

UNCAC Coalition Statement
Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
to the United Nations Convention against Corruption
Plenary session on Prevention
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Thank you Mr. President,
Dear delegates, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the UNCAC Coalition, let me reiterate our condolences to the Russian people and the families and friends of those who lost their life in the recent tragic events. Our thoughts are with you.

The damage that corruption causes is tangible and real and needs to be addressed. Many delegations have pointed to this impact and rightly so. We are particularly concerned with the damage caused to societies at large, the damage that takes place at the collective level. These damages need to be repaired and can't be left unattended. We seem to be better at dealing with the consequences of natural disasters than with the consequences of human-made disasters like corruption. We wouldn't imagine leaving the victims bearing the effects of typhoons, earthquakes or hurricanes alone and unattended. And yet this is how often leave the victims of corruption: the missed education and health investments, the justice that was not administered or the judges left without resources to act; the bridges badly built or the highways connecting to nowhere; the diminished trust in the institutions; the lack of safety and protection of the citizens; the more expensive milk for children in childcare centers; the increased violence caused by despair and distrust. It is correct and necessary to seek more prosecution and action against those guilty of corruption, but it is of little help if the damage they caused is not addressed.

Fortunately, the UNCAC in its Articles 34, 35 and 53b requires and expects States to do so. The summary reports of reviews during the first Phase reveal most countries (if not all) have some mechanisms of redress in corruption cases. The start of the second phase provides the chance to review in detail the use and application of article 53b in regards to collective damage caused by corruption.

The even better news is that there are prosecutors, judges, lawyers, anti-corruption commissions and civil society organizations in here and out there working to make sure that the victims of corruption don't remain as such, and that the damage corruption caused is repaired. We will be talking about some of those examples during the side event to be held on Thursday, Nov 5 at 3:30 pm in Room D and we encourage all of you, to join and share with us other examples and experience, to let those experiences be known.

Yes, there are initiatives and experience and we encourage you to do more, to use the framework and make a concrete difference to the life of citizens that have suffered from corruption. This is true for domestic cases as well transnational ones. Fighting corruption can't be an end in itself; it should

translate in an actual improvement of the life conditions of citizens in each of our countries across the globe.

Yes, there are challenges in addressing redress and compensation for corruption: are the remedy mechanisms in each country ready enough to address collective damage? Do they grant access to civil society? How to measure and provide evidence for it? How to ensure compensation is properly used in a transparent and accountable manner? We need to foster exchange among judges, prosecutors and practitioners to work together and solve these dilemmas. The answers to these questions will certainly be different for each country. We at the UNCAC Coalition will be helping all those of you interested in knowing more, in addressing these challenges, and in doing more about this.

The framework for dealing with the consequences of corruption is there. We encourage you all to use it, and to share your experience. We encourage you to explore in detail your own applications of Articles 34,35 and 53b and examine whether those enable effective reparation and compensation of collective or social damage. This can also be an area for technical cooperation and support and is certainly an area of further work.