

Mr Simon Coveney, TD  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

By email

4 May 2021

Dear Minister Coveney,

Please find attached a letter signed by 96 NGOs from across the world, including Transparency International (TI) Ireland, concerning the political declaration of the forthcoming UN General Assembly Special Session Against Corruption (June 2021).

The letter calls for concrete new commitments and urgent action on corruption, a worldwide scourge that has seen too little progress in the years since the adoption of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2003.

As outlined in the letter, corruption undermines efforts to help ‘the furthest behind first’, a cornerstone of *A Better World*, Ireland’s policy for international development. The UN’s Common Position to Address Global Corruption (August 2020) recognises the negative impact corruption has had on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In terms of SDG #5, gender equality, for instance, it states:

‘Corruption hinders progress towards the achievement of gender equality, among other economic and sustainable development objectives. Women tend to be exposed more to corrupt practices and their consequences, given the pre-existing gender inequalities in all societies, when accessing services, credits and compensations, engaging in politics and political decision-making’.

Where there is corruption, not only are funds and material assets diverted from their rightful beneficiaries but wider goals for the achievement of a better world suffer.

TI Ireland, along with the 95 other signatories to the letter, are calling on UN member states to establish an intergovernmental expert working group to prepare concrete, technical proposals for supplementary frameworks and mechanisms to address gaps in the UNCAC.

Considering Ireland’s international development priorities, reputation as an ‘honest broker’, and broader visibility and influence as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, we hope for your support, and that of your Department, in raising this proposal at the highest levels of negotiation.

Yours sincerely,

John Devitt  
Chief Executive