



**8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention  
against Corruption  
Item 7, Special session of the General Assembly against corruption  
19 December 2019**

**Intervention by Mr. Claudio Nardi, First Secretary, Office for Foreign Affairs of the  
Principality of Liechtenstein**

Mr President,

Thank you for convening this meeting and for taking on a leading role in fighting corruption and preparing the upcoming Special Session of the General Assembly in 2021.

Fighting corruption is of highest priority to Liechtenstein and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) remains the cornerstone of international efforts. Corruption erodes trust in democracy and state institutions. It hinders millions of people from fully enjoying their human rights. While practices involving corruption can constitute human rights violations, Liechtenstein will engage in the preparation process for UNGASS with a view to acknowledge that corruption itself is a structural obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights and sustainable development.

We cannot underline enough that the achievement of the SDGs depends on the successful eradication of corruption. Corruption is indeed one of the biggest impediments of achieving each and every SDG. In this regard it is of utmost importance that the political declaration to be adopted during the Special Session acknowledges the indivisible and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and in particular SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

Another key priority for Liechtenstein is the inclusion of civil society actors in the preparatory process. It is often them who suffer the most from corrupt practices, but also play an important role in denouncing corruption. An inclusive preparatory UNGASS process with contributions by experienced civil society, academia, NGOs, the press, the business sector and other relevant stakeholders is of utmost importance. At the same time, the political declaration should strongly call upon the international community to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society in which they can operate free from intimidation and reprisals.

Mr. President,

Cooperation and partnerships for the disruption of illicit financial flows are of utmost importance. UNGASS must particularly highlight the crucial role of multistakeholder initiatives to analyze trends and share information on methods used to launder the proceeds of crime. Illicit financial flows stemming from crimes - such as human trafficking and modern slavery - are used for corruption purposes. Liechtenstein as well as its private sector has been strongly committed to this cause. During this year's high-level week of UNGA we presented to the international community "A Blueprint for Mobilizing Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking". It equips the global financial sector to prevent and combat these crimes by means of sustainable and innovative financing, responsible lending and investment, as well as compliance and regulation.

With the political declaration we must acknowledge the primary role of UNCAC in the fight against corruption and contribute to preserving its integrity, while addressing new and emerging trends in corruption, including new technologies and the token economy. In this regard, the preparatory process can draw from the experiences of Liechtenstein's new legislation that regulates so-called trustworthy technologies, such as blockchain, to avoid abuse of technology, including for corruption purposes. To increase transparency and thus help fight corrupt practices, Liechtenstein sees great potential in blockchain technology. Token economy is a reality and regulation must keep pace.

Thank you!