

## **ECOSOC Special meeting**

### **Unleashing the transformative power of SDG16: Improving governance and reducing corruption**

2 May 2023

#### **Closing Remarks**

by

**H.E. Lachezara Stoeva, President of the Economic and Social Council**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates and guests,

I thank you all for this engaging and frank discussion. And special thanks to our distinguished speakers, moderator and panellists.

There is broad agreement that SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions is crucial for the implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also clear that this is an issue that impacts all regions and countries. Through the use of existing tools and instruments, we can help unleash the transformative power of SDG16 to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and fulfill its promise to leave no one behind.

Today, we heard how countries are taking steps to improve governance and reduce corruption. Representatives of civil society, private sector and academia shared with us ways to enhance transparency and accountability to combat corruption. Proposals were made for the United Nations system to support countries in their efforts to promote integrity, enhance transparency and accountability and reduce corruption.

The invaluable discussions and recommendations that emerged from today's meeting will be compiled into a President's Summary and made available on the ECOSOC website in the coming days. It is my hope that these will also help inform the upcoming SDG16 Conference in Rome.

As we get ready to complete the second cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development at the Summit level in September, we must work together to leverage all opportunities to improve governance and reduce corruption.

Thank you.