Corruption is a major barrier to prosperity and equality, erodes trust in government, affects economic and financial stability, threatens investment and curtails the basic rights of citizens. In recent years, a multitude of corruption scandals emphasizes the evidence, witnessed by citizens, of widespread wrongdoing.

In a context in which large-scale, cross-border corruption cases are becoming increasingly frequent, national level efforts to combat corruption often fall short. International forums such as the G20 are essential to allow governments to coordinate their anti-corruption policies and contribute to the global fight against corruption.

In this sense, we welcome the principles and tools developed by the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG), especially on asset recovery, beneficial ownership transparency, asset disclosure by public officials, open data and integrity in public procurement, as valuable starting points. It is urgent to fully put them into practice, and track whether these commitments are having the expected impact.

That is why, we encourage G20 countries to commit to developing national-level anti-corruption strategies that would draw G20 commitments into the national sphere and could be complemented with additional anti-corruption priorities that are contextually driven, should contain specific objectives, timelines and their results must be measured and made public.

Collective action to fight corruption must be a joint goal of governments, business and civil society, particularly regarding public procurement and infrastructure projects. In this respect National level Anti-Corruption Strategies should be developed in partnership with both constituencies.

We also welcome current ACWG initiative on state owned enterprises as they have an increasingly significant impact in world economy and is fundamental to promote a levelled playing field and a culture of integrity.

When it comes to corruption in the public sector (including state owned enterprises). We expect from G20 determined and effective enforcement of the rule of law. It is also important to both encourage and acknowledge private sector compliance and integrity initiatives, including MSMEs.

We remain fully committed to contribute with governments and international organizations in the fight against corruption.