President / Chairman

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a great honour for me to be present here to represent Brunei Darussalam in this lovely city with all of you today at the Sixth (6th) Conference of State Parties held in St. Petersburg Russia. I would also like to convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Organising Committee for the
successful hosting of the Conference of State Parties. Let me take this opportunity to share with you during this afternoon’s session on the progress of Brunei Darussalam with the specific focus on the introduction of the amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act to address abuse of power and misconduct in public office.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,


The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is a legally binding international anti-corruption instrument that provides a unique opportunity to mount a global response to a global problem. The UNCAC embodies a comprehensive approach to corruption, recognising the importance of both preventive and punitive measures. It also
addresses the cross-border nature of corruption and includes provisions on the recovery of ill-gotten assets.

The signing of the Convention marks a strong political commitment by the government of His Majesty who has a strong policy against corrupt practices in the public and private sector and emphasize on preventive measures to prevent corruption from taking place. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam have consistently emphasized on the commitment in preventing and combating corruption be it grand or petty, both of which are viewed and treated as serious offences.

Brunei Darussalam completed the review on Chapter III and IV of the UNCAC in 2012 and the executive summary and the full country report is available online. From this review process, Brunei Darussalam was able to learn best practices and sharing of information on the relevant chapters reviewed with the expert group as well as from the secretariat of the UNODC.
In preparation of the coming of the second review cycle of the implementation review mechanism on Chapter II and V (Prevention and Asset Recovery) of the UNCAC, Brunei Darussalam recently in September 2015 introduced amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act to address abuse of power and misconduct in the public office.

These amendments will allow legal action to be taken against civil servants who fail to carry out their duties to a high ethical standard. This is because it became increasingly clear that there existed conduct amongst public officials that did not quite fall into the definition of corruption but also could not be categorised as totally innocent, as such conduct was laced with elements of undue favour, nepotism and abuse of power / position which brings a new dimension to our anti-corruption laws.

It was this realization that led to the fruition of the 2015 amendments to our Prevention of Corruption Act with the insertion of new provisions that criminalized such conduct. Under these new laws, actions such as using property belonging to the
Government of Brunei Darussalam for personal use, giving favourable treatment to individuals and deliberate negligence in executing duties as a public officer are criminal offences punishable with a fine of BND30,000 or imprisonment for a term that may extend to 7 years.

Such offences can be prosecuted even without evidence of corruption or financial gain and it is hoped that the creation of these new laws will be another effective prevention tool in Brunei’s fight against corruption, ensuring the preservation of integrity in the public office. Our efforts do not stop there; the Anti-Corruption Bureau, together with the Attorney General's Chambers will soon embark on comprehensive engagement with relevant stakeholders both the public and private sectors to educate and create awareness on what is termed as misconduct in public office, warranting a prosecution under the new laws.
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

At this juncture, please allow me to reiterate Brunei Darussalam’s relentless dedication to combat corruption and our pledge to continue to implement our commitments under the UN Convention against Corruption. Perhaps eradicating corruption completely is a very tall order, but I believe that with a strong political will led by our leader His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam cum the Prime Minister of Brunei Darussalam, a comprehensive legal framework, active enforcement, effective prevention strategies as well as education, we can mitigate the damages and risk of corruption.

In conclusion, we hope that this Conference will produce effective conclusions and recommendations towards our common fight against the evils of corruption.

Thank you.