

**China's Position on the *Political Declaration*
of the Special Session of the General Assembly
on Anti-Corruption**
(February, 2020)

This is the first Special Session of the General Assembly on anti-corruption to be held since the United Nations was founded. This demonstrates the concern of international society for, and attention to, anti-corruption work. China attaches great importance to and actively supports the preparation work for this Special Session of the General Assembly. As the meeting's most important outcome document, the *Political Declaration* will significantly impact enforcement of global anti-corruption governance and promote the concerted efforts of international society to combat corruption. Below are suggestions for the drafting of the *Declaration*:

1. Structure of the *Declaration*

China suggests a two-part structure: the first part (Preamble) is focused on expressing the political resolve of international society in jointly tackling corruption,

reiterating the hazards of corruption, emphasizing the importance of both preventing and combating corruption, as well as strengthening international cooperation, and setting forth the general principles to be observed in anti-corruption; the second part (Operative paragraphs) primarily suggests the future direction of joint endeavors by international society and puts forwards specific actions focusing on major challenges for international anti-corruption and *UNCAC* requirements. The suggested actions should guide State Parties to take concrete steps in strengthening pragmatic collaboration, solving problems in anti-corruption cooperation, and ensure that the positions and needs of all countries, especially developing ones, are comprehensively and equally reflected.

2. Specific contents of the *Declaration*

It is suggested that Part I (Preamble) include the following:

1. Corruption undermines social fairness and justice, damages the image and credibility of governments, and impedes the global realization of the Sustainable

Development Goals. As such, it is a cancerous growth which international society must tackle together.

2. Corruption has existed ever since the beginning of human civilization. Corruption constantly threatens to erode public power, and the latter is engaged in a perpetual struggle against it. The resolute fight against corruption knows no end, and efforts to prevent and reduce corruption at the roots are ongoing.

3. Anti-corruption is an undertaking of justice. To do it, we should build a high degree of social consensus, demonstrate an overwhelming political will and take practical and effective measures.

4. Preventing and combating corruption should strictly adhere to the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in the domestic affairs of others. It should respect the anti-corruption policies and measures taken by each country on account of their domestic realities.

5. There is an international consensus for undertaking cooperation to prevent and combat corruption. We should maintain a “zero-tolerance” stance, build a “zero-loop-hole”

system and carry out “zero-barriers” collaboration while strictly maintaining equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for each other’s differences. No country should harbor corrupt personnel and illicit assets.

6. The joint efforts of international society in combating corruption should uphold multilateralism, respect the authority of the United Nations and support *UNCAC* as the main channel of international anti-corruption cooperation. The positive contributions of multilateral institutions such as APEC, G20, the African Union and Arab League shall be acknowledged.

It is suggested that the Operative paragraphs of the *Declaration* include the following:

1. In preventing and combating corruption, we should take an all-encompassing, zero-tolerance approach that leaves nothing out of bounds, simultaneously “crack-down on tigers, swat flies, hunt foxes”, and holistically promote an environment where officials dare not, cannot and will not commit corruption. A people-centered approach shall be adopted to anti-corruption, with all work being done for the people and in reliance on the people.

2. All State Parties commit themselves to taking more effective steps in implementing Chapter II and Chapter III of the *UNCAC*, in order to prevent and root out corruption through practical actions.

3. Reinforce implementation of Chapter IV of *UNCAC*, especially Articles 44 and 46 with respect to overcoming legal differences between countries. Mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition cooperation should be practically carried out in order to repatriate as many corrupt fugitives as possible.

4. Further enforce implementation of relevant provisions in Chapter V of the *UNCAC*. International cooperation should be further promoted in recovering proceeds of corruption, the countries into which stolen assets flow should actively effect their repatriation, and the financial income for corrupt perpetrators should be cut-off and their living space squeezed.

5. Among themselves, State Parties shall weave a tight network of law enforcement cooperation in anti-corruption by concluding such documents of cooperation as extradition treaties, mutual legal assistance agreements in criminal

matters, assets recovery agreements and memoranda of understanding in anti-corruption cooperation.

6. Enhance practical collaboration between competent anti-corruption authorities of State Parties; support the *UNCAC* Secretariat in setting up a communication platform for such authorities in order to achieve efficient and timely communication. Encourage the competent anti-corruption authorities of State Parties to establish long-term dialogue mechanisms; carry out dialogues and negotiations, as well as promote exchange and cooperation, through regular meetings, telephone conferences and emails.

7. Fully leverage the *UNCAC*'s implementation review mechanism. We shall ensure the implementation review is an intergovernmental process and harness it as a way to promote exchange, deepen mutual understanding and trust between State Parties.

8. Enhance the application of *UNCAC* in jointly combating transnational commercial bribery, and build a clean business environment. Meanwhile, keep firmly in mind the provisions of Article 4 of *UNCAC* concerning the safeguarding of sovereignty, and oppose the infringement of

other countries' sovereignty and interests through such practices as "long-arm jurisdiction".

Going forward, China will continue to actively participate in drafting *Declaration*, and make its due contribution to the successful convening of this Special Session of the General Assembly.