

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

High Level Statement Uruguay

Distinguished authorities, panelists, participants, good morning to you all. It's a great honor to address you all at this second Global Conference on harnessing data to improve corruption measurement. I'm here representing the Board of Public Transparency and Ethics of Uruguay. Uruguay has a strong democratic and institutional tradition and this includes a profound understanding that transparency is not just an ideal, but rather a fundamental pillar of governance. At our board, our daily mission is to safeguard this pillar. We recognize that data use and harnessing data tools is a revolutionary step towards that end. Corruption is a slippery enemy that changes and adapts for decades. The measurement was based largely on perception and indirect indicators, which while valuable offers an incomplete image. The lack of significant progress in the global fight against corruption over the last decade highlights the urgent need for more rigorous and evidence based approaches. And we are at a turning point where technology and data science offer new and powerful tools and lenses for observing and combating this phenomenon. From the perspective of our board on transparency and the Uruguayan experience, the use of data allows us to move from a reactive approach to a preventive approach. By integrating and analyzing data from sworn statements of assets, registers of tenders and financial flows, we can generate early warnings about possible conflicts of interest and illicit acquisition of wealth. The interoperability of public information is crucial for this process. We are committed to developing a open and accessible data ecosystem that not only strengthens the capacity for oversight, such as our board on ethics and transparency, but also one that empowers civil society and an independent press. An informed citizenry with access to reliable data is our best ally in the fight against corruption. But there are challenges on this road. We will have to navigate that thin line between the necessary transparency for accountability and protection of personal data. Data governance must be robust and we must guarantee that its use is ethical, legal, and respectful of individual rights. However, the potential of data only becomes a reality if we work together. International cooperation and technical assistance are crucial for assisting and helping all countries to develop the capacity to gather, analyze, and use this data effectively. Let us share our methodologies, our successes, but also our failures. It is only through global cooperation and the exchange of knowledge that we can truly standardize measurement and maximize the impact of our actions. Let us build on the momentum from this conference. Let us use the power of data to throw light on the dark areas of corruption and build a future that is more just, transparent, and equitable for all. I thank you.