



# General Assembly

Thirty-second special session

**3<sup>rd</sup>** plenary meeting  
Thursday, 3 June 2021, 10 a.m.  
New York

Official Records

*President:* Mr. Bozkir ..... (Turkey)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Popolizio (Peru), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.*

## Agenda item 7 (continued)

### General debate

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): Before we begin with the list of speakers, I would like to remind members of important organizational matters pertaining to the conduct of the general debate.

As members are aware, in its decision 75/562, the General Assembly decided that Member States, States and regional economic integration organizations parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and observers to the General Assembly, in line with paragraph 2 (c) of its resolution 74/276, may submit a pre-recorded statement by their Head of State or Government, head of delegation or other dignitary, which will be played in the General Assembly Hall during the special session, after introduction by their representative who is physically present in the Assembly Hall.

In that regard, I would like to address important organizational matters pertaining to the conduct of the plenary meeting. Introductions of pre-recorded statements will be made by the representatives from their national seats. Due to time constraints, it is expected that the introductory remarks will be kept

concise. Statements delivered by the representatives who are physically present in the Hall can be made from the national seats or the rostrum.

As set out in the resolution 74/276, statements in the general debate will be limited to five minutes for individual delegations and seven minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States. In the case of pre-recorded statements, introductory remarks and the length of the video itself shall be counted in the allocated time limit.

In accordance with decision 75/562, in addition to the verbatim records of the special session, the President of the General Assembly will circulate, as a document of the Assembly, a compilation document of the statements delivered by means of pre-recorded statements during the special session and submitted to the President no later than the day on which the pre-recorded statement is played in the Hall. Such pre-recorded statements will be attached to the verbatim records of the special session. Submissions in that regard should be sent to [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org).

I now give the floor to the representative of Norway to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway.

**Mr. Moeller** (Norway): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Her Excellency Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway.

In accordance with decision 75/562, and without setting a precedent for future special sessions, the official records of the General Assembly will be supplemented by annexes containing pre-recorded statements submitted by Heads of State or Government, head of delegation or other dignitaries, those who are invited to participate in the opening of the special session in line with paragraphs 2 (b) and 17 of resolution 74/276 and those who are invited to participate in line with paragraphs 2 (d) and (e) of resolution 74/276 and submitted to the President no later than the day on which such statements are delivered in the Assembly Hall. Submissions in this regard should be made to [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org).



**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ghana to introduce a statement by the Attorney General and Minister for Justice of the Republic of Ghana.

**Mr. Korbieh** (Ghana): On the occasion of the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency the Honourable Mr. Godfred Yeboah Dame, Attorney General and Minister for Justice of the Republic of Ghana.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Attorney General and Minister for Justice of the Republic of Ghana.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to introduce a statement by the Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

**Mr. Poveda Brito** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by the Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, His Excellency Mr. Jorge Arreaza Montserrat, on the occasion of the thirty-second special session of the General Assembly, the first of its kind on the challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Cambodia to introduce a statement by the Senior Minister and President of the Anti-Corruption Unit of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

**Mr. Ke** (Cambodia): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Yenteng Om, Senior Minister and President of the Anti-Corruption Unit of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Senior Minister and President of the Anti-Corruption Unit of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Qatar to introduce a statement by the President of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority of the State of Qatar.

**Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Mr. Hamad bin Nasser Al-Missned, President of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority of Qatar.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the President of the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority of the State of Qatar.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Iceland to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation of the Republic of Iceland.

**Mr. Valtýsson** (Iceland): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation of Iceland.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation of the Republic of Iceland.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ireland to introduce a statement by the Minister of State for Civil and Criminal Justice of the Republic of Ireland.

**Mr. Flynn** (Ireland): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by the Minister of State for Civil and Criminal Justice, Ms. Hildegard Naughton.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister of State for Civil and Criminal Justice of the Republic of Ireland.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of El Salvador to introduce a statement by the Minister for Justice and Public Security of the Republic of El Salvador.

**Mr. Segura Aragon** (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the great honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Gustavo Villatoro, Minister for Justice and Public Security of the Republic of El Salvador, on the occasion of the thirty-second special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Justice and Public Security of the Republic of El Salvador.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Estonia to introduce a statement by the Minister for Justice of the Republic of Estonia.

**Mr. Raun** (Estonia): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Her Excellency Ms. Maris Lauri, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Estonia.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Estonia.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Philippines to introduce a statement by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines.

**Mr. Manalo** (Philippines): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina to introduce a statement by the Head of the Anti-Corruption Office of the Argentine Republic.

**Mr. Oddone** (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Mr. Félix Crous, Head of the Anti-Corruption Office — a specialized agency of ministerial rank — of the Argentine Republic.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Head of the Anti-Corruption Office of the Argentine Republic.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Israel to introduce a statement by the Minister of Justice of the State of Israel.

**Mrs. Furman** (Israel): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Benjamin Gantz, Minister of Justice of the State of Israel.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister of Justice of the State of Israel.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Saudi Arabia to introduce a statement by the President of the Oversight

and Anti-Corruption Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**Mr. Al-Mouallimi** (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to present a statement by the leader of a new generation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who is heading a reform and modernization campaign in the country across all fields, including the very important sphere of performance oversight and anti-corruption. I am therefore delighted to introduce Mr. Mazin bin Ibrahim Al-Kamous, President of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the President of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt to introduce a statement by the Chair of the Administrative Control Authority of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**Mr. Edrees** (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am honoured and delighted to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Mr. Hassan Abdel-Shafy, Chair of the Administrative Control Authority of Egypt, at this special session of the General Assembly on the fight against corruption.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Chair of the Administrative Control Authority of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Canada to introduce a statement by the Minister of International Development of Canada.

**Mr. Mead** (Canada): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Her Excellency Ms. Karina Gould, Canada's Minister of International Development.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister of International Development of Canada.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh to introduce a statement by the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

**Mrs. Monica** (Bangladesh): It is my honour to introduce a pre-recorded video statement by His Excellency Mr. Anisul Huq, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh, at this special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the United States of America to introduce a statement by the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

**Ms. Millard** (United States of America): The United States is taking important new steps in the fight against corruption. Just this morning, and concurrent with this important event, President Biden released a national security study memorandum on the fight against corruption that, for the first time, establishes the fight against corruption as a core national security interest of the United States.

As we have heard this week, corruption chips away at the foundations of democracy, steals from the average citizen and empowers those seeking to undermine the rule of law. The implementation of that memorandum will lead to bold, decisive actions to combat global corruption and will make it harder for criminals to move stolen funds through the United States and international financial systems.

It is now my pleasure, on behalf of the United States of America, to introduce Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield to deliver a statement at the first-ever General Assembly special session against corruption.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Permanent



Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria to introduce a statement by the Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals of the Republic of Algeria.

**Mr. Mimouni** (Algeria) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is my honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Belkacem Zeghmami, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals of the Republic of Algeria.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals of the Republic of Algeria.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Japan to introduce a statement by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

**Mr. Osuga** (Japan): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Uto Takashi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Lithuania to introduce a statement by the Vice-Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania.

**Mr. Paulauskas** (Lithuania): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded video statement by Mr. Elanas Jablonskas, Vice-Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Vice-Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica to introduce a statement by the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Republic of Costa Rica.

**Mr. Zavala Porras** (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Mr. Christian Guillermet-Fernández, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Republic of Costa Rica.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the Republic of Costa Rica.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of India to introduce a statement by the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the Republic of India.

**Mr. Sharma** (India): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the Republic of India.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the Republic of India.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation to introduce a statement by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Mikhaylov** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded video statement by Mr. Oleg Syromolotov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Finland to

introduce a statement by the State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Finland.

**Ms. Airas** (Finland): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Ms. Malin Brännkärr, State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice of Finland.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the State Secretary at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Finland.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the Executive Chair of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**Mr. Bawa** (Nigeria): I am highly delighted and honoured to speak here at this special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.

At the outset, allow me to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this very important meeting. Nigeria welcomes the opportunity to speak at this special session and present its perspective, given the importance of international cooperation in preventing and combating corruption.

Corruption across national borders has huge negative impacts on the stability, peace and economic prospects of millions, particularly in developing countries. Corruption remains one of the most pervasive and daunting challenges facing humankind. It deprives national Governments of the resources needed for sustainable development and facilitates illicit financial flows from developing economies to developed countries, thereby weakening the ability of States to deliver on developmental expectations aimed at women and youth.

Nigeria, like many other countries, has suffered from the damaging effects of corruption. The country has lost billions of dollars to foreign tax havens, with funds stolen and expatriated by corrupt leaders and their foreign accomplices, including multinational companies. However, since the return of democracy in 1999, Nigeria has prioritized the fight against corruption and established anti-corruption agencies, such as the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit and the Code of Conduct Bureau, to lead the fight against corruption.

Under the leadership of His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari, Grand Commander of the Federal Republic, Nigeria has made the fight against corruption one of the cardinal objectives of the Administration. Under his leadership, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and whistle-blowers are encouraged to join the fight against corruption and contribute their quota in that regard. One instance of whistle-blowing led to the recovery of over \$43 million in 2017.

Public corruption is being exposed by the day, and several politically exposed persons have been, and are being, prosecuted and divested of their illicit assets. We have been engaging with international law enforcement agencies around the world, and some collaborative efforts have led to the recovery and repatriation of stolen funds, including the recent return by the Government of the United Kingdom of £4.2 million, which had been stolen from Nigeria by a former Governor.

Procurement processes in Nigeria have been strengthened, and gatekeepers' activities are being monitored through the Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering to serve as a deterrent against the stealing of public funds in the country. Policies have been introduced, including the development of a national anti-corruption strategy, to mitigate revenue leakages. The national anti-corruption strategy has been developed with five identified cardinal pillars — on prevention, public engagement, ethical reorientation, enforcement and sanctions and the recovery and management of stolen assets. The strategy is aimed at providing a national road map in the fight against corruption.

Nigeria has sustained its commitment to the social reuse of recovered assets, as demonstrated in the funding of major infrastructure projects and other social initiatives consisting of cash transfers to the country's most vulnerable groups.

Nigeria participated in the first and second review cycles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption implementation review process, as both a reviewing and reviewed State. It has enacted a mutual legal assistance law in line with the recommendations of the review process. Recently, the Parliament

launched the 2021 Legislative Anti-Corruption Agenda, which seeks to provide a clear road map for a reform-based legislative intervention to prevent and combat corruption and financial crimes in Nigeria. Some of the bills before the Parliament include a witness protection bill, a proceeds of crime bill and a public interest disclosure and complaints commission bill.

The systemic imbalances and institutional deficiencies in our global tax treaties and structures, framed when most developing countries were under foreign rule in many respects, continue to occur and give rise to a tax regime that is unsuited to the current era, thereby hindering effective measures at combating tax abuses, especially by multinational corporations.

Now more than ever, Governments at all levels must rise to their responsibility and continue to commit to transparency and accountability in public expenditure. Measures must be introduced to mitigate the continuous flow of illicit funds from least developed to developed countries throughout the world. States parties must continue to commit to the timely return of illicit assets and ensure the implementation of effective anti-money laundering measures by international financial centres.

Nigeria further highlights the beneficial use of settlements and non-trial resolutions to ensure the disgorgement of illicit gains from corrupt acts. We call on jurisdictions negotiating settlements to inform affected jurisdictions in a timely manner that a negotiation towards a settlement is taking place and to proactively share information on concluded settlements. We are pleased that the political declaration (resolution S-32/1) reiterates previous resolutions on settlements and urge States to fully cooperate in that regard.

Nigeria therefore calls for a multifaceted approach to address illicit financial flows, as recommended in the report (see A/75/810) of the High-level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report provided paths to financial integrity for sustainable development, strongly showing how to redirect the resources lost from illicit flows to finance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Nigeria further calls for the simplification of evidentiary requirements and other mutual legal assistance procedures to seize, confiscate and repatriate proceeds of corruption, as appropriate, to enhance

international cooperation for the timely recovery and return of assets.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the fight against illicit financial flows is urgent and important in our collective efforts to address corruption. We remain committed in our efforts to track, investigate and prosecute corrupt individuals and entities and repatriate funds and assets to their countries of origin. Nigeria looks forward to the full implementation of all commitments expressed in the political declaration, particularly on asset recovery and return, in order to support development financing as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the Director-General of the Independent Anti-Corruption Bureau of the Republic of Madagascar.

**Mr. Andrianirina** (Madagascar) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the President of the Republic of Madagascar, His Excellency Mr. Andry Nirina Rajoelina, it is my honour to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this special session on the fight against corruption, 18 years after the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The time has now come to collectively take stock. Has corruption really been tamed? The provisional results of the second review cycle on the implementation of the Convention confirm the wide scope of the crisis generated by the phenomenon. At a critical time when the global fight against corruption is losing steam, States parties to the Convention have outlined, in aid of the Assembly, an alternative path in the form of a road map dedicated to rekindling our collective efforts.

Madagascar welcomes the opportunity provided by the political declaration (resolution S-32/1) to affirm its intention to revise the modalities in order to tackle the current challenges. The proliferation of corruption in our country prompts us to adopt innovative and vigorous measures, hence why the President of the Republic of Madagascar has declared a zero-tolerance policy and a new anti-corruption approach, aimed at raising awareness on the means to combat the problem, has been adopted. That proactive mode of operation will enable us to fight more effectively against corruption, focusing on the three main areas of education, prevention and repression.

First, regarding education, sustained efforts are under way in order to instil a rejection of corruption in children from the youngest age possible through school-based programmes and the networking of young students who are passionate about integrity. Efforts to raise awareness among the general public in order to encourage greater appropriation are bringing together opinion leaders, the media and civil society. We see a strong mobilization of opinion around ethical issues. Public stigmatization has also brought widespread rejection of corrupt practices to the forefront.

Our internal policy to fight against corruption focuses on the need to infuse all environments with anti-corruption ethics and policies, whether in the public or private arena. Indeed, our mode of operation has enabled us to bring together various actors to curb opportunities for corruption to occur. In order to do so, risk mapping is also essential. Public administration is a priority field in which to take action using anti-corruption mechanisms — for example, in the case of the recruitment of high-level public officials, the gateway to State authority and public resources. Similar procedures are currently under way in the private sector. They involve managing the risks of corruption that constantly spoil the interaction between those two sectors of activity in the development process.

With a view to uprooting corruption and promoting accountability, administrative formalities are gradually being dematerialized. In that connection, priority is being given to the provision of services that are vulnerable to corruption. A more transparent and diligent governance process is also being developed through the operationalization of a new user assistance information system. We have high expectations regarding the quality of the data provided by that interactive mechanism, as well its accessibility by the general public.

Digital technologies are also gaining ground in terms of implementation of the law. An online platform for lodging complaints and denouncing corruption is operational to receive anonymous complaints. In the same vein, the digitization of the declaration of assets has been envisioned with a view to their systematic use in the fight against corruption.

Following the recommendations issued in 2016 from the first review cycle of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, Madagascar renewed and consolidated its legal arsenal. In that connection,

the law currently in force still needs to be completed and harmonized with the objectives of our zero-tolerance policy and to better prevent impunity. As part of our legal framework, a decree on the recovery of assets lost due to corruption is in the process of being adopted in order to ensure the success of our fight against this scourge.

Subject to this year's review cycle, Madagascar will be called upon to complete its corruption prevention system. Meanwhile, we are promoting the optimization of the resources of our existing criminal procedure in order to tackle such crimes and further dissuade repeat offenders.

We are on the verge of a new era with an unprecedented dual crisis at hand. Both the coronavirus disease pandemic and corruption challenge the posterity of worldwide anti-corruption action. Faced with that challenge, it falls to the Assembly, which plays a more decisive role than ever before, to take action.

Madagascar understands the importance of the political declaration adopted by the Assembly. Given its scope, we urge leaders and Member States to spare no effort in achieving its effectiveness. With that in mind, Madagascar solemnly renews its firm commitment to the declaration and is prepared, along with its partners, to endow itself with the means necessary to collectively undertake that battle.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the President of the Supreme Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates and President of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

**Mr. Al-Amimi** (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): Corruption is one of the gravest crimes from which no country is exempt. It is a scourge that has spread to the extent that it is now an international crime with no regard for borders. It undermines peace, stability and the rule of law, hindering development projects, eroding trust in Governments and fuelling terrorism and extremism, which threaten international security.

Moreover, it goes without saying that corruption deeply affects the three pillars of fundamental rights, namely, human, economic and social rights. That calls upon all of us to address this phenomenon with a greater level of concern to identify the challenges and find solutions to overcome them in order to combat corruption more effectively.



The United Arab Emirates had the honour of hosting the eighth session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, thereby contributing to the efforts of the community of nations to address corruption, stop the spread of that scourge and protect societies against its devastating impact. We have also contributed to providing financial support of more than \$5 million to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as part of the implementation of the Abu Dhabi declaration, adopted at the eighth session of the Conference of States Parties, focusing particularly on strengthening the roles of the supreme audit institutions and anti-corruption bodies to prevent corruption in the public sector.

In addition, together with Peru, the United Arab Emirates participated in leading international negotiations in the preparatory process and facilitating consultations among States parties, efforts which led to the political declaration (resolution S-32/1), which enjoys consensus. I would also like to pay tribute to the content of the political declaration, its excellent quality and its comprehensive nature, as it covers various chapters and themes of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. The declaration also reflects the greatest challenges and gaps that exist, as well as identifying the best solutions in that regard.

Through the declaration, we are committing to respect our obligations so that we can achieve our ultimate goal, namely, the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. At the same time, we would like to express our appreciation and respect for all States parties and stakeholders, including civil society organizations, for their highly valued participation and their fruitful deliberations, which made a great contribution to improving the quality of the political declaration.

I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to all States parties for their support and their contribution as regards my country's proposals to strengthen the essential role played by supreme audit institutions in the fight against corruption in line with the principles set out in the Abu Dhabi declaration, as well as to strengthen prevention and anti-corruption measures during emergencies, crises and periods of recovery. We expect that the declaration will help to enhance our collective efforts in the prevention of, and fight against, corruption so as to achieve our aspirations for the future.

In conclusion, my country's Government attaches great importance to strengthening good governance and the rule of law through the fight against corruption and will further strengthen those efforts at the national level. At the international level, we will aim to act more efficiently to combat all forms of corruption, in cooperation with our international partners, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and keep our societies peaceful and safe.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kyrgyzstan to introduce a statement by the Deputy Attorney General of the Kyrgyz Republic.

**Mr. Utebaev** (Kyrgyzstan): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Abay Moldokmatov, Deputy Attorney General of the Kyrgyz Republic.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Deputy Attorney General of the Kyrgyz Republic.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Slovenia to introduce a statement by the Chief Commissioner of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption of the Republic of Slovenia.

**Ms. Bavdaž Kuret** (Slovenia): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Robert Šumi, Chief Commissioner of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption of the Republic of Slovenia.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Chief Commissioner of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption of the Republic of Slovenia.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the Head of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention of Ukraine.

**Mr. Novikov** (Ukraine): It is my honour to represent Ukraine at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

Ukraine welcomes the adoption of the political declaration (resolution S-32/1), which reaffirms our full commitment to effectively preventing and countering corruption, a transnational phenomenon that, like the coronavirus disease pandemic, affects our countries' economies and well-being, while undermining development and security all over the world.

Today we are fighting not one but two wars in Ukraine. Along with the threat from Russian troops, Ukraine is in an active fight against corrupt officials — one for democratic values and for a sustainable democratic future. The sources of both those wars are deeply rooted in our Soviet past. Therefore, we can win only with modern and progressive weapons. Among those weapons are advanced digital tools, strong anti-corruption institutions and better policy decisions.

Regarding digital tools, Ukraine has become one of the world's leaders in the development of anti-corruption information technology solutions over the past seven years. We have reimagined State procurement by introducing an electronic system, named ProZorro. Today Ukrainians can see information about every item the Government procures. Thanks to its innovative approach, in the past five years ProZorro has enabled the saving of more than \$6 billion that had previously nourished corruption.

It is impossible to bribe a computer. That is why Ukraine's Ministry of Digital Transformation is bringing in new technologies to the administrative services sector. Ukraine has become the first nation in the world to introduce a digital passport that has the same legal power as a paper one. In three years, we plan to make 100 per cent of public services available online, which will contribute to significantly decreasing opportunities for the spread of corruption.

In addition, Ukraine is among the first countries to join the Global Beneficial Ownership Register, developing the most advanced financial disclosure system.

As of today, the National Agency on Corruption Prevention, which I lead, holds the most extensive big data on the assets of public officials, namely, a register of e-declarations. The register, which is accessible by the public, receives more than 800,000 e-declarations from public officials every year. Moreover, all declarations from public officials are verified automatically by a special control system. That system automatically compares the data in the declarations

with information in 14 other State registers, therefore making it impossible for a public official to submit false data without the Agency noticing.

The development of those instruments would not have been possible without the broad technical and expert support from the United Nations Development Programme, which continues to be a reliable partner. Preserving and ensuring the proper functioning of that and other corruption prevention mechanisms remains among the key priorities of our Agency.

Along with other anti-corruption institutions, the Agency represents a strong and effective system. Despite constant attacks, like the one we experienced on our Constitutional Court last year, Ukraine's anti-corruption bodies continue to act with integrity and in a results-oriented way.

Thanks to the work of our National Anti-Corruption Bureau, Ukraine has seen the detention of high-ranking officials for the first time in its history. Among them are members of Parliament, judges, senior management of State enterprises, and the head of the tax office. The Bureau has boosted Ukraine's international cooperation by conducting successful joint anti-corruption operations along with its peers in Poland and the United States of America. With the new High Anti-Corruption Court established under two years ago, we expect to see appropriate punishment for those officials in a timely manner. At the same time, we continue to advance our anti-corruption policies and practices in strict adherence with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

Last year our Agency engaged more than 100 stakeholders in the development of a national anti-corruption strategy. Among those stakeholders are civil society groups, international organizations and businesses. Once the strategy is adopted by Parliament, it will contribute significantly to Ukraine's potential. The strategy will provide clear guidance on judicial and law enforcement reform, a better business environment and a corruption-free defence sector.

Finally, to put our entire anti-corruption arsenal to best use, we suggest boosting international cooperation based on anti-corruption information technology solutions. Our anti-corruption digital tools continue to receive global recognition. Therefore, we are eager to share those practices with our international partners. To make that happen, Ukraine remains open to a broader

discussion on digital anti-corruption best practices, both within the United Nations and at the regional level.

Today Ukraine is fighting two ongoing wars, including the foreign aggression. Therefore, my country particularly values international support and cooperation aimed at restoring the rules-based order and achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Dominican Republic to introduce a statement by the Director General of Ethics and Government Integrity of the Dominican Republic.

**Mr. Blanco Conde** (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is my honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Ms. Milagros María Ortiz Bosch,

Director General of Ethics and Government Integrity of the Dominican Republic, at this special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Director General of Ethics and Government Integrity of the Dominican Republic.

*A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (see A/S-32/4).*

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): We have heard the last speaker for this meeting. We shall hear the remaining speakers this afternoon at 3 p.m. in this Hall.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*