

RESOLUTION ON
PREVENTING CORRUPTION FROM BEING USED AS A FOREIGN POLICY
TOOL

1. Recognizing that corruption fuels conflict, both by diminishing the effectiveness of national institutions and by generating popular grievances which in effect contribute to erosion of the rule of law and to undermining the legitimacy of the State,
2. Cognizant that corruption can enable malign actors in one country to exert illegitimate influence over another State, sow insecurity and instability, and undermine government institutions,
3. Recognizing the urgent need to address grand corruption and State capture, which undermine democratic institutions, erode public trust and perpetuate inequality,
4. Noting that grand corruption refers to corrupt practices involving senior government officials, political leaders or influential individuals who engage in large-scale embezzlement, bribery or abuse of power for personal enrichment,
5. Noting that State capture describes situations where private interests exert undue influence over State institutions, policies and decision-making processes, leading to the erosion of democratic governance and the subversion of public interest,
6. Aware of the fact that when grand corruption and State capture happen, high-level officials may also use control over legislative and regulatory powers to legalize their activities and to weaken oversight and enforcement functions,
7. Aware that, typically, those involved in grand corruption benefit from impunity by interfering directly with the justice system and that, by using the levers of State control, they may also suppress independent efforts by civil society and the media to investigate and expose corruption,
8. Noting that grand corruption is caused by the failure of political, economic and judicial systems to provide robust, independent oversight and accountability, and recognizing the role of national parliaments in this regard,
9. Cognizant that the link between corrupt practices and strategic dependence also suggests that key sectors such as defence, security and energy could be at a greater risk of interference to control States' decisions,
10. Aware that, when corruption is used as a foreign policy tool, it is not aimed at economic benefit but rather relies on a willingness to forgo economic gains in favour of influence, favourable political outcomes and an ability to spread political norms and practices,
11. Expressing concern that corruption could become a tool of hybrid warfare, alongside disinformation and cyberattacks,
12. Cognizant that electoral campaign contributions could be traded for political influence or promises of decisions favourable to individuals,

13. Noting that corruption and illicit enrichment in positions of State power have led to power-grabbing and the perpetuation of kleptocrats in power,
14. Recognizing that the majority of grand corruption cases include the use of anonymous shell companies to secretly move financial assets,
15. Underlining the need for effective anticorruption mechanisms in emergencies and during crises,
16. Alarmed by reports concerning corruption in a scheme involving financial and military aid, which siphoned away some of the provided resources into the black market for weapons,
17. Recalling that corruption is closely related to activities such as money laundering, tax evasion and illicit trade,
18. Expressing concern that some arms transfers are being trafficked to the black market,
19. Aware of the fact that Malta is prosecuting a former Prime Minister and other former high-level officials on corruption charges, and commending the decisiveness of the competent Maltese authorities in this regard,
20. Emphasizing the importance of international co-operation and collective action to combat these grave threats to global stability and development,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

21. Stresses the urgent need for the United Nations, the European Union and other donor organizations or countries to establish rigorous mechanisms for oversight of assistance packages, grants and loans and to perform due diligence on recipient governments and organizations, in order to avoid providing military or financial resources to corrupt and kleptocratic authorities and organizations controlled by them and their associates;
22. Calls on international donors to develop a strong holistic risk management system to prevent development aid from contributing to corruption in recipient countries, for example, by linking budget support to clear anti-corruption objectives;
23. Underlines the need to ensure high standards of transparency and accountability concerning projects financed under international assistance programmes;
24. Stresses the need to monitor foreign-funded projects so that recipient country authorities would be held accountable if foreign funds are not used appropriately, and the need to involve local civil society organizations and human rights defenders in monitoring the implementation of contracts;
25. Encourages the strengthening of legal frameworks and particularly encourages OSCE participating States to enact and enforce robust anti-corruption laws that criminalize grand corruption and State capture;

26. Underlines the role of specialized anti-corruption agencies with adequate resources and independence to investigate and prosecute cases;
27. Urges national parliaments to enact legislation to create or strengthen existing beneficial ownership registers in line with Financial Action Task Force recommendations 24 and 25, ensure that relevant stakeholders and public authorities have access to the registers, and include mechanisms that ensure the information in the register is complete, collected in a timely manner and verified;
28. Urges competent authorities to use information in beneficial ownership registers to prevent the abuse of legal entities for money laundering, financing of terrorism, and concealment of conflicts of interest in public procurement or contracts with the State;
29. Highlights the role of international co-operation in facilitating mutual legal assistance and extradition treaties, to ensure that corrupt individuals cannot escape justice by seeking refuge in other countries;
30. Urges States to establish mechanisms to trace, freeze and repatriate illicitly acquired wealth to affected countries;
31. Urges national parliaments to promote transparency and accountability safeguards, particularly in public procurement processes, implement asset declaration systems for public officials and their families, establish whistleblower protection mechanisms and verify that they actually work in practice, and empower civil society organizations to monitor and report on grand corruption and State capture;
32. Calls on the OSCE PA and the OSCE to remain vigilant on possible developments impacting the anti-corruption framework in OSCE participating States, and to continue supporting anti-corruption institutions with a proven track record of independence and impartiality;
33. Calls on the OSCE executive structures to contribute, in co-operation with other relevant organizations in this field, to reaching a global definition of grand corruption.