Thank you, Madam Chair,

States need to step up their efforts to prevent corruption globally and to implement the commitments made under the UNCAC and the UNGASS Political Declaration.

I would like to highlight several areas for priority actions where we see an urgent need for action:

1. **Transparency of company ownership:** The journalistic reporting around the Pandora Papers has once again highlighted the role of obscure shell companies in facilitating corruption and money laundering. We call on all States Parties to ensure that information on companies, including their directors, direct owners and beneficial owners, is made freely and publicly accessible online to ensure that everybody can track who owns and controls companies and use this information to identify possible corruption risks. If you are sincere about preventing corruption, make this information available to the public;
2. **Advancing open contracting**: Procurement remains governments’ number one corruption risk. Governments should ensure full transparency of public procurement and public contracting, including privatizations, the award of subsidies, grants, concessions and licenses, my publishing all documents and data online in easily accessible and standardized formats;
3. **Access to Information**: More than 130 States have adopted access to information legislation, an important tool in preventing corruption. But citizens’ right of access to information is often not respected in practice. States should ensure effective access to information, including by establishing and strengthening independent Information Commissioners or Commissions overseeing the implementation, and by publishing documents and information of public interest online by default;
4. **Asset declarations:** A powerful tool to hold public officials to account are comprehensive annual declarations of their interests, income and assets; States should ensure that declaration requirements are put in place; that this information is independently verified; that non-compliance is sanctioned and that the information is published in easily accessible formats to ensure public accountability;
5. **Independence of anti-corruption bodies:** In several countries, we see that the political independence of anti-corruption bodies is under thread and that the work of anti-corruption bodies is hampered by inadequate resources and mandates. States should take action to uphold their UNCAC commitments and strengthen the capacity and independence of State bodies involved in preventing corruption;
6. **Inclusion of civil society:** Corruption prevention measures should be developed, implemented, reviewed and strengthened in an inclusive manner. States need to ensure that civil society is able to participate in the development of anti-corruption strategies, action plans and measures, in line with UNCAC provisions;
7. Finally, an **enabling environment for civil society and journalists** is essential for the prevention of corruption. In too many countries, we continue to see attacks against civil society representatives, journalists and whistleblowers. States need to step up their efforts to protect and defend freedom of speech and assembly, as well as ensure that those who report on and uncover corruption can do so safely without having to fear retaliation.

Thank you!