



G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting

Intervention by Giuseppe Busia

Kolkata, West Bengal - 12th August 2023

Thank you, Minister Jetendra Singh,

Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,

Firstly, I would like to thank the Indian Presidency for the warm welcome here in Kolkata, and for the strong leadership that led us to this *G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting*, which represents, thanks of this work, an important opportunity for us to renew our common commitment to the fight against corruption.

Unfortunately, also this year, we have to underline that the aggression of Ukraine is a deliberate challenge to the rules-based international system.

Its devastating human, social and economic consequences deeply affect all the areas the G20 traditionally focuses on.

Consequences of the war continue to affect not only ukrainian people, but everyone, everywhere, and particularly the developing countries.

Any attempt to avoid dealing with this situation would damage the G20's credibility and undermine our ambitious agenda.

For this reason, integrating the consequences of the war into our discussion and in the related Outcome Document was and is crucial for us, as-well-as for many other Countries.

At the same time, I want to underline that our presence here reflects an important reality: corruption, for all of us, each one of us, remains a serious threat and requires the G20's engagement and action at the highest levels.

Corruption destroys human progress, corrodes the foundations of our societies, our economies and our well-being.

It fuels inequality, distorts markets, finances wars and terrorism.

It is a threat to development, environment, human dignity, global security and public trust.

Corruption, in different forms, exists in all countries, in the public and private spheres.

For this reason, its prevention and fight against, is such a difficult and delicate matter that it cannot be carried out by a single country.

It is a common and *shared responsibility*: a transnational phenomenon, which requires international cooperation.

This is why, the G20 initiative is fundamental: not only it facilitates the discussion between the relevant authorities in our countries, but also signals to the World the steps to take, the way to go.

In this framework, I want to highlight the importance of the *G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group*, whose efforts in recent years have contributed strongly in preventing and fighting corruption at global level.

In 2023, on occasion of the 20th anniversary of the *United Nations Convention against Corruption* (UNCAC), which forms the foundation of our international commitments, we have to consolidate our efforts.

Corruption is not a victim-less crime.

Disadvantaged groups and persons suffer disproportionately from corruption.

Due to pre-existing inequalities and intersectional discrimination, [ideed] corruption has a disproportionate impact on women, children, migrants, persons with disabilities

and persons living in poverty, as they are more dependent on public goods and services, and have limited means to look for alternatives.

[As we know,] corruption comes in many forms.

Furthermore, particular attention must be paid to specific and new manifestation of corruption: we are fully aware that the forms of this phenomenon are constantly evolving, and new vulnerabilities increase opportunities and incentives.

Each of those forms requires different strategies of measurement, of prevention and of fight against.

Developing those strategies together is critical to achieving sustainable progress and change in global society.

As Countries with the World's largest Economies and developed Financial Sectors, we have a stronger responsibility.

The G20s -together with all the other Countries and Organizations present today- have to lead by example, especially in this moment, when we are still facing an unprecedented human and economic crisis, which calls into question some fundamental aspects of our lives.

In these challenging times a multi-lateral and coordinated response to prevent and fight corruption is more urgent than ever.

Our responsibility is here, Our momentum is now.

In our efforts, we must rely on a combination of prevention and better administration activities, and criminal justice responses, as well as international cooperation in all these fields, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Preventing and Combating Corruption is a collaborative mission: International Organizations, States, government-officials, civil servants, *law enforcement agencies representatives*, and of course also private sector, civil society, academia, media and the public: all of them have a role to play in this.

This is why, a constructive and inclusive dialogue with civil society and the private sector is in any case essential to success in our goals.

Distinguished Ministers and Delegates

I want to conclude recalling again that the G20 has a fundamental role and represent a powerful instrument for each one of us, and for us together, to make significant progress at a global level.

For this reason, despite the difficulties, we have to maintain our strong commitment, in working in this field.

We have to demonstrate, in this way, our real belief, that preventing and combating corruption means:

- not only to prevent and avoid the criminal phenomenon of corruption,
- nor only to avoid the big social and economic costs that it bring with it,
- but [it means also] to improve a better use of public money in the real interest of the people.
- and [it means] also to help administration to be more transparent and more efficient;

It means increase the trust in the public institutions.

And, at the end, it means, progress in democracy and in the protection of fundamental rights.

For this reason, we have to use all our energies, and also our enthusiasm, to carry out the ambitious objectives that are the basis of our agenda.

This is our commitment,

for the benefit of the G20 and for what it represent at global level,

for the benefit of each of our Countries and Institutions,

for the benefit of all the Citizens around the World.

Thank you very much.