

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development:

Theme: Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

Thursday, 8 July 2021, 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM

SDGs in focus: How do we get on track for building more peaceful, equal and inclusive societies (SDGs 3, 10, 16, 17 and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs)

Good morning/afternoon,

I am very pleased to join you all today in this very relevant forum, on the importance of SDGs 3, 10, 16 and 17, to build more peaceful, equal, and inclusive societies from the perspective of the Institution I lead (...) Supreme Audit Institution.

Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) are independent national oversight bodies, responsible for auditing a government's revenue and spending, helping to ensure transparency and accountability as well as efficiency, and overlooking the responsible use of public resources. Supreme Audit Institutions play a key role in good governance, the fight against corruption, and safeguarding the rule of law and democracy.

Last June, in the first-ever Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on corruption, in the political declaration titled "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation", the role of Supreme Audit Institutions on the fight against corruption was stressed, as well as the relevance of fostering a culture of accountability, transparency, legality, integrity, and fairness in the public sector.

As you are aware, corruption has a negative impact on the access to basic and health services; and the enjoyment of human rights. It also, exacerbates poverty and inequality, especially to the most vulnerable groups. In particular, the Political Declaration highlights the relevance of improving the understanding of the links between corruption and gender as a priority to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

This Forum has asked us to do an interesting exercise: look at the interlinkages of different SDGs to get on track of building peaceful, equal, and inclusive societies. To address this issue, we must acknowledge the exceptional crisis we are facing.

COVID-19 pandemic is not only a sanitary crisis, but a corruption crisis (...) that does not only cost public money but lives.

According to UNODC, the procurement of medicines and supplies in health systems is typically one of the most vulnerable areas for corruption. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, Transparency International has stated that corruption has diverted funds from investment in health care: Where corruption is systematic, governments tend to spend less on healthcare, thus increasing inequalities among societies and countries. **As the UN Secretary General pointed out, we are facing the same storm but we are not on the same boat.**

In the midst of the campaign for a decade of accountability for the SDGs, we at the Contraloría -the Chilean Supreme Audit Institution- are committed to doing our part. In fact, we are close to launching our own “National Anti-corruption Strategy”, after a widespread process that had vast participation. This Strategy proposes 25 effective measures to approach the most vulnerable areas of the State Administration to corruption, in order to comply with citizen’s needs with what we call the 4Es: efficiency, efficacy, economy, and ethics.

We need to mainstream anti-corruption to be a pivotal axis in public administration. Join forces and act together: international organizations, public sector, private sector, enterprises, civil society, and academia. To leave no one behind, these alliances must consider historically discriminated groups first; to build peaceful, equal, and inclusive societies.

In these times of crisis, do not hesitate to see Supreme Audit Institutions as an ally. Count on us to “transform our world”.

Thank you.

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