

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

High Level Statement Noth Macedonia: Deputy Prime Minister for Good Governance, Arben Fetaj

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin with a simple but essential truth: the strength of any state rests not on the authority it exercises, but on the integrity, competence, and resilience of its institutions. This principle lies at the heart of today's Conference, for corruption is one of the most persistent forces that undermines institutional quality and weakens the foundations of public governance.

In an era defined by global interdependence and rising complexity, the international community faces a dual imperative: to understand corruption with greater analytical precision, and to counter it with deeper institutional integrity. Reliable data, transparent methodologies, and harmonized statistical standards are indispensable not only for diagnosing the magnitude of corruption, but for enabling societies to design policies grounded in evidence.

The premise of this gathering is clear and compelling: corruption cannot be addressed through assumptions, intuition, or fragmented interventions. It must be confronted with facts, with institutional vigilance, and with an unwavering commitment to the public interest. Through the systematic use of comparative data and strengthened international cooperation, we are building an environment in which accountability can truly take root.

We also recognize that corruption is not simply a violation of law; it is a failure of governance, a failure of development, and most critically, a failure of public trust. When trust in institutions erodes, confidence in the broader democratic project erodes with it. This is why data matters. Because data is not only an analytical tool, it is a democratic tool, one that empowers oversight, informs public understanding, and reinforces the social contract between institutions and citizens. At the same time, combating corruption demands more than measurement alone. It requires ethical leadership, institutional capacity, and systems capable of withstanding the pressures and temptations inherent in public power. Our collective challenge is to design institutions that are resilient both to the risks of today and to the uncertainties of tomorrow.

The emerging risks of our era, including digital vulnerabilities, opaque financial flows, the misuse of artificial intelligence, and the rapid commodification of personal data, call for sophisticated analysis and global solidarity. No state, regardless of size or influence, can effectively confront these challenges in isolation.

This Conference is therefore more than a platform for the exchange of good practices. It is a reaffirmation of our shared conviction that good governance and institutional integrity are foundational to sustainable development, and that the fight against corruption is inseparable from the pursuit of more just, equitable, and resilient societies. As we enter the discussions ahead, let us remain guided by a principle that should unite us all: that the integrity of our institutions will determine the quality of our collective future.

I thank you for the opportunity to address this distinguished gathering, and I wish you a productive and inspiring Conference.

Thank you.