IHR acknowledges the steps undertaken by the HRC in aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The proactive engagement and contributions of the States, stakeholders and NGOs have significantly advanced the objectives outlined in the UN Convention against Corruption

Corruption itself violates human rights on the many levels and particularly undermines the Goal 16, which aims to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.”

We strongly believe that corruption serves as a main restraint in meeting the 2030 Agenda and it is vital to ensure fiscal transparency globally.

Against the backdrop of fragile peace and democratic backsliding, it is increasingly crucial to view corruption as an integral component of the most egregious human rights violations.

We regretfully acknowledge that corruption fosters kleptocracy and enables authoritarian regimes to retain power for decades.

IHR is deeply concerned about the recent backlash against anti-corruption activists and investigative journalists in Azerbaijan and impunity of the institutions that are involved in the illicit financial flows. For example, Danske bank known for alleged involvement in Money Laundering from Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Russia in the total amount of 200 billion dollars has not contributed their dues to the development of the civil society efforts to enhance monitoring, investigation and prevention of further corruption and money laundering in those countries. Instead, it has reached plea bargain deal with the regulators in the US and in Denmark paying up to 3 billion dollars fine and considered itself relieved from its responsibility to conduct liable business in compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The civil society of the affected countries whose rights were disrespectfully violated in a multi billion corruption scheme received no support from the actors. We consider it intolerable and unfair.

Thus, IHR underscores the need for international and intersectoral collaborative efforts in fostering transparency and upholding democratic principles to battle corruption.

We draw the attention of the HRC to the fact that civil society urgently requires increased support and financial resources to strengthen its capacity, amplify its impact, and effectively counteract the pervasive challenges posed by corruption worldwide.