

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

High Level Statement Azerbaijan

Esteemed delegates, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. It is my pleasure to address this distinguished audience. I believe we all share the view that corruption is the emergency of our century. By transcending borders, it infiltrates all spheres and aspects of national economies and very fabric of societies. It is a percise break that endangers the stability and security of nations. To be able to confront this challenge, first, we need to understand its scales and eliminates In all other words, we need to map and quantify it. Measuring corruption is also important for developing targeted strategies and adequate mechanisms to combat it. Without proper measurements, we cannot assess its prevalence in some of the sectors or the transparency of the orders. Consequently, the data-driven approach is inevitable for the effectiveness of anti corruption initiatives, allowing them to focus on the areas where they are most needed. It is also necessary for the transparency of governance. We live in an age of information and surveys, studies, and other tools reflecting the of measurements of corruption becomes an important tool in the hands of citizens to call the governments to accountability. Moreover, measuring corruption is also important for international cooperation. Establishing uniform criteria allow states to compare the advancements to those of other nations, fostering a collaborative atmosphere in which countries can benefit from one another's achievements and shortcomings. To summarize, measuring corruption is a critical element in our collective fight against it because it also entails measuring the effectiveness of anti corruption initiatives. But measuring corruption is a challenging endeavor in itself. Because there is no commonly agreed definition of corruption, this definition as well as its manifestations can vary significantly across cultures and contexts, as well as legal and institutional frameworks assessing and countering it. Another issue is the availability of data and it is subjectivity. Some of the existing tools for measuring corruption are prone to bias as they rely on perceptions rather than objective measures or positive or negative developments are not reflected in reports on time, creating false illusions. To have objective, trustworthy and reputable corruption measurements, in this, several principles should be taken into account. Transparency of methodology, a comprehensive approach, use of relevant data and reliable data sources, also ensuring respect and observing the principle of not harm. National experts and qualified professionals from the UNODC, IACA, and the OECD join their efforts on this endeavor. The methodology developed by the expert engenders the principles. I mentioned and I am confident that it will further strengthen anti corruption initiatives. I would also like to underline that the vital support provided to the project by our esteemed friends, the Saudi Arabian Anti corruption Authority, Nazaha. I congrat you all on this achievement and wish you fruitful discussions. I thank you for your attention.