**Intersessional panel discussion on challenges and good practices in the prevention of corruption, and the impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights in the context of the covid-19 pandemic**

*Remarks and questions by Switzerland*

* Switzerland welcomes this intersessional debate, as it brings together the human rights and the anti-corruption communities.
* The exchange of expertise and experiences between the two communities ought to be encouraged. They may have different perspectives but they share a common agenda, i.e. to put the state at the service of the people.
* We see complementarity between anti-corruption efforts and human rights promotion, and plenty of synergies in the implementation of the respective legal standards and objectives.
* The international and domestic institutions, mechanisms and procedures for the promotion and protection of human rights can be highly instrumental in countering corruption, and vice versa.
  + Anti-corruption experts may be interested in information collected through the UPR and special procedures, e.g. on freedom of expression, civic space, and the integrity and independence of the judicial system.
  + In a similar fashion, human rights experts may be interested in the country-specific information gathered through UNCAC implementation reviews, e.g. information on codes of conduct for public officials, transparency and accountability in public administration, the criminalization of abuse of functions, or the protection of whistleblowers.
* Against this background, we would welcome more frequent exchanges between the two communities. Together, they could develop a human-rights based approach to fighting corruption.
* Perhaps the COVID-19 pandemic could pave the way for such an approach. While lives and livelihoods were at stake, the gravity of corruption became more obvious than ever.
* The pandemic demonstrated that corruption is not a victimless crime: When public services fail, when doctors ask for a bribe, when medical supplies are stolen from the dispensary and sold on the black market, then poor people are suffering, and their human rights are affected.
* To the panellists, we would like to ask a question. How could a human-rights based approach protect the most vulnerable people from becoming victims of corruption? Would it be possible to measure the gravity of corruption offences by their impact on human rights? And if we follow this approach, on which sectors and forms of corruption should we then focus our joint efforts?