



Permanent Mission of Italy  
OSCE

## **Statement by Italy**

### **Joint Meeting of the three Permanent Council Committees**

Vienna, 9 July 2021

*"A cross-dimensional perspective on anti-corruption in the OSCE context"*

Amb. Stefano Baldi

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

I thank the Swedish Chairpersonship and the three Committee Chairs for dedicating the joint meeting to such an important policy area for the OSCE and its participating States.

I welcome the new Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Corruption, Prof. Anita Ramasastry, and wish her a good, fruitful work.

Corruption hampers sustainable economic growth, distorts market competition, undermines the rule of law and, above all, erodes trust between citizens and governments. Corruption is a severe impediment to building prosperity and security for our countries and communities. In the unprecedented global fragility caused by the COVID-19 pandemic we are now facing, corruption may aggravate its adverse effects across the board and undermine efforts towards a sustainable and resilient recovery.

Anti-corruption has been so far a distinctive feature of effective multilateralism. Thanks to its multi-faceted mandate, the OSCE continues to be well placed to help participating States meet their commitments to integrity, transparency and accountability and to effectively fight corruption.

To better address the link between anti-money laundering and countering corruption, Italy is implementing the central business register, open to law enforcement agencies, thus effectively addressing the challenge of Beneficial Ownership Transparency.

Open government and ICT can greatly improve the fight against corruption and enhance transparency and public accountability. In Italy, digitization has leveraged public access to information, protected reporting systems, e-procurement platforms and open contracting data standards.

We welcome the focus on all these topics enshrined in the OSCE Tirana Ministerial Decision recently adopted thanks to the 2020 Albanian Chairpersonship.

Concerning the level of international policies and cooperation, Italy believes that more reliable and objective systems to measure corruption are needed, going beyond the mere “perception-based” data. This objective measurement would better capture the multiple dimensions and socio-economic impact of corruption, and help better fine-tuning anti-corruption policies and assessing their effectiveness.

The globalized economy has shown new and sophisticated avenues of corruption and their link to other economic crimes. Corruption often enables the infiltration of organized crime in the economy and in the public sector. Italy considers crucial to define a holistic vision of corruption, as enabler of other crimes.

Finally, on behalf of the ongoing Italian G20 Presidency, I would like to thank all countries and international organizations for the constructive spirit and flexibility demonstrated during the negotiations on our deliverables in the framework of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, and for the support assured to our common efforts. We are committed to link these efforts as much as possible to those of other multilateral fora, including the OSCE.

Let me conclude by welcoming this chance to continue the conversation in the framework of the OSCE, with a view of pushing the anti-corruption agenda forward in this Organization.

Thank you.