

**REMARKS BY THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT
COORDINATOR, MS BEATRICE MUTALI
AT THE COMMEMORATION OF ANTI- CORRUPTION DAY
ON 9TH DECEMBER 2023
AT MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
CENTRE**

On behalf of the United Nations in Zambia, I am honoured to join this commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day. This year, the observance calls for more celebration as this marks an important milestone in international collective action against the scourge of corruption. This year, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption marks 20 years since its adoption in 2003.

As we partner with the Government of the Republic of Zambia, other national actors, cooperating partners, and the international community to mark this important day, let us remain resolute and hopeful in our collective actions to fight and win the battle against corruption.

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption calls on governments that have ratified the Convention to adopt innovative strategies that promote fighting corruption from many fronts that include both the preventive aspects and criminal prosecutions. But it must not end there.

The Convention promotes important aspects of prevention notably declaration of assets by those in key positions in various sectors to

demonstrate transparency, accountability and to build trust and confidence of leadership by the citizenry.

We note Government's political will and commitment to fight corruption in the country demonstrated through the ratification of key international and regional legal instruments which include the SADC Protocol Against Corruption, the African Union Convention Against Corruption, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime. Zambia signed the UNCAC on 11 December 2003 and ratified it on 7 December 2007.

As Zambia prepares to undergo the second cycle of review that focuses on prevention and asset recovery, it is our fervent hope that the Government will maintain this resolve to send message that corruption will not be tolerated or accommodated in any of its forms in the country.

The UN in Zambia stands ready to coordinate inclusive partnership, technical and other support to the Government in collaboration with UN Agencies, such as the UNDP and UNODC, national key stakeholders and international development partners. We would like to see Zambia becoming corruption-free and promoting successful implementation of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN stands ready to explore frameworks of support both technical and financial and especially aspects of prevention such as assets declaration, measures aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners

and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters given the increasingly transboundary nature of corruption and related crimes. It is important to ensure that the institutions are well resourced and have the capacity to carry out their mandates with independence and integrity.

As I close, let me recognize the role of Civil Society in the country such as Transparency International Zambia Chapter and others who provide the much needed collective and inclusive complementary support to the Government and relevant institutions in the country.

As we celebrate the gains made, let us take stock of the gaps and act to address challenges. One key area is the need to explore deliberately the gendered dimensions of corruption, particularly its negative impacts on the rights and participation of women, the youth, and Persons with Disabilities. As we move forward, it is imperative to amplify the role, efforts and participation of women and the youth as vibrant and energetic agents of change to ensure that no one is left behind in the fight against corruption. Together, we can rid our society of corruption.

I THANK YOU