

## 1. Information requested from States parties in relation to achieving the commitments regarding corruption prevention from the UNGASS political declaration

In November 2017, the Irish Government published a suite of regulatory, corporate governance and law enforcement measures – the ‘White-collar crime Package’ – aimed at enhancing Ireland’s ability to combat corporate, economic and regulatory crime. This included a commitment to “review and strengthen anti-corruption and anti-fraud structures in criminal justice enforcement”. To that end, the then Minister for Justice and Equality appointed Mr James Hamilton, former Director of Public Prosecutions and anti-corruption expert, to act as independent chair of a multi-agency Review Group. In addition to representatives from the principal state agencies and regulatory authorities concerned with the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, the Group included members from outside the public sector.

The so-called Hamilton Review represents the latest package of recommendations for revising legislation to address corruption and economic crime.

An all-of-government implementation plan to progress the recommendations in the Review of Structures and Strategies to Prevent, Investigate and Penalise Economic Crime and Corruption was published in April 2021. The plan sets out 22 actions that focus primarily on legislative, structural and resourcing measures to enhance agency and multi-agency enforcement and prevention capacity in the criminal justice sphere, and will fall to be implemented by a number of Government Departments and State Agencies.

Some of the recommendations contained in the implementation plan are the development of a multi-annual national Strategy to Combat Economic Crime and Corruption, and accompanying Action Plan, and the establishment, on a permanent basis, of a cross-sectoral, partnership-based Advisory Council to advise the Government on strategic and policy responses to all forms of economic crime and corruption, as well as a forum of operational representatives.

The Economic Crime and Corruption Forum was established in June 2021 and has met a number of times. The establishment of the Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption is currently in the final stages. Once the Advisory Council is established, work will begin on developing a multi-annual strategy for combatting economic crime and corruption and the accompanying action plan.

There has been significant progress to implement the recommendations, including to provide greater powers for investigating agencies to tackle economic crime and corruption; the establishment of an Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption; reform of the Ethics Acts; and additional resourcing for enforcement agencies.