chairperson,

Allow me to join those who spoke before me and congratulate you on chairing the first meeting of the G20 Ministers responsible for anti-corruption. Greetings to my counterparts from other G20 Countries and representatives of the International Organisations represented in this august gathering.

Chairperson,

My delegation passes its condolences to the global community and members of the G20 on the loss of lives from COVID-19. I hope we will all gather strength in time and be able to recover from this disaster.

On behalf of my delegation, I take this opportunity to congratulate the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group on its tenth anniversary. The work of this Working Group remains relevant as COVID-19 exposed the gaps in the anti-corruption infrastructure in our countries. We appreciate the work that the Working Group carried out in developing a compendium of good practices in responding to COVID-19 and future pandemics. Future work of the Working Group in this regard should focus on measures to increase transparency in procurement processes, and protecting whistle-blowers who risk their lives by shining the spotlight on corrupt dealings.

Chairperson,

South Africa reiterates its commitment to the implementation of all the chapters of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). It is sad that on all international platforms we recommit to co-operating with each other yet on the ground, there is little progress in this regard. We urge fellow G20 Countries to lead by example in affording one another wider measures of co-operation in the recovery of assets and law enforcement. Next time when we meet in this fashion, we should be reporting on

progress of how we practically co-operated amongst ourselves as G20 Countries in this area. How much (in terms of assets) have we returned to each other, how much have we done in helping each other to extradite criminals to face the full might of the law in those countries where they have broken the law. While we respect territorial integrity, my challenge is about doing more than talking.

With those words my delegation is looking forward to endorsing the Ministerial Communique and the accompanying documents and reiterates our commitment to ensuring effective use of the products of this Working Group to enhance our measures to prevent and combat corruption.

Thank you.

SPAIN – Minister of Justice

Mr. Juan Carlos Campo Moreno

G20 Anti-Corruption Minister Meeting – 22 October 2020
SPAIN

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

Let me begin by showing my gratitude to the Saudi Presidency for arranging the first G20 anti-corruption meeting at ministerial level.

I hope we can meet in person when the public health situation allows it.

Spain very much appreciates the work completed by the G20 anti-corruption working group ever since the Jakarta meeting in 2010 to date.

The first Action Plan against corruption encompassed key areas where significant results have been achieved during the last decade such as:

- UN Convention Against Corruption and its review mechanism;
- international bribery criminalization and OECD standards;
- money laundering;
- mutual legal assistance;
- assets recovery;
- protection of whistleblowers; and
- prevention of corruption in the public sector;

I believe the group has achieved its objectives.

The reports of this group have been invaluable in the global fight against corruption, and the dialogue it has fostered with the private sector and civil society has been an invaluable resource.

We now have a unique opportunity to develop the group's future work through the upcoming 2022-2024 Action Plan, building upon these results. The group could focus on three main areas:

- information sharing;
- the use of technology to prevent and detect corruption and
- assets recovery;

The Ministry of Justice is currently working on a comprehensive plan, Justice 2030, whose axes are the ones I have just mentioned.

Without transparency in the exchange of information, guaranteed by a modern and digitalized system, we cannot finish with corruption.

I believe it is essential that information both public and private be truthful and inalterable, within the framework of a legal system guaranteeing data protection. Digitalization will be basic to achieve this objective.

In addition, the fight against corruption must have positive consequences for society as a whole and I am not referring merely to the investigation, prosecution and punishment of offenders. I consider it basic that the benefits of organised crime and corruption revert to society.

In order to achieve this, Spain created the Office for the Recovery and Management of Assets, which seeks to suffocate organised crime by locating, managing and seizing property and proceeds derived from criminal activities with the ultimate aim of enabling these assets to specifically benefit society.

In this way, we move from a vicious circle, in which criminal proceeds perpetuate organised crime, to a virtuous circle, in which we all gain.

The Spanish authorities are committed to the fight against corruption at both the international and the national level.

Anti-corruption and integrity related policies are at the forefront of the political debate.

In Spain, we managed to build a strengthened anticorruption framework, both preventive and repressive, which has resulted in convictions in high profile cases.

Additional efforts will be specified in an integral strategy in the fight against corruption that I hope I will be submitting to you shortly.

To conclude, I would like to convey to the Saudi Presidency and to the future Italian Presidency the continued commitment of the Spanish government.

Thank you very much for your attention.

SWITZERLAND – Secretary of State, President of the International Working Group on Combating Corruption

Stefan Estermann

G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting
October 22, 2020
SWITZERLAND

Intervention by Secretary of State Stefan Estermann,
President of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Combating
Corruption

Mr. Chair
Dear Ministers
Ladies and Gentlemen

We want to thank the Saudi G20 presidency for its leadership, hard work and its steady focus on delivering results even during times of a global crisis.

I would like to congratulate the presidency - and the Anti-Corruption Working Group as a whole - on having successfully transformed so many deliverables into accomplishments.

Switzerland is very glad to see that the G20 remains committed to leading by example, and that it acts in step with multilateral organizations. The list of the Group's on-going anti-corruption priorities remains a long and ambitious one. From a Swiss perspective, I would like to highlight three priorities.

The first is criminalizing foreign bribery. This is a collective action challenge that requires the participation of all major economies across the globe. The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention offers a solid platform for those willing to move forward. Not only does it build mutual trust in fair competition; it consolidates the foundations of a level playing field. And Switzerland very much welcomes Saudi Arabia's step towards accession to the Convention!

Secondly, Switzerland attaches great importance to private sector and NGO integrity, and particularly to the governance of international sports organizations. We believe in a partnership approach that embraces all stakeholders and encourages reform while respecting the autonomy of the sport movement. And we

thank Italy for keeping this item on the G20 agenda because this will encourage further progress.

Thirdly, the recovery, return and disposal of stolen assets remains a top priority for Switzerland. We see the UN Convention Against Corruption as a tried and tested framework for recovering the proceeds of corruption. Rather than looking for new instruments, we see merit in better implementing the existing ones, and further exploring the practical steps that lead to successful outcomes in complex cases.

Mr. Chair

Times of crisis are opportunities for learning. One of the most salient learnings is that a Government relies on the trust of the citizens. Trust greatly facilitates governance in times of crisis, and it can be seriously undermined by corruption scandals.

We are therefore grateful to the G20 and to the Anti-Corruption Working Group for its Call to action on corruption and COVID-19, and we hope that this call will be heard around the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TURKEY – Deputy General Director of the General Directorate of Foreign Relations and European Union

Ms. Hatice Seval Arslan

G20 ANTI-CORRUPTION MINISTERIAL MEETING

First of all, I would like to express my deep sadness for the terrible losses of lives and the great pain and suffering caused by COVID-19 pandemic across the globe.

I would like to appreciate the Saudi Arabian Presidency and Italy, the Co-Chair of the G20 for their efforts in ensuring that the works are running smoothly despite the pandemic, and that there is a quick adaptation to the new situation and thereby exerting efforts to address the problems caused by the global outbreak.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which caused unprecedented social and economic fractures, has once again revealed the importance of anti-corruption efforts in all fields.

This situation has demonstrated the significance of the existence of Anti-Corruption Working Group, which we are commemorating the 10th Anniversary, and also further increased the responsibilities of the Group.

The “Ministerial Communiqué”, drafted for the first time, has touched upon various subjects including but not limited to the current challenges which are of key importance.

Let me express that the works of this Group, assuming a leading role internationally in the field of anti-corruption, are one of the significant tools enlightening our way forward and guiding us in this struggle.

For this reason, as Turkey, while we are fulfilling our national obligations and bearing in mind that anti-corruption requires effective cooperation on an international scale, we provide a strong support and active contribution to the efforts in this field, first and foremost to the G20.

I would like to stress once again the requirement of cooperation and solidarity among the countries with a view to attaining our

ultimate aim of ensuring a strong, sustainable and inclusive growth for all nations.

We, as Turkey, have great pleasure in contributing to the “Ministerial Communiqué” which demonstrates our determination to combat corruption and which can set an example and provides support to all countries in this struggle.

While concluding my words, I wish every success to Italy in advance, which will take over the Term Presidency for 2021, and wish you all good health and happiness.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATIS – President of State Audit Institution

Dr. Harib bin Saeed Al Amimi

H.E Dr. Harib Al-Amimi Speech for the Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting

Thank you Mr Chairman,

Your Excellences, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It's an honour to speak here today and to affirm the United Arab Emirates' strong partnership with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as it presides at the 2020 G20 Summit.

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their distinctive work in hosting this Summit and to congratulate Your Excellency on convening the Ministerial Anti-Corruption Meeting for the first time at the G20 level.

We wholeheartedly supports the G20 Anti-Corruption priority of preventing and fighting corruption. We would like to point out that the UAE remains committed to prevent and fight corruption and has made great strides in confronting corruption through the enactment of legislation and laws to be consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Moreover, we would like to share some of UAE's initiative in that manner:

During the UAE chairmanship of INTOSAI, we focused on strengthening the strategic relationship between the INTOSAI and the UN. Especially, in the fight against corruption by introducing the idea of signing a memorandum of understanding between INTOSAI and UNODC. In order to respond to newly emerging issues in the fields of anti-corruption, and that will contribute on the achievement of SDGSDG 16. Which will serve the performance of government in effective public financial management, corruption risk mitigation, finding areas of common interest and exploring working practice that can mutually benefit both parties.

As host of the 8th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the United Nation Convention Against-Corruption-COSP, December

2019 UAE launched for the first time ever an initiative as the first step in activating the MOU via convening a side meeting during COSP with participation from INTOSAI SG, UNODC, SAs and Anti-Corruption Authorities-ACAs. COSP endorsed Abu Dhabi Declaration, which can be seen as a direct reflection of the main objectives of the MOU, a groundbreaking achievement and a legal instrument that calls main common goals.

In my capacity as chair of COSP I would like to encourage this gathering to consider the followings:

- As fight against corruption lies at the heart of Summit priorities, countries should be more determined in tackling corruption.
- Governments need to be more agile, resilient and gain momentum in their commitments towards the implementation of anti-corruption policies.
- As many Governments struggled to fight against the global pandemic COVID-19, taking swift and unprecedented measures to protect citizens it has been proven again that equitable and sustainable global growth and development seems impossible unless we unite to fight corruption.
- G20 Summit aims to foster international action to realize opportunities of the 21st century for all. In order to achieve this effectively and efficiently, governments should start from fighting corruption.

Once again, I would like to reiterate the UAE's deep appreciation for the invitation to participate in the 2020 G20 Summit and, we look forward to continue working closely with all our partners in the upcoming forums.

Thank you.

UNITED KINGDOM – Minister of State for Security

Rt Hon. James Brokenshire

Excellencies, Mr Chairperson and distinguished guests. I have great pleasure in representing the UK at today's inaugural Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting. We are grateful to Saudi Arabia for successfully leading the G20 through a challenging year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight on the costs of corruption. It diverts resources away from vital services, costing lives. It slows the economic recovery and, equally damaging, can undermine citizens' trust in our institutions.

I appreciate the G20's leadership in agreeing the COVID-19 Call to Action we are endorsing today. Now, more than ever, we need to stand united and to take global leadership in the fight against bribery and corruption.

In the UK we have long understood that corruption threatens our security, our prosperity and our institutions. And we recognise the need for action at home, combined with collective international action.

We place great importance on implementing international standards including, the UN Convention Against Corruption, the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and the Financial Action Task Force standards. I urge all G20 countries to uphold these standards and to work with others to promote them.

The UK views non-state actors, including civil society and the private sector, as vital partners in securing sustained change. We have good experience of partnering that we are happy to share.

We champion transparency. We see greater transparency of ownership and control of assets as vital for tracking criminality through the international financial system. I hope other countries will work with us to strengthen this.

In line with these principles the UK has taken robust action to tackle bribery, corruption and all forms of economic crime, guided by our UK Economic Crime Plan and the UK Anti-Corruption Strategy.

But we cannot make real progress without working internationally and the G20 has a vital role.

The anti-corruption outputs of this year's G20 represent real progress.

However, we must not rest on our laurels. As we look ahead to the Italian Presidency, now is the time to drive this work forward and to deliver real change.

We must lead by example, pushing for action on the issues highlighted in the COVID-19 Call to Action: strengthening transparency (especially in data, procurement and beneficial ownership), as well as strengthening oversight and governance more generally.

We must work towards greater implementation of the key international standards, encouraging jurisdictions which present global risks to implement them. We must focus on the blockages to international cooperation as the proposed economic crime workstream seeks to do.

We must use the platforms that 2021 presents, especially the UN Special Session on Anti-Corruption, to strengthen our global commitment to change.

We are living in challenging times. Our collective responsibility is greater. But so are the opportunities for real change. Let's embrace that and drive global progress towards strengthened integrity.

UNITED STATES – Acting Under Secretary State for Civilian Securities, Democracy, and Human Rights, U.S. Department of State

Ambassador Nathan A. Sales

G20 Ministerial Meeting on Anticorruption October 22, 2020

Remarks by Amb. Nathan Sales

Ministers, distinguished leaders of international organizations, and representatives from civil society and the private sector, let me begin by thanking the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for convening today's Ministerial meeting. Our collective presence here reflects an important reality: corruption remains a serious threat to global economic stability and requires the G20's attention and action at the highest levels.

The devastating effects of corruption on the quality of governance, security, and economic stability are well documented. Corruption erodes the trust of citizens in their public institutions and it is a stone around the neck of developing economies.

Corruption also opens the door for malign actors to exploit, manipulate, and threaten people, while thwarting progress toward long-term economic development. We know that organized crime exploits corruption in government ranks to operate with impunity as it engages in various illegal activity from drug trafficking to money-laundering. Even worse, some governments themselves engage in corruption. These governments expand their reach and influence through questionable tactics like bribes, fraud, and willful ignorance of criminal behavior by their citizens. This behavior not only distorts competitive business environments, it also puts lives at risk – for example through shoddy infrastructure and construction.

The United States has long recognized the dangers of corruption and made combating it a national priority. We enforce one of the most robust anticorruption frameworks in the world. The United States was the first country to criminalize foreign bribery and we lead the world in enforcement actions. We helped shape the international anticorruption architecture, including the UN

Convention Against Corruption as well as the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

We are a global leader in the recovery of stolen public assets. And unlike some, we do not measure our success by how much money we bring back to our own treasury, but rather by how much we return to corruption victims. Over the past two years alone, the United States has, with the help of our international partners, returned over a billion dollars in recovered stolen assets. This is money that can benefit the people from whom it was stolen, funding schools, hospitals, and roads.

While the United States is proud of this record, we recognize we cannot win the fight against corruption alone; it is a common and shared responsibility among all countries.

This is why we are encouraged to see meaningful commitments in the Ministerial Communique adopted today. Of particular importance is the first-ever time-bound pledge for all G20 countries to demonstrate concrete action to adopt and enforce legislation against foreign bribery.

Saudi Arabia is leading the way on this commitment with the announcement it will seek formal participant status in the OECD Working Group on Bribery. We commend Saudi Arabia for this action and encourage other countries that have not done so to follow suit. We call on all G20 countries to join the Working Group and accede to the Anti-Bribery Convention.

Ultimately, every G20 country needs to take action against corruption; we cannot pick and choose what obligations to implement. In this interconnected world, if one country allows corruption to flourish, it threatens the economic and political security of all countries. And if we are serious about combating corruption, we must ensure we are all accountable to uphold our responsibilities as the world's leading economies.

The United States remains committed to this fight and will lead the way through strong domestic enforcement, international partnership, and cooperation with our allies abroad.

We thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its leadership this year and we look forward to working closely with Italy to continue this important work in 2021.

IMF – General Counsel and Director of the Legal Department

Ms. Rhoda Weeks-Brown

*Remarks of Rhoda Weeks-Brown
General Counsel and Director, Legal Dept, International
Monetary Fund*

*G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting
October 22, 2020*

Excellencies: good morning, good afternoon. I bring you greetings from the IMF. Thank you to the Saudi Presidency and the G20 for inviting the IMF to be here today at this historic meeting.

I will make three brief points:

First, on the IMF's role: The IMF remains unwavering in its commitment to help our member countries tackle corruption. This commitment reflects the fact that corruption is critical from a macroeconomic perspective. It can devastate the economies of IMF member countries and it impedes the IMF's mandate of global economic stability and helping its member countries achieve strong, sustainable and inclusive growth.

We are therefore vigorously implementing our 2018 Policy on Governance and Corruption in all aspects of our work—surveillance, lending and capacity development.

This policy addresses not only anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, but also underlying governance vulnerabilities, including in areas such as public financial management and central bank governance. These economic governance areas are the “cracks” through which corruption can come in.

And we do not do this work alone. We collaborate closely with a range of partners, including G20 countries, the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and other international organizations, including all of the organizations in this gathering today.

Second, on the COVID-19 crisis: The dire economic consequences of this pandemic have made the fight against corruption more urgent now than ever before. These economic consequences

include severe economic scarring, massive increases in inequality, and a reversal of the decades-long declining trend in global poverty. With consequences this severe, it is imperative that we all do everything we can to ensure that public funds are not lost to corruption.

The IMF has responded swiftly to this crisis by providing over \$100 billion in financial support, including \$31 billion in rapid emergency financing to 76 countries. The IMF has also taken steps to ensure that governance, transparency and accountability are addressed even in its rapid emergency financing.

For example, borrowing countries have made commitments to use emergency financing for healthcare and income support to save lives and livelihoods. Countries have also committed to conduct and publish audits of crisis-related spending; publish crisis related procurement contracts including the beneficial ownership of companies awarded those contracts; and utilize robust budgetary measures to facilitate the tracking and reporting of emergency expenditures.

Third and final point is the transnational aspects of corruption:

in the IMF's work, we focus on both the demand side of corruption and on its transnational aspects, the latter in coordination with organizations such as the OECD and UNODC. The G7 countries plus Switzerland, Austria and the Czech Republic have all volunteered to have assessments of transactional aspects done by the IMF.

We greatly welcome the inclusion of this transnational aspect of the IMF's work in the G20's Call to Action. Increased G20 participation in these voluntary MF assessments would be an additional very strong signal of the G20's leadership by example in this area.

We look forward to continuing our very effective collaboration in the global fight against corruption with the G20 and with all of our other partners present here today.

Thank you very much!

IsDB – President

Dr. Bandar Hajjar

Statement by H.E Dr. Bandar Hajjar President of IsDB Group
At
G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Ministerial Meeting
Thursday, 22 Oct. 2020 | 14:00 – 17:00 (Jeddah Time)

Excellencies,
Distinguished Dignitaries,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning/afternoon/evening, everyone!

First, allow me to thank the Saudi Presidency for this successful first-ever meeting at the ministerial level dedicated to anti-corruption topics. I am truly honored to be part of this high-level interaction.

Anti-corruption has always been at the heart of the Islamic Development Bank's activities and policies. It is a crucial priority embedded in the core values of our multilateral international institution.

Excellencies,

The Bank has taken a comprehensive strategic integrated shift for a continuous enhancement of institutional framework, including re-aligning its internal policies, governance, procedures with public procurement, financial management, compliance, audit, disbursements (outflows of funds), repayments (inflows of funds), and anti-corruption. This shift is coupled with improved control systems, including comprehensive risk management and fraud deterrence, to improve overall organizational governance. These measures aim to support member countries in better governance and development financing management more transparently and efficiently. The IsDB's AAA rating by international rating agencies is an attestation of these efforts.

A good illustration is our newly launched first-of-its-kind Global Coordination Platform based on blockchain technology, which provides shared access among stakeholders to record and track transactions transparently.

The Bank is now using this Platform as the basis of IsDB's 'Strategic Preparedness and Response Program' (SPRP) deployed to help member countries weather the impact of COVID-19. More than 30 member countries have so far been trained in the use of the Platform to which 23 countries have been granted full access. This initiative will help IsDB improve governance and regulatory aspects to attract more donors and private sector entities. Using blockchain technology is a game-changer in the development banking ecosystem, as it instills mutual trust and governance by reducing the chances of corruption.

The Bank has also introduced formal mechanisms to achieve quality at entry, whereby projects are selected based on a structured process focusing on the quality of projects. This is a deviation from the past to a process that takes away human interventions in decision-making by giving special attention to the project's details, such as financial management, procurement arrangements, and implementing agencies.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Dignitaries,

The IsDB is following international standards and best practices in terms of Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), and Know Your Customer (KYC). We are strongly committed to ensuring that all of our activities are undertaken based on rigorous scrutiny, due diligence, monitoring, and oversight using automated screening systems covering all major international sanctions programs, PEPs, and legal/regulatory enforcement lists, etc.

Additionally, IsDB takes into consideration the latest version of the unbiased and non-political recommendations of specialized international entities, such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorists, International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and the relevant UN Security Resolution. The IsDB has an Integrity Policy; Disclosure of Information & Conflict of Interest Policy; and Whistleblowing Policy on anti-bribery, anti-corruption, anti-fraud, and conflict of interest.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Dignitaries,
Ladies and Gentlemen

As part of MDBs collaboration in anti-corruption, the Islamic Development Bank is also very active in benchmarking its policies and procedures against global standards and best practices, including observance of the Cross-Debarment Policy, compliance functions, supporting countries in improving the management of development finance. The IsDB is also making efforts towards a more inclusive global financial management system, which can help control the transfer of illicit financing and combat corrupt and fraudulent practices that derail progress, especially in developing countries.

financing and combat corrupt and fraudulent practices that derail progress especially in developing countries.

In this context, the flow of funds between IsDB and its member countries is made through international banking systems, SWIFT, subject to internal and external due diligence/screening. Aiming at efficient use of funds, the IsDB makes its payments/disbursements related to financed projects in its member countries directly to contractors, consultants, or service providers, generally against justified deliverables or valid guarantees/securities.

This framework, paired with complaint handling mechanisms, ensures that these issues are addressed through a proper mechanism to ensure credibility. The problems of governance, non-compliance with policies, and corruption-related matters are taken seriously by the Bank, with confirmed cases triggering cancelation of development financing.

The Bank invests heavily in improving transparency and efficiency of public finance deploying advanced technologies, including promoting electronic country procurement systems and developing platforms for initiatives that will build stronger institutions and good governance both for regional hubs and beneficiary countries.

Thank you!

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL – Secretary General

Dr. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to express gratitude for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud and the Government of Saudi Arabia for hosting the G20 summit and the organization of this significant meeting despite the extraordinary circumstances the World faces with the Covid – 19 pandemic. I further would like to express appreciation for HE Mr. Mazin Ibrahim Alkahmous the President of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the invitation to this meeting, and I extend my thanks to all distinguished delegates and participants.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the G20 members on the 10th anniversary on the establishment of the Anti – Corruption Working Group at the 2010 G20 Toronto Summit, which contributed significantly in the enhancement of anti-corruption policies on the global level, and I am honored on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) to participate in this first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

GCC member States have prioritized their commitment to transparency, integrity and anti-corruption through the establishment of national mechanisms and legislation accompanied by the development of comprehensive execution strategies in order to reach a level of efficiency in the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

On the regional level, the GCC Ministerial Council adopted unanimously a resolution on the establishment of a permanent committee of the heads of anti-corruption agencies, in order to reach a cross border element of cooperation and harmonization between national bodies, reaffirming the importance of combating corruption on the supranational level.

The United Arab Emirates hosted the 8th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption in December 2019 where the Abu Dhabi Declaration was adopted and was recently endorsed by the GCC and embraced as an official document.

The GCC welcomes the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Riyadh initiative on the establishment of a global operations network for anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, which reflects the commitment to the stimulation of international efforts on the combat against corruption.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

This meeting reflects the importance of cooperation in the creation of global forums for dialogue on anti-corruption. The Covid – 19 pandemic makes us all realize that combating corruption is not only necessary for sustainable development, but also for strengthening trust between governments and individuals on one hand, and the importance of building strong partnerships with transnational corporations, civil society and other stakeholders on the other. Combating corruption cannot be fully effective without the participation of non-governmental bodies, especially businesses.

I would like to conclude by recognizing the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for chairing this meeting, acknowledging the positive measures that have been reached through cooperation and dialogue, and wishing distinguished delegates all the best in achieving the ambition of full efficiency in combating corruption.

WORLD BANK – Vice President of Integrity

Mr. Mouhamadou Diagne

**“Our collective responsibility to fight corruption”
Remarks of Mouhamadou Diagne,
Vice President, Integrity, the World Bank
G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Ministerial Meeting**

October 22, 2020

Dear Chair, Ministers, distinguished representatives of G20 countries and International Organizations:

The World Bank has long recognized the pernicious effects of corruption on development, the unfair obstacles it poses for human flourishing, and its impact on poverty. We support governments in building effective, inclusive and accountable institutions, and we support the global agenda in combating illicit financial flows. And when allegations of corruption within our operations are proved, we take strong and serious action against the actors.

Addressing the scourge of corruption takes concerted efforts. The G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group plays a leadership role in generating consensus on international frameworks, norms, and standards. I commend the ACWG for the High-Level Principles and compendia adopted during the Saudi Presidency, as well as the *Riyadh Initiative* which will foster more effective collaboration between anticorruption law enforcement authorities.

I especially welcome the commitment to developing countries included in the *Ministerial Communiqué*. The World Bank estimates that as many as 150 million people could fall into extreme poverty by 2021 as a result of COVID-19. Corruption, if unchecked, could make this much worse. I commend the sentiment in the *G20 Call to Action on Corruption and COVID-19* and welcome its compilation of good practices.

At the World Bank, we have recently launched discussion of a new set of *Anticorruption Initiatives* to reaffirm our own commitment to this important development priority. Many elements of our initiatives complement the work of the G20 ACWG.

Efforts to combat corruption in one country are undermined if banks and professionals in financial centers facilitate the transfer of

corrupt funds with impunity. Their role in facilitating illicit financial flows and the importance of beneficial ownership transparency deserve greater attention. We are promoting this transparency through initiatives including: our country dialogue and procurement standards; the World Bank/UNODC Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative; and our AML/CFT national risk assessment support.

We also need to make the most of what technology has to offer. Digital technologies can be powerful tools for accountability. Through our support for GovTech, we are working to put digital technologies to use in improving governance, including controlling corruption.

In closing, let me commend the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the co-Chair, Italy, and all G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Members, for the body of work produced during the past year. And congratulations to the Anti-Corruption Working Group for ten years of fruitful collaboration towards higher standards for our collective responsibility to fight corruption.

Closing remarks

ITALY – Minister of Justice

Mr. Alfonso Bonafede

Thank you Mr. President,

Let me renew my greetings to all of you. I would like to thank all speakers for their contribution and for sharing my priorities. It has been a privilege to work under the Saudi Presidency this year. I take this opportunity to express my satisfaction with Saudi's government decision to accede the OECD anti-bribery Convention.

In 2021 Italy will, for the first time, have the honour of taking over the Presidency of the G20. I would like to briefly set out some of the pillars in the fight against corruption that we will bring to the attention of this working group. In the wake of international instruments, such as the 1999 Strasbourg Convention or the 2003 Merida Convention, Italy will share its wealth of experience, which has led to the introduction of an array of preventive and repressive measures in line with the best international standards. With this in mind, it is essential to promote the following points at a global level, also in light of the inherent risks of the social and economic crisis triggered by the pandemic:

- 1) The development of a robust framework fostering the integrity and transparency of administrative action by protecting whistle-blowers, introducing rules on conflict of interest and transparency of political financing;
- 2) The adoption of special investigative techniques, such as interception and undercover operations aimed at disrupting the silent complicity between bribed and briber;
- 3) Identification of conducts, such as trade in influence, often conducive to more serious offences;
- 4) The need for introducing dissuasive, effective and, above all, targeted sanctions aimed at countering the specificities of corruption, for example by banning people convicted of corruption from entering into agreement with public administration;

5) Given that these crimes are committed with a view to gaining unlawful profits, an articulated and rigid system of seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of crime is of paramount importance.

The global dimension of this phenomenon requires an effort to harmonise the different legislations in order to promote international cooperation and exclude Safe Harbours for corrupt people and their assets. On the other hand, corruption is more and more the tool used by mafia to do business and infiltrate the economic fabric of society. This is why, a serious fight against corruption contributes to countering organised crime at a global level.

2021 will be a significant year marked by the first special session held by the UN Assembly General. The voice of G20, along with the involvement of private sector and civil society, will be stronger in claiming that the fight against corruption is an essential priority, all the more so at a time of deep crisis like the one the world is now experiencing.

Thank you.

SAUDI ARABIA – President of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority

His Excellency Mr. Mazin Alkhamous
Chair of the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting

As we are now concluding our inaugural ministerial meeting, I would like to thank you all for your great efforts during this year. 2020 has been a challenging year for us all, requiring us to work together to overcome a wide variety of common challenges. But it is only a testament to the innovation and commitment of every member of our teams that we have been able to deliver such remarkable outcomes, at the same time as managing our collective response to the pandemic.

We have taken great strides in advancing global action to fight corruption this year, especially with the development of the Riyadh Initiative, and the revision of the Accountability Report. As a matter of fact, we could not have achieved this without the expertise and the support of everybody represented here today.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

I hope you agree with me that today will go down in history as the day G20 ministers with responsibility for combating corruption came together for the first time, to demonstrate our G20 commitment to lead by example, especially in times of crisis.

In today's meeting, we have reflected on our achievements and held productive and constructive discussions on opportunities to further enhance international cooperation in our mandate.

More than that, we have unquestionably sent a strong message to the world regarding the commitment of our G20 countries to tackling the issue of corruption at all levels. In this regard, I express my sincere thanks to all ministers and participants for attending today's meeting, and Italy for their role as co-chair this year.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests,

Effective anti-corruption efforts require all stakeholders to work together. I therefore extend my sincere thanks also to the invited countries' ministers as key actors in furthering our anti-corruption efforts beyond the borders of the G20.

I also thank the international organizations who have assisted and contributed to the anti-corruption work stream across all of our deliverables. Furthermore, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the engagement groups for their inputs and recommendations, including Business 20, Civil 20, and Women 20. I would also like to welcome the establishment of Academia 20 and thank them for their anti-corruption recommendations.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests,

It has been my pleasure to host our first ministerial meeting today. Once more, I would express my deepest hope to see this meeting reconvened in future presidencies and use our collective expertise and influence to ensure effective implementation of our past commitments as we continue to advance our anti-corruption work in the future.

Before concluding my final remarks, I would like to express my best wishes to Italy, in assuming the G20 Presidency next year, and look forward to continuing to drive the progress in the fight against corruption alongside Italy and India as part of next year's Troika.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

To officially close our meeting on this remarkable day, **I announce with great pleasure that our first G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Communique is now adopted.**

Last but not least, before concluding our meeting, allow me to take this opportunity to invite you all, your Excellencies and distinguished guests, to take together the first step towards translating our Ministerial commitments into action, by launching with me in this historical moment the Riyadh Initiative for Enhancing International Anti-corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation on the official website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for hosting this initiative that aims to serve the efforts and interests of the international community in the fight against corruption.

Most importantly, I express our gratitude and appreciation to all who attended this historical meeting that demonstrates the

serious commitment of the G20 for enhancing international cooperation and leading by example in the fight against corruption, to meet our leaders' expectations toward realizing opportunities of the 21st Century for all.

Thank you all very much for all of your support.

Remarks by the Engagement Groups

Business 20 (B20) – Chair

Mr. Yousf Abdullah Al-Benyan

- Good afternoon and thank you for having me. It is a pleasure to be joining this group of distinguished G20 Ministers and officials today.
- I would like to thank H.E. Mazin Ibrahim Alkahmous, President of the Saudi Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority, for convening this meeting and for inviting the B20 into this conversation.
- It's an honor for me to serve as the Chair of the B20 Saudi Arabia. We are committed to delivering impactful policy recommendations to the G20 and ensuring that the voice of the business community is heard.
- We will officially present our recommendations to the G20 next week during the B20 Summit. Today, I am very proud to deliver a brief overview of our recommendations to fight corruption and bad governance.
- These recommendations were prepared by the B20 Integrity & Compliance Taskforce, which includes 107 members from 25 countries.
- **Our first policy recommendation** is for the G20 to pursue a culture of high integrity in the public and private sectors.
- We can achieve that through national anti-corruption plans and collective actions.
- While progress has been made, more can be done, especially by targeting vulnerable industry sectors with collective initiatives.

- G20 must also accelerate the focus on gender and identify solutions as women suffer a particularly negative impact from corruption.
- **Our second recommendation** is for the G20 to leverage emerging technologies to manage risks relating to corruption and fraud.
- Leveraging information and communication technologies can be key to fight corruption, strengthen transparency and increase public trust.
- We ask G20 members to adopt consistent digital identity standards and systems to develop national, digital public registries.
- And to launch a public-private partnership to develop new technologies to improve data quality and data sharing among national registers.
- **Our third and last recommendation** is for the G20 to enhance integrity and transparency in public procurement.
- The cost of public procurement is borne by all citizens. Therefore, governments must ensure that this spending is efficient and follows high standards of conduct.
- G20 members should commit to ensuring transparency and promoting accountability across the entire public procurement lifecycle.
- The G20 must also establish clear and consistent incentives to reward high standards of ethical business conduct in the context of public procurement.
- And ensure greater integrity among public procurement officials.
- At the B20 Saudi Arabia we hope these recommended actions are considered by the G20 so that we can advance the global anti-corruption agenda together.

- Strong collaboration between business and government is critical to build a healthy company culture and business environment that allows for more sustainable, transparent and ethical growth.
- Thank you.

Civil 20 (C20) – Chair

H.H Ms. Nouf Bint Muhammad

22/10/2020

C20 Chair Intervention during the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting

Your Excellencies,

As we are only limited to 3 minutes, and since you have received the C20 Policy Paper on anti-corruption, and you have graciously shared with us all of your outcome documents for review and input, I will focus my intervention on one specific policy recommendation that has stood out in our latest deliberations with civil society organizations around this esteemed meeting.

From our engagement with the G20 throughout the years, accountability has not been mainstreamed across the G20 tracks and working groups. In fact, looking back at the body of work of the C20 this year, all of our 10 statements released to the G20 along with our Policy Pack and communique, have demanded that the G20 put in place strong accountability measures in their response and recovery plans.

The C20 believes that your discussion on reforming the G20 Accountability Framework should be a discussion on restoring faith in the G20 process as a whole; and of making sure that this global partnership is more transparent and accountable. As such, we ask that accountability is mainstreamed across all G20 streams of work. Specifically, we ask for clear, implementable commitments to:

- Accountability mechanisms within G20 infrastructure investment commitments for the recovery period;
- Tools to reduce corruption risks associated with adaptation projects in response to climate change;
- When it comes to gender, in addition to the recognition of sextortion as a form of corruption, implementation of the more than 8 commitments for the social and economic empowerment of women.
- Transparent public health expenditures and COVID-19 related procurement with tools for public scrutiny, and mechanisms in place to prevent corruption.
- Deeper engagement with civil society at every point. COVID-19 is being used to close civic space, and G20 governments must take

the lead on ensuring citizens' voices are heard and people have the opportunity to co-design and oversee the pandemic response. This can include oversight bodies that include civil society and other stakeholders and oversight and accountability mechanisms that include citizens, to ensure transparency, value-for money and equity.

G20 commitments on anti-corruption are rarely SMART- Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound. Over time they have become the opposite. So, I would also like to mention that this year we as civil society have created a G20 Anti-Corruption Commitment Tracker, which has been led by a CSO called the

Accountability Lab. The current piecemeal approach to monitoring through the accountability framework is insufficient. The G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group needs the support of other bodies to lead the monitoring effort, including civil society organizations. We see the tracker as a real-time tool to support G20 governments and others understand which commitments are being fulfilled; and as a tool to further support the sharing of lessons and best practices to allow for collective progress. We look forward to seeing how we can integrate this into the accountability framework going forwards and how it can best support G20 accountability around anti-corruption issues going forwards. importantly that it results in enhancing G20 monitoring and accountability.

Thank you for the kind invitation to this pre-meeting. Next year, we hope to be part of the Ministerial meeting itself going forward.

Women 20 (W20) – Chair

Dr. Thoraya Obaid

Statement to the First G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting 22 October 2020 at 13:30 – 14:00

Your Excellencies,

On behalf of W20, I thank you for inviting us to express our commitment to the collective effort to eliminate corruption by precise, quick and determined action.

Your Excellencies, the G20 Anti-corruption Action Plan of 2019 – 2021 includes a commitment to “develop further targeted actions where G20 can best add value” and to deepen the “understanding and consider possible actions on emerging issues, such the linkages between gender and corruption and discuss possible actions.”

Corruption disproportionately affects women, perpetuating the economic, employment, and education gaps. The elimination of corruption is actually the struggle for eliminating all inequalities, including gender inequality, and achieving a just and transparent society. And it is a joint public and private sectors effort.

Anti-corruption strategies must also take into consideration social and cultural norms that affect women.

W20 would like to share four policy actions within the context of deepening our collective understanding and actions on the linkage between gender and corruption, and they include:

- Addressing corruption as an obstacle to women exercising their civic, social, political and economic rights.
- Addressing offences that are enabled by corruption that affect women the most, including sexual extortion as a form of corruption.
- Promotion of transparency in resource distribution and women’s access to public services.
- Establishment of effective legal frameworks to ensure access to justice and strengthen law enforcement to end all forms of violence against women and girls in all spheres.

Specifically, W20 has identified this year the inclusion of women in decision-making at all levels of responsibility as the most effective

turn-key to equality, to a balanced and equitable public and private sectors performance, and to a just society. Women do not bring only their voices to the decision-making tables, but rather they enrich the discussion because they bring with them the voices of their communities.

Your Excellencies' commitment to addressing the linkage between gender and corruption assured us that your forthcoming Ministerial Communique will adopt a clear statement on both the impact of corruption on the equality for women and the positive role that women can play in the collective efforts to eliminate corruption and promote best practices.

Respectfully,

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid

Women 20 Chair

Academia 20 (A20)

Professor Liz Dávid-Barrett

**G20 AC WG Ministerial Meeting, 22 October 2020
Remarks of Professor Liz Dávid-Barrett on behalf of the
Academic Anti-Corruption Roundtable**

Thank you very much to the Saudi presidency for reaching out to academia and initiating the first anti-corruption academic roundtable, which we at the Centre for the Study of Corruption have been delighted to co-organise with UNODC. Our academic roundtable has produced a full set of recommendations which are available on my Centre's website, but today I will outline only the headline recommendations in three areas: cooperation among law enforcement, targeting corruption in public procurement, and learning on measuring corruption and assessing the effectiveness of anti-corruption policy.

1. Cooperation among law enforcement

Corruption is a transnational problem. Solving it requires law enforcement to also cooperate across borders. Yet research shows that the formal mechanisms for cooperation are slow, inadequate and exclude many anti-corruption agencies.

What is needed is informal networks among investigators that trust one another and can learn from one another.

Our recommendation here is to: Establish peer-to-peer knowledge exchange on anti-corruption issues between national law enforcement agencies

This is what the Riyadh Initiative aims to fix, through systematic work to enable and build these informal networks. We very much welcome the Riyadh Initiative and recommend that its design is underpinned by the research in this area and that a system is put in place to check its progress towards objectives.

2. Targeting corruption in public procurement.

Corruption in public procurement is not a petty or administrative problem. It is deeply entwined with organized crime and often captured by elite cartels and even terrorist networks.

As such it is a threat to national security and should be recognized as such by making it a key focus of national security strategies.

Our recommendation is to: **Make corruption in public procurement a key focus of national security strategies, recognising its role in sustaining organised crime networks and undermining the economy**

As part of tackling corruption in public procurement, we should collect and publish open data about all stages of the procurement process. This can allow us to identify corruption hotspots and also to test whether our interventions are working

3. Measuring corruption and assessing the effectiveness of anti-corruption policy

This is 2020. We have developed sophisticated methods for measuring corruption and testing the impact of policy. But this all relies on having good quality data in the first place, and at the moment our data collection practices are at least 20 years out of date.

Our recommendation is to: Collect and publish comparable open data in key areas relevant for corruption diagnostics

The G20 could transform our ability to tackle corruption by encouraging countries to publish a much wider range of open data to support new proxy indicators and diagnostics. This could also provide a basis for measuring the costs of corruption and monitoring implementation of AC strategies.

Conclusion

These are just headlines. Please visit our website (University of Sussex) for the full set of recommendations.

Academia has a lot to offer in this area. We welcome the Saudi initiative to reach out to the academic community, and hope we will have an opportunity to continue to support the work of the G20 in future.

Professor Liz Dávid-Barrett
Professor of Governance and Integrity at the University of Sussex and Director of the Centre for the Study of Corruption
22 October 2020