

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

High Level Statement Samoa

Greetings to you all, delegates, colleagues, and esteemed representatives from UNDP, IACA, UNODC, today's gathering reflects a shared global truth that corruption in all its forms undermines trust, weakens institutions, erodes development and compromises the dignity and well-being of our people. For small island development states such as Samoa, the impacts of corruption are especially significant. Our size, our limited resources, and our close-knit communities means that any misuse of public trust in government, in service delivery or within the justice system can have far-reaching consequences. This is why the Vienna principles and the move toward a global framework for measuring corruption are so vital. They offer an opportunity for all countries, large or small, to build evidence-based approaches to prevention, enforcement, and accountability. For Samoa, strengthening how we collect, analyze and use data is central our ongoing efforts to reinforce integrity within our institutions. Over the past decade the government of Samoa has taken deliberate steps to strengthen governance, accountability and transparency across various sectors of public service. These efforts include legislative reforms, enhanced internal audit, processes and continuous support for independent oversight institutions such as the office of the public service commission, and the office of the ombudsman. Between the public and the justice sector, we view integrity and impartiality as a foundation of rule of law. Samoa maintains strong ethical standards, supported by clear codes of conduct and processes for ensuring accountability and transparency. We continue to invest in digital systems, case management tools and record keeping improvements to reduce opportunities for improper influence and to support timely and transparent outcomes. We recognize that effective anti-corruption work requires more than strong values and strong systems – it requires strong data. Data allows us to identify risk, understand patterns, measure progress and design targeted interventions. For us this includes better data on procurement, licensing, public complaints, case backlogs, and service delivery performance. It also concerns addressing capacity needs to ensure that data is collected consistently, shared responsibly and analyzed meaningfully. We are encouraged by global efforts such as this conference that aim to harmonize approaches to corruption measurement. The Vienna principles resonate strongly with Samoa's priorities. Particularly the emphasis on transparency, comparability, context sensitivity, and inclusion of diverse data sources. For small jurisdictions like ours, a framework that recognizes capacity constraints while enabling participation in global measurement efforts is essential. We want to ensure that the narrative around corruption is not solely shaped by perception surveys but also by administrative data, independent oversight findings and evidence-based assessments that accurately reflect institutional realities. As we look forward, Samoa remains committed to deepening our cooperation with international partners, strengthening national capacities, and

ensuring that our justice sector and public sector continue to uphold fairness, integrity and the rule of law.

We welcome opportunities to collaborate, to learn from global best practices, and to share our own Pacific experiences, grounded in the principles in Samoa, respect service and collective responsibility. In closing, let me affirm Samoa's enraging commitment to preventing corruption, promoting transparency and safeguarding the trust of our people. With improved data, strong partnerships and shared global principles we can all contribute to building more resilient, accountable and corruption resistant institutions. Thank you.