



ADB OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific

Combating Corruption In the New Millennium

The Secretariat

FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTION PLAN FOR ASIA-PACIFIC (Tokyo, 30 November 2001)

INDIA

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Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates.

We in India fully support the initiative that has been drawn up by the ADB and the OECD. We would like to say that the text could be made more unambiguous and sharpened with the proposals that we have mooted, leaving nothing unclear, paving the way for its successful implementation.

India, as you know, has a very strong legislative and administrative framework that operates in a federal set up, where the States have clearly delineated rules for vigilance in anti-corruption efforts and the Government of India as the Union government has its own functions.

I would like to highlight two or three main actions that the Government has launched in the recent past. Beginning with a big debate, lasting two long days, that started in 1997 in the Parliament when we completed 50 years of our independence. It was the first time, in the history of independent India, that the parliamentarians discussed ways and means to combat corruption. It was followed by a landmark judgement from the Supreme Court in 1997 that allowed us to insulate both the investigating and the vigilance machinery against corruption from political interference.

Now we have three major pieces of legislation on the anvil. One is the freedom of information bill submitted to the parliament in 2000. Another is the prevention of money laundering bill submitted in 1999. Also, a proposal for creating an ombudsman in India has been reintroduced in the parliament in August 2001.

With these comments, I believe that it is clear that the Government of India has amply demonstrated its resolve to fight corruption by all manners and means and I would again thank the ADB and the OECD for allowing us to participate in this Conference.

Thank you very much.