Dear […].

In its resolution 73/191 entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, the General Assembly, inter alia, decided to convene in the first half of 2021 a special session on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation and invites the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to lead the preparatory process for the special session by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner.

Moreover, in accordance with the draft resolution entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, which was approved by the Conference at its eighth session in December 2019 for subsequent adoption by the General Assembly, the Assembly would reiterate the importance of an inclusive preparatory process for the special session, including extensive substantive consultations, and invite the Conference of the States Parties to hold up to three intersessional meetings, as required, to advance such consultations.

It is my pleasure to invite your Organization to participate as an observer in the first intersessional meeting of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption (UNGASS), which will be held on 22 and 23 June 2020, in a virtual format, and will consist of two two-hour meetings per day (the exact times and technical parameters for the session will be communicated at a later stage through the website of the Conference as well as on the website www.ungass2021.org). The session was rescheduled from the original dates, which were 11 and 12 June 2020, following the recommendation of the Bureau of the Conference.

In accordance with the workplan for subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which was adopted by the Conference at its eighth session held in December 2019, the thematic focus of this intersessional meeting will be on prevention and law enforcement and criminalization. Additional information on and documentation, as appropriate, for all the intersessional meetings of the Conference on the preparations for the special session will be made available at the following webpage: www.ungass2021.org.

[...]
Your attention is also drawn to the “Guidance note on the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its subsidiary bodies”, which is available at the following website: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session8/Guidance_note_participation_of_NGOs_in_COSP_and_subsidary_bodies.pdf.

In addition, in accordance with the aforementioned draft resolution entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, which was approved by the Conference at its eighth session, the Assembly would encourage organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders to fully contribute to the preparatory process, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and established practice and request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect such contributions, including specific recommendations on the issues to be addressed by the General Assembly at its special session, and make them available to the Conference. Accordingly, your Organization is invited to submit a contribution, including specific recommendations on the issues to be addressed by the General Assembly at its special session, as soon as possible. All contributions will be made available in the form in which they will be received on the website: www.ungass2021.org.

An official letter indicating the names of the persons constituting your Organization’s delegation, including individual email addresses which will be used to grant and verify access to the meeting, should be sent as soon as possible and not later than 15 June 2020 to the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria, fax: +43 1 26060 5841. Organizations are kindly requested to observe the deadline in order to enable the Secretariat to finalize all necessary technical preparations for the meeting. An advance scanned copy may be sent to the following email address: uncac@un.org. Please note that only scanned copies of official letters will be accepted by email.