



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

**Statement**

**In Response to the Special Representative of the OSCE  
Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption, Professor Anita Ramasastry.  
as delivered by Mr Arman Hovhannisyan, Deputy Head of Mission  
at the 1402<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

**15 December 2022**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by welcoming Professor Anita Ramasastry to the Permanent Council and thank her for comprehensive report. Let me also reiterate our support to the activities of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption.

Colleagues,

The nature and purposes of corruption are well-known and it has always been cross-dimensional and multi-faceted. It is not confined within the geographic boundaries, nor is it specific to any particular sphere. Manifestations of corruption can penetrate into every aspect of our daily life. Corruption is highly resistant and adaptive. In terms of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security, corruption is one of the few phenomena that equally affects all three dimensions.

There is no doubt that corruption in its different manifestations and occurrences is a challenge not only at national but also at international level. It is especially challenging when the international community or international organisations are facing state sponsored corruption policy - exported both via multilateral and bilateral tracks.

Mr Chairman,

It is also true that in most cases, corruption and authoritarian regimes go hand in hand, as it helps to maintain their grip of power. Dictatorships and countries with oppressive regimes are a natural habitat for corruption. And very often, by way of bribing of public officials and members of the parliaments of foreign states, as well as officials of intergovernmental and international organizations, dictators seek to whitewash their wrongdoings and crimes, including war crimes, the violations of IHL and international

human rights law, as well as those directed against human rights and fundamental freedoms. Corrupt practices penetrate not only into the state system but they can also create alternative civil society with perverted values, so-called governmental civil society or GONGOs- distorting the very essence of participatory democracy or civilian activism, something that we witness today in our region.

Professor Ramasastry,

We fully agree with you that one of the critical areas for identifying and stocktaking of the commitments could be the beneficial ownership reform which allows civil society to trace which persons own companies or who have been awarded contracts, that may be implicated in cases of fraud and corruption. To this end Armenia has a good record of cooperation with the Extractive industries transparency initiative which could become a valuable partner for the OSCE as well. Another important issue for the Armenian authorities is the asset recovery and Armenia closely cooperates with its international partners on this very pertinent issue.

We also value our cooperation with the Office of Coordinator of Economic and Environmental activities which has resulted in assisting the Government of Armenia in establishing more effective anti-corruption mechanisms. The project on "Strengthening anti-corruption reform in Armenia" has been an important instrument in supporting national efforts. Just yesterday, as a follow-up activity within this project the Delegation of Anti-Corruption Committee of Armenia, with the assistance of the colleagues from the OCEEA was able to conduct a productive discussion and establish channels of cooperation with the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-corruption

In closing, let me reiterate the particular importance Armenia attaches to the activities of and fruitful cooperation with the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption. We wish you, Professor Ramasastry, every success in your future activities.

Thank you.