



**PALABRAS DE ANDRES RUGELES PINEDA
REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE ALTERNO**

Presentacion de la resolucion:

Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Nueva York, 17 de noviembre de 2020

Verificar contra el discurso pronunciado

Dear Madam Chair,

Today I am pleased to present the technical update of the resolution "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption".

I would like to thank all the co-sponsoring countries for their support of this important instrument, which is presented on a bi-annual basis.

Also, I must recognize the constructive spirit, flexibility, and commitment of the participating delegations during the negotiating process.



Madam President,

This technical update, in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, fulfills the purpose of including the most relevant references to international activities that have taken place since 2018, as well as the instruments that have been approved since then.

Although it is a technical rollover, we should be clear that this resolution is vital in the process of strengthening measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively.

In this regard, I must emphasize the following 10 features that are key in this instrument:

1. It recognizes that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are essential for poverty eradication and sustainable development.
2. It connects some of the most fundamental elements of the UN 2030 Agenda with the prevention and enforcement of anti-corruption mechanisms.
3. It considers that education plays a fundamental role in prevention.



4. It reaffirms the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, the proper management of public affairs, and democracy in the fight against corruption.
5. It acknowledges that frameworks and strong institutions at all levels are needed to undertake efficient and law enforcement measures under the Convention.
6. It promotes the widest international cooperation and assistance and facilitates the asset recovery process.
7. It reaffirms its concern about the laundering and the transfer of stolen assets.
8. It considers new actors such as civil society, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations.
9. It highlights that the prevention and eradication of corruption is the responsibility of all states.
10. It recognizes the success of the mechanism for the Review of the United Nations Convention on this matter.



Madame Chair,

For the Government of Colombia, the fight against corruption is a national priority.

It explains why we have been leading this resolution and why we have been playing a very active role in the international, regional, and local scenarios.

We do believe that corruption erodes the basis of our societies in the political, economic, and social spheres, by undermining the rule of law and economic investment and victimizing its most vulnerable citizen.

It threatens the social pact in all our countries between the State and the citizens.

There is no doubt that this scourge is linked to other forms of national and transnational organized crime, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, smuggling, illicit trade of arms, and human trafficking.

Therefore, we ought to apply the share responsibility principle for this case.



Madam Chair,

Next year we will celebrate in New York the UNGASS 2021 against corruption.

It would be a scenario not only to analyze the different and dangerous manifestations of corruption and its impact on our societies but also to strengthen international cooperation and the legal frameworks.

Most importantly, it will be an opportunity to reaffirm our political commitment and to think in innovative ways to undertake this fight.

Colombia firmly believes that if we want to win this battle, we have to think collectively out of the box.

We have to be innovative.

We need to bring to the table new tools.

We need to reinvent ourselves.

I want to conclude these remarks highlighting that a successful combat against corruption requires not only determination and political will but also more transparency, more information and integrity, more ethics, more cooperation, less impunity, and the strict rule of law.



Our moral obligation is to protect our societies and democracies from the inclemency and barbarity of corrupt practices and international crime.

Thank you.