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Sixth Committee

**Agenda item 178 “Observer status for the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative
in the General Assembly”**

**Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Romania to the
United Nation, H.E. Mr. Cornel Feruță**

New York, 15 October 2024

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution granting observer status for the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative in the United Nations General Assembly.

The draft resolution's main co-sponsors are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova and my own country, Romania. Germany joined as an additional co-sponsor of the text.

Mr. Chair,

General Assembly decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994 lays out the criteria that this Committee must apply in its decision to grant observer status in the General Assembly. The observer status is “confined to States and those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly”. The Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative fulfills both criteria.

The Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative is an intergovernmental organization. It is composed of nine member states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia). It has an internal structure similar to that of other intergovernmental organizations, including a Chairperson and a Permanent Secretariat. Its budget is composed on annual mandatory contributions from its Member States. The explanatory memorandum that is available on the website of the Sixth Committee under this agenda item provides detailed information on the internal structure and functioning of the organization.

The activities of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative cover matters of interest to the Assembly. The organization operates in South-Eastern Europe and its mission

is to lead regional cooperation to support anti-corruption efforts by providing a common platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging best practices.

Although it is a regional organization, it has been actively engaged with the United Nations action in the field of preventing and fighting corruption. Its work is particularly relevant in connection with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the associated Conference of the States Parties. The organization supports its members in drafting national reports for the Convention's peer review mechanism. Obtaining observer status in the General Assembly would further ease the participation of the organization at the sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Furthermore, the work of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative in the fight against corruption would also contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, which requires States to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

To conclude, the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative is intergovernmental organization whose activities covers matters of interest to the General Assembly.

We kindly ask all delegations to support our request to grant observer status to the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative in the General Assembly, confident that this step would strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and the organization.

I thank you!