

**The 2nd Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Anti-Corruption
Measurement**
High Level Statement Montenegro

Honourable ladies and gentlemen, excellencies, distinguished partners,

It is a great honour to speak today at the United Nations Headquarters on behalf of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption of Montenegro. Being part of the “Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Corruption Measurement” means being part of a global effort that shapes our shared future, a future built on trust, integrity, and accountability.

We live in a time when organised crime and corruption cross borders faster than ever. They exploit every weakness in our systems, every gap in our data, every space where institutions are not sufficiently connected. And that is why our cooperation: regional, international, multilateral, is not only important, but essential. Corruption is global. Therefore, our response must also be global.

Montenegro has made a strong leap forward over the past year: we are building a system grounded in data, not perceptions; in verifiable information, not assumptions. In cooperation with our regional partners, we have opened new channels for information exchange and established a pace of collaboration we have never had before. I would particularly like to highlight the International Agreement on the Exchange of Asset Data of Public Officials, which effectively erases administrative borders in our region when it comes to monitoring income and assets. This is the foundation of genuine transparency and a powerful mechanism for preventing abuses.

But our focus is not only regional. It is global.

I wish to express my sincere and deep gratitude to the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea. Their expertise and their commitment to shared values enabled us, together with UNDP, to develop an innovative methodology for assessing the implementation of anti-corruption measures across different sectors. This methodology has already changed the way we measure risks, but, even more importantly, it has changed the way institutions think about integrity. Today, we apply it in public administration, social and child protection, the judiciary, local self-government, and it is currently being implemented in the health sector.

Allow me to clearly emphasize: the results are not merely technical, they are more than that. They are changing value systems. They are creating a new kind of trust.

Because the fight against corruption is not only the application of the law. It is also a shift in mindset. It is the building of a system in which accountability is the norm, not the exception.

Ladies and gentlemen,

corruption will never disappear on its own. But when we share data, when we share knowledge, when we share common standards, corruption loses ground. Our citizens expect a system that is strong, fair, and predictable. Our job is to turn that expectation into a standard.

This conference is therefore important. It shows that, regardless of how big or small our countries may be, we all face the same challenge, and we all share the responsibility to offer solutions.

Thank you for your partnership, your solidarity, and your unwavering commitment to the values we share. Montenegro will remain a reliable and active partner in the global fight against corruption, with clear ambition, strong institutions, and a deep conviction that only together can we succeed.

Thank you.