The 2nd Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Anti-Corruption Measurement

High Level Statement Albania

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished colleagues and partners,

It is a privilege to address this Global Conference in my capacity as Albania's National Coordinator against Corruption.

The United Nations has long provided for us the global framework and analytical discipline necessary to advance integrity systems, and this conference continues that tradition. We are glad to witness it does so by elevating an issue that is often treated as technical background work, yet in practice shapes the credibility and effectiveness of every anticorruption policy; that is the ability to generate, integrate and use data that accurately reflects contemporary corruption risks.

Recent developments point us to an undisputable reality: corruption risks are evolving faster than many of the governance tools we have designed to address them, and measurement gaps remain a critical constrain to effective prevention. Put simply, we cannot afford for our measurement systems to lag behind the realities they are meant to illuminate.

In Albania, this recognition has shaped a fundamental redesign of our anti-corruption approach. We have shifted from broad perception-based assessments towards granular, sector-specific diagnostics and risk-weighted methodologies. Our current reform cycle targets sectors with the highest fiscal, governance and citizen-impact exposure, starting from property rights and administration, taxation and customs, healthcare and the full public contracting chain, including procurement and concessions. In our analysis, education has also emerged as a priority due to its longterm societal significance. Our long-arching objective is to translate these diagnostics into measurable performance improvements and ultimately transform these sectors into genuine drivers of a healthier, more sustainable economy.

For this, public procurement is undergoing the most significant governance transformation so far. We are deploying data-driven and AI-assisted control layers across the procurement cycle to limit discretionary and abusive intervention, detect anomalies early and incrementally move steadily towards a highly-automated system aligned with emerging EU-interoperability standards. At the same time, we are conscious that data and AI-driven tools must be governed by clear safeguards, to protect rights and avoid new forms of bias.

Equally important is evaluating our anti-corruption architecture on the basis of outcomes, not mandates; institutions must ultimately be judged by the results they deliver. We are shifting from evaluating mandates and structures, to measuring functional performance, operational output and

demonstrable policy impact. This certainly requires rigorous indicators, interoperable datasets and analytical capacity capable of translating data complexity into actionable governance.

Thus, our 3-day discussions offer a chance to advance the methodological coherence, institutional capacity and cross-jurisdictional cooperation we need to ensure that data systems reflect real risks rather than administrative convenience.

Allow me to close on what is both a simple point and yet a hard learned lesson: integrity is engineered, not improvised. Systems that generate reliable data, automate and incentivize transparency, and also sustain accountability are the systems that ultimately reinforce trust;

and the true test of this trust reform is whether the systems we strengthen today are resilient enough to endure political change without losing integrity and to stand on their own tomorrow.

Thank you.