



Affirming that combating corruption is necessary to protect Human Rights

UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres's : Sharm El-Sheikh conference is an opportunity to promote international cooperation against corruption

In his speech in the opening of the Ninth Session of Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, stressed that addressing corruption is essential to protect human rights and promote democratic accountability. "It is an important step towards inclusive, sustainable development," emphasized United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in his opening remarks delivered in a video message to the conference.

He also pointed out that the spread of corruption undermines people's trust in the leadership and the institutions, deepens inequality, fuels taunting and alienation, and rein-

forces the obstacles faced by women and girls.

"Putting greed before need is detrimental to all of us. As countries invest in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must be cautious against diverting vital resources by criminal opportunists", he says.

The Convention is the only comprehensive international legal instrument against corruption which threatens States' security and hampers sustainable development efforts around the world. "This Conference is our chance to come together to strengthen cooperation and accelerate global action against corruption. Let us revive hope and restore trust in institutions. Now is the time to act for a safer, more prosperous and just future," he added.

Proceedings film:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNVienna/videos/452178672921218>



Dr. Ghada Waly

The UNODC Executive Director

**the conference is a unique International forum ..and
Affirms that combating corruption remains a top priority**

Dr. Ghada Waly Calls the Conference

"The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption is a unique international forum", said The UNODC Executive Director Dr. Ghada Waly in her opening remarks. She called the COVID-19 pandemic "a global wake-up call" to stand for integrity. "The world loses trillions of dollars every year to corruption, at a time when every dollar is needed to increase public investment. Just as it breaks down resilience and exposes people to hardship, corruption also enables criminals, traffickers, and terrorists.", she said.

"Most countries in the world have ratified the Convention and committed themselves to it with some 189 State Parties. This places a special responsibility on the Conference of the States Parties, especially at this critical juncture when the world faces enormous challenges as well as great opportunities in combating corruption.", she added. This session is of exceptional importance. "The world desperately needs the principles of transparency, integrity

and a fair and equal recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, without exclusion. The pandemic has shifted from a global health crisis to an economic and social crisis.", she pointed out.

Waly affirmed that this Conference is responsible for the implementation and activation of the outcomes of this historic session.

She also added that the session was held in an exceptional situation and challenges posed by the pandemic. Dr. Waly thanked the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the Conference, and for its cooperation with the UNODC. All necessary measures have been taken to protect and maintain the safety of participating delegations.

More than 2130 participants registered for the Conference, unprecedented record which reflects the global interest in the theme. "This gathering sends a message to the world that fighting corruption remains a priority on the international agenda in times of crisis, and we will always find ways to work together against corruption, despite all the challenges.", she concluded her remarks.