Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates and Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to thank once again Director Linas Pernavas and the entire team of the Special Investigation Service for convening today's high-level meeting of law enforcement and anti-corruption authorities.

Our collective presence here reflects an important reality: corruption remains a serious threat at the global level and therefore requires attention and action at the highest level.

In order to be as concrete and concise as possible, I will summarise my intervention focusing on six key priorities that can help design an integrated approach to the fight against corruption and that we at the National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC) consider essential for our current and future work.

The first priority is to strengthen a truly holistic approach to the fight against corruption, combining preventive and repressive measures, cooperation between anti-corruption agencies and law enforcement, the use of technology, institutional reform, improved education, enhanced international cooperation and citizen participation.

In addition, the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders - including governments, the private sector, NGOs, civil society organisations and the scientific community - is crucial.

Different perspectives bring innovative solutions and help ensure that the benefits of this broad participation are widely shared.

It is our duty to build an alliance to fight corruption, our common enemy.
The second priority is to unleash the full potential of all anti-corruption actors by adopting new strategies to engage them.

To combat corruption effectively, it is essential to develop a comprehensive strategy that actively involves all stakeholders and goes beyond mere calls for cooperation and recognition of its importance.

A robust communication strategy is a critical component, but it must be complemented by concrete actions and day-to-day responsibilities that foster real cooperation.

Of course, consistency and simplicity are key, and strategies need to be adaptable so that organizations can respond quickly to changing threats and risks.

The third priority I would like to talk about is the need to focus on the fact that at the heart of any prevention strategy is transparency, which is becoming the new guiding principle of democratic governance.

In this sense, moving beyond the traditional reactive model of providing information on request, promoting proactive transparency through data sharing means making relevant data available to those who need it.

Indeed, using data to hold decision-makers accountable is like shining a spotlight on their actions. When decisions are supported by data, it becomes easier to assess whether they have been made in the best interests of stakeholders.

This paradigm shift is not just about providing access to raw data; it is also about ensuring that the data is presented in an understandable format, with the appropriate context and insights, so that individuals can draw meaningful conclusions and take targeted action.

The fourth priority I would like to emphasise is the importance of making prevention and compliance rules no longer a burden, but a convenient choice for stakeholders and for every company or person we ask to apply these rules.

We must design and interpret all our rules and procedures, including the adoption of clear guidelines, to ensure that they actually help public and private organisations to be more efficient and effective. This approach helps them achieve their key objectives and creates both public and private value.

To gain real support and compliance, we need people to understand that they are not just following the rules to avoid penalties. Instead, they should truly believe that their actions create significant value for themselves and their organisations.

By fostering this understanding, we can inspire a collective commitment to our efforts.
Future-proofing responses to corruption by harnessing the positive role of technology is the fifth priority.

Digitisation increases transparency and digital platforms provide easy ways to report corruption, while data mining and artificial intelligence can detect patterns of collusion and provide more accurate risk assessments.

While the benefits are significant, the transition to digital governance is not without its challenges. Issues such as the digital divide, privacy concerns and cybersecurity threats need to be carefully managed.

It is also important to remember that algorithms are driven by data, and if this data is biased or unrepresentative, the conclusions drawn may be incorrect or unfair. This is of particular concern in the public sphere, where decisions based on inaccurate data can have serious consequences for citizens.

We need to explore how we can maximise the benefits of these tools, not by fearing these technologies, but by controlling them.

We need to use them, not be used by them.

And the sixth and final priority I want to highlight is the incredible strength of international cooperation in our fight against corruption.

The prevention and fight against corruption is such a difficult and delicate matter that it cannot be carried out by a single country.

We recognize we cannot win the fight against corruption alone: it is a common and shared responsibility among all countries.

That is why meetings like this one are essential to strengthen cooperation between all relevant actors at the international level and to lay the foundations for achieving our common goals.

Our presence here today demonstrates our joint efforts to preserve the independence of our organisations and authorities and our commitment to act at the highest level, and is in itself a success, as is the adoption of our joint declaration.

This makes us optimistic.

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