

**Transparency International Statement
Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties
to the United Nations Convention against Corruption
Plenary session on cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and
mechanisms and non - governmental organizations
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Ladies and Gentleman, Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to express our condolences to the Russian people over the tragic flight crash. I would also like to express our solidarity with the people have been detained two days ago in St Petersburg outside of the conference venue because they were distributing leaflets promoting Article 20 of the Convention. This harassment demonstrates the shrinking space for civil society around the world and the risks each citizen need to face when speaking out freely against corruption.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is at a critical turning point. While the UNCAC has contributed to significant progress in the last decade, changed the political discourse on corruption, and proved itself an important global instrument, corruption continues to be a serious problem that affects every country.

Given the scale of the challenge much more is needed. Without collaboration and trust between governments and civil society, anti-corruption efforts worldwide cannot succeed.

The UNCAC recognises that addressing corruption requires comprehensive measures, including public participation and transparency. Corruption cannot be addressed in an environment of secrecy or where civil society is excluded.

In the context of the UNCAC review process, there have been encouraging results in terms of transparency and participation at the national level, though more could be done to align practices with Article 13 of the Convention. More than 350 groups in the Coalition are eager to contribute to the UNCAC review process and often face obstacles. These are groups with expertise and commitment to fighting corruption and their involvement can make a great difference to the success of the Convention.

However in view of the positive experiences in the first cycle, it is timely for States Parties to make transparency and consultation with civil society automatic in the second review cycle.

Pending achievement of consensus on this issue, the UNCAC Coalition calls on States Parties to pledge support for transparency and public consultation in addressing corruption and to lead by example.

States Parties need to reaffirm the importance of transparency and public consultation in addressing corruption. Civil society can play a crucial role to prevent and combat corruption. Civil society can contribute to successful implementation of UNCAC provisions, therefore we ask States Parties to

commit themselves to follow the six Principles of Transparency during the second cycle of the UNCAC review process.

Six principles as follows,

1. States Parties shall publish updated review schedules for the country review
2. States Parties shall share information about the review institution or the coordinator (focal point)
3. States Parties shall announce the completion of the country review indicating where the report can be found
4. States Parties shall promptly post online the self- assessment and the full country report in a United Nations language, together with the executive summary in local languages
5. States Parties shall organize civil society briefings and public debates about the findings of the report
6. States Parties shall publicly support participation of civil society observers in UNCAC subsidiary bodies

As we have heard from previous speakers there are already several States Parties, which publicly announced their commitment to sign the Pledge and follow its principles. We thank for their support and we hope others will follow them in supporting transparency and civil society participation in the second review cycle.

Thank you!