UNCAC as the people’s convention
Civil Society’s voice at the CoSP

Today the Coalition of Civil Society Friends of the Coalition released its statement calling for a review mechanism and for the protections of activists. We offer here some excerpts.

Corruption undermines democracy, human rights, civil liberties and sustainable development. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) provides a comprehensive framework through which to curb global corruption. Decisions made at the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties (1st CoSP) to UNCAC, held in Jordan in December 2006, laid the foundations on which to build future success. The challenge for the 2nd CoSP is to carry this momentum forward.

UNCAC recognises that combating corruption is not only a matter for governments, but also for civil society. Article 13 of UNCAC calls for governments to promote the active participation of civil society. We, the Coalition of Civil Society Friends of UNCAC, urge the Conference to seize this opportunity to translate the ambition of UNCAC into concrete actions and to undertake the following:

On Ratification: We applaud the speed at which UNCAC came into force, but note with concern that 33 out of the 140 signatories have yet to ratify, among them the G8 countries of Germany, Italy and Japan and the established financial centres of Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland. We call on those signatory governments that have not yet ratified to take immediate steps to do so and non-signatory governments to accede.

On Review of implementation: We emphasise the importance of a review mechanism for the effective implementation of UNCAC and welcome the decision made at the 1st COSP to establish such a mechanism. We call on this Conference to ensure that all necessary preparatory work be completed in time for the review mechanism to be established at the 3rd CoSP. The mechanism should:

- be coordinated with regional review mechanisms;
- be supported by a well-resourced secretariat;
- be assisted by an independent board of experts;
- use an appropriate mix of review methods (country reports, visits, peer review);
- monitor mandatory and non-mandatory provisions;
- be participatory, engaging all stakeholders including civil society organisations;
- be transparent, based on the publication of all review documents;
- be financed by the UN’s regular budget.

The full statement is available from the NGO Lounge and in the coalition website www.uncaccoalition.org

The Coalition of Civil Society Friends of UNCAC has launched a website with news, blogs, forums and much more. Visit us at: www.uncaccoalition.org
One of the key issues in designing and promoting any public policy is ensuring the capacity of properly projecting objectives, means and resources over the identification of genuine needs. Such a statement is especially true of anti-corruption policies, as evidence points out all over the world. Those requiring TA are concerned as to whether anticorruption policies indeed meet their expectations; the experts are concerned as to whether policies are effective. They meet on the two-way street of technical assistance.

Any technical assistance framework set up at global level must comply with minimal criteria for satisfying expectations/needs and effectiveness. In our case, UNCAC-related technical assistance should consider:

- broader governance reforms;
- monitoring of results and impact;
- promoting real change.

In this Conference, informal debates attempted at reconciling those requesting assistance and the experts. Discussions around enforcement of UNCAC provisions pondered on the key issue of technical assistance, in order to reach the most appropriate solution for all parties involved. During this Conference, all stakeholders expect that States Parties should find a workable and responsible global framework for technical assistance in the fight against corruption.

The Civil Society Friends of UNCAC urge the delegations involved in the decision-making process to address concretely the imperatives of transparency, utility, accountability and public participation from a multi-stakeholder perspective. If such features were disregarded, donor and recipient countries will never meet on the much acclaimed two-way street of technical assistance that bridges experts with those in need. Therefore, UNCAC-related technical assistance should coordinate with the results of the review mechanism.

Donor countries should take concrete steps to operationalize agreements regarding coordination, aid effectiveness and transparent disbursement of technical assistance funds. Technical assistance should thus be made available to all UNCAC stakeholders.

States Parties should identify needs and establish priorities for technical assistance in consultation with all relevant actors—governmental bodies, parliaments, civil society organizations and private sectors—in order to achieve UNCAC implementation, enforcement, policy and strategy support.

There is a shared responsibility of the private sector in addressing the corruption. In an effort to generate greater support and private sector input into the UNCAC process, the UNODC has convened a special event with the private sector tomorrow. Organised with the cooperation of Transparency International, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Global Compact and the World Economic Forum, representatives from companies and business organisations will meet to discuss how existing voluntary anti-bribery principles can support the values of UNCAC; the challenge of anti-bribery compliance for small and medium-sized enterprises and the role of the business community in supporting anti-corruption infrastructure where it is active.

The private sector meeting is expected to submit a statement to the main conference conveying the main conclusions of its deliberations. A private sector meeting was also held at the first COSP meeting in Jordan, in December 2006 and called, among other things, for the need for a robust monitoring of UNCAC, the need for technical
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How do you spell courage?

Annie Geron (Philippines), John Githongo (Kenya), Tschiko Mourad, Djilali Hadjadj (Algeria), and Anaykwe Nsirimovu (Nigeria). It can also be spelled thousands of other ways - each the name of anti-corruption activists, reformers, whistle-blowers, and their families - who have faced threats, punishment, violent assault and worse. They are you - civil servant, government official, trade unionist, journalist, lawyer, teacher, business person, and engaged citizen. And your fundamental rights are enshrined by a landmark UN instrument. The 1998 Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, upholds the significance, legitimacy and shared responsibility of human rights work, and recognizes the need for protection of human rights defenders, including those "advocating ... an end to corruption and the abuse of power..."

The Coalition of Civil Society Friends of the UNCAC Statement asserts the role of UNCAC in protecting whistleblowers, activists and investigators, and stands in solidarity with them: Success in the fight against corruption depends on those courageous enough to report or denounce corruption at work and in society. We note with grave concern the killings of journalists, anti-corruption activists and those who defend them, as well as the large number of citizens and workers who are sacked, suspended or removed from their jobs, unlawfully prosecuted, imprisoned, subjected to physical attacks and threats or otherwise harassed. We underline that those who report and denounce corruption are exercising a basic human right (i.e., freedom of expression). We call on governments to guarantee the security of whistleblowers and activists and call on this Conference to include Articles 33 and 33 in the self-assessment checklist and to start the process of developing a complaints mechanism, drawing on the experience of other UN Conventions.

We are increasingly concerned about the growing trend towards the harassment, suspension and redeployment of state anti-corruption agencies and reformers. We call for independence, protection and security of tenure for these reformers and agencies in accordance with the provisions of UNCAC. Visit the www.uncaccollection.org website to read more about the meeting.

New model anti-bribery tool for small and medium sized enterprises

Transparency International is launching an anti-bribery code prepared specifically for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) on 30 January. The SME Edition includes model anti-bribery principles and guidance providing practical advice to assist organisations with fewer resources of time, money and people through the process of developing an anti-bribery programme to suit their size and structure. The SME Edition can be used not only by SMEs but also by larger companies to encourage SMEs in their supply chain to implement no-bribes policies and practices. For further information see www.transparency.org


tahafal مصادر المجتمع المدني أصدقاء اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لمكافحة الفساد

مذودة لجود زمني لتنفيذ فعل الإتفاقية

القانونية وتسليم هذه القائمة، كما يعبئ إعلان هذه القائمة للعامة والإعلام مع مصادر المجتمع المدني في هذه الأطر.

لم تكن مراقبة الإتفاقية وتصنيف هذه الموارد جيدة نظراً لتأثيره الساقط على الدول والاقتصادات المشاركة في هذه المبادرة، مما ي箝ف تطور النظام الإداري، القضائي، والأعمال التجارية في الدول المصدرة للدول الأخرى.

نترك مصادر الإتفاقية، بما يؤدي إلى التطبب السريع للفائدة وتحقيق هذه الفائدة أو حفاظ عليها، ذلك يعتمد أنه من الأمور الممكن أن يشتمل

دراسة مراجعة النتائج المقصودة الإضافية الإتفاقية فاردة في الاتفاقية.

كما يتعين الضغط الذي تحدث تفعيل قواعد استرداد الموارد في الاتفاقية، ومن ضمنها المبادرة الخاصة باستعادة الموارد المصرفية (SAR) الموارد المصرفية وفق المبادرة المشتركة بين مكتب الأمم المتحدة للتنمية والجهة والبنك الدولي، وقد توفر هذه المبادرة إمكانية تطبيق الاتفاقية في الدول المصدرة للفائدة أو حفاز الأعمال المصرفية للعمل والتجار. ثم يشتمل ذلك على الاستمرار في البحث في الفضاء.

فقراء ما تكون هذه المبادرة، والمساءلة في متابعة و радиوا أن تبني التحقيقات من أجل هذا الفضاء.

أما مراجعة النتائج المقصودة الإتفاقية فاردة في الاتفاقية:

أولاً: مراجعة التنفيذ الإتفاقية:

تتطلب من الدول المارجة من أجل تنفيذ فعل الإتفاقية، ويكون تقرير الفعالية، كما يجب أيضا إجراء مراجعة النتائج المشتركة في الاتفاقية، كما توفر الدول الإتفاقية، كما يجب أن تفعل هذه المبادرة مساعدة على استعادة مصادر الإتفاقية في الاتفاقية، كما يجب أن تكون هذه المبادرة مساعدة على استعادة مصادر الإتفاقية.
تحالف مؤسسات المجتمع المدني أصدقاء اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لمكافحة الفساد

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تيك شرعتات وأجراءات تسمى لمساعدات مكافحة الفساد العالمي
بدرها بكل استقلالية مع توفير الموارد اللازمة للاستغلال
بذرها.

التذكير على أهمية أن يقوم النائب العام بدوره بكل استقلالية وبدون
أي تدخلات سياسية.

تحديد وإعلان الهيئة المختصة لتقديم المساعدة القانونية بهذا
الخصوص.

ثالث: المساعدة التقنية

تؤكد على أهمية المساعدة التقنية والموارد في اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة
، كما أكد أيضا أن إجراءات مساعدة تقنية على قدر عالٍ من المهنية ينطوي
عائد تقنيات الاتفاقية بشكل فعال، وأن تكون هذه المساعدة
متمامًا مع معايير النتبة الإقليمية من تلك المساعدة
ذك تدعول الدول المعرضة لتوفر الموارد المهمة للوصول إلى المساعدة
التقنية المطلوبة على الدوام، وأن يكون من هذه المساعدة
الدول الأطراف في الاتفاقية.

وعلى الدول الأطراف التي تُحلفين مساعدة تقنية أن تحدد احتياجات
من تلك المساعدات وتربيتهما المختلفة مقترحات على المساعدة المطلوبة ، كما تؤكد على أن هذه المساعدة يجب أن لا تكون
موجبة على مؤسسات مكافحة الفساد والمحامين الذين يثبطان الفساد
والقطاع العام والخاص وكذلك مؤسسات المجتمع المدني.

UPCOMING EVENTS

31.01 Side Meeting. Parliamentarians Forum

Organized by the Global Association of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC)

Where: Nusantara Room 1 When: from 9.00 to 13.00

About the Coalition of Civil Society Friends of UNCAC

Established in mid-2006, the Coalition is a loose network of over 50 civil society organisations committed to promoting ratification, implementing and monitoring UNCAC. Among the members are Transparency International (TI), UNICORN, Christian Aid, CAFOD, Article 19, Global Witness, Tax Justice Network, Institute for Security Studies, SAHRT, the Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN), TIRI and others.

The Coalition includes a wide range of organisations with a focus on anti-corruption, human rights, development, environment, access to information and many more. The Coalition is open to new members and is steadily growing.

The Coalition is determined to ensure that a strong and diverse civil society voice in support of UNCAC is heard both at the Conference itself and throughout the post-Conference activities. To that end, the Coalition is keeping a regular update of the Conference proceedings, as well as participating in the plenary sessions, organising side events and issuing a civil society declaration.

A website has been launched to offer a space for information exchange and advocacy www.uncaccollection.org where Coalition members are posting news, commenting on current events in daily blogs and sharing documents and photos about this CoSP.

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