

– **Statement** –

**Shared Commitment to Fight Against  
Foreign Bribery**

**Tenth Anniversary  
of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery  
of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions**

**Rome, Italy, 21 November 2007**



## **Shared Commitment to Fight Against Foreign Bribery**

### **Preamble**

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary celebration of the adoption of the **Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions** (the Convention),

We, the Ministers and senior officials of the 37 Parties to this Convention, gathered in Rome, Italy, on 21 November 2007, reaffirm our commitment to fight bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions. While acknowledging progress, we are also aware that combating this crime has to remain one of our most important tasks to promote sustainable development and ensure a level playing field in worldwide business.

### **Standards and Practices to Fight Bribery in International Business Transactions**

In adopting the Convention, all Parties pledged to combat bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions through effective criminal sanctions and related obligations. They also endorsed a unique monitoring process by peers to ensure effective implementation of the Convention's standards;

We wish to affirm that all Parties to this Convention have established the bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions as a criminal offence and have endeavoured to apply effective investigative and prosecutorial methods and means to prevent, detect and punish the foreign bribery offence;

We endorse the excellent work carried out by the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, including through the rigorous and systematic peer review mechanism of the Convention. We look forward to the completion next year of the current round of assessments of the enforcement of anti-bribery legislation by Parties;

We are pleased to assert that efforts to enforce the Convention have increased overall in the last decade. In addition, we welcome the adherence to the Convention and its application by new Parties, the sustainable cooperation with non-member economies, the fruitful collaboration with international organisations concerned with combating bribery and the enhanced contributions of business and civil society organisations involved in promoting good governance. Nevertheless, we realise that enforcement of the Convention still requires serious efforts to overcome any obstacles faced by the Parties.

## Going Forward

We therefore pledge to intensify our efforts to fight individually and collectively and in an effective manner bribery of foreign public officials. To that effect, and building further on the work by the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, we commit to:

- Vigorously and comprehensively implement our obligations under the Convention;
- Ensure that the standards of the Convention remain at the forefront of the global fight against foreign bribery and that their enforcement continues to be monitored by a systematic, effective and adequate review mechanism;
- Ensure enforcement of the Convention's standards throughout Parties' governments;
- Use all means and take all necessary actions, to effectively investigate and prosecute those who bribe foreign public officials, notably by facilitating international cooperation and mutual legal assistance;
- Continue to raise public awareness of the Convention in collaboration with civil society and the private sector;
- Continue to encourage and support initiatives by the business sector to prevent and detect foreign bribery, through, for instance corporate compliance programmes;
- Encourage major emerging economic players not parties to adhere to the Convention's standards and further develop partnerships with countries not parties to the Convention;
- Deepen collaboration with international and regional organisations combating bribery and corruption, in particular multilateral development banks.
- Actively support the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption by all countries.

The Convention constitutes the foundation of our commitment to fight bribery of foreign public officials. For this reason, we should apply it rigorously and faithfully so that the efforts we make today will be rewarded in the future.

**For more information:**

**[www.oecd.org/bribery](http://www.oecd.org/bribery)**

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