

Enhancing anti-corruption efforts globally by adopting a stronger UNCAC implementation review mechanism

Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC

Written submission to the 2026 CoSP Special Session

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Ahead of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) Special Session on 6 November 2026, where States are expected to adopt the key review documents for the next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM), the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC submits this Open Letter, signed already by 400+ non-governmental organizations, other entities, bodies and companies, as well as individuals who work or have worked on anti-corruption issues.

Open Letter: Enhancing anti-corruption efforts globally by adopting a stronger UNCAC implementation review mechanism

Dear representatives of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption,

We, the undersigned organizations, entities, companies, and experts, urge you to finalize the agreement on the next phase of the Convention's Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) to maximize its impact in preventing and combating corruption globally.

The UNCAC is the world's most comprehensive, legally binding anti-corruption instrument with near-global coverage with 193 Parties to the Convention. Therefore, a robust UNCAC IRM that effectively promotes the implementation of the Convention is a cornerstone for tackling corruption around the world.

Currently, the IRM has significant weaknesses undermining its impact in promoting effective implementation. These include inadequate transparency and unsatisfactory participation of non-governmental stakeholders in country reviews, a lengthy review process, and the lack of structured follow-up to assess the implementation of country review recommendations and how legal frameworks work in practice.

Following almost three years of deliberations, States Parties are nearing an agreement on the IRM's second phase key review documents – the basis for launching the next UNCAC implementation country reviews. These key documents, namely, the self-assessment checklist, the country review timeline, and the blueprint for the country report and executive summary, should reflect the principles agreed in resolution 11/2 adopted by the UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (CoSP). The resolution includes critical calls to action which will increase reviews' transparency, inclusiveness, and effectiveness, as well as efforts to

deliver more impactful technical assistance to requesting countries. However, these calls to action are voluntary, and it will be up to the country under review to fulfil them.

We call on UNCAC States Parties to formally adopt the IRM next phase key review documents at the CoSP Special Session on 6 November 2026 as agreed in the last round of deliberations held in Vienna in September 2026, and to conclude all necessary steps to launch the next phase country reviews without further delay.

Ahead of the start of the next phase reviews in 2027, we call on States Parties to prepare for upcoming country reviews with a view to making full use of the opportunities to increase levels of transparency, non-governmental participation, and the assessment of the Convention's implementation in practice. Such efforts should include:

1. Enhancing transparency by:

- a. Requesting UNODC to publish your 1st cycle review documents on your country's UNODC Country Profile – these include the self-assessment checklist and the full country report.
- b. Publishing the country review focal point contact details when nominated, as well as a provisional and regularly updated country review timeline.
- c. Deciding to publish the country review's main inputs and outcomes, including the response to the self-assessment checklist and the full country report on your UNODC country profile page and a governmental website.

2. Strengthening inclusiveness by:

- a. Informing well in advance all relevant non-governmental stakeholders about how they can engage in key stages of the country review, including by contributing to the self-assessment checklist, participating in the on-site country visit, and in developing and implementing follow-up measures to the country review recommendations.
- b. Soliciting and considering the input from a broad range of independent non-governmental stakeholders with relevant expertise and experience, publishing their findings in the review annex and reflecting how this input was taken into account.
- c. Ensuring that stakeholders can participate in country reviews safely and without fear of reprisal.

3. Increasing review effectiveness by:

- a. Going beyond descriptions of laws, policies and institutions to demonstrate implementation in practice, the impact of measures, and the results achieved.
- b. Examining aspects such as compliance, investigative and enforcement actions, including through the collection and publication of comprehensive data and relevant statistics, and providing sufficient information on data quality, methodology and limitations to allow for the evidence to be meaningfully assessed.
- c. Taking stock of new developments since the completion of your 1st cycle reviews, such as progress made, developments that have strengthened or weakened implementation, trends and circumstances of corruption offences, cross-cutting issues, and the implementation of relevant CoSP resolutions.

- d. Considering relevant findings from other corruption-related international or regional review mechanisms that should inform your UNCAC country review.

Civil society brings independent evidence, expertise and perspectives that can strengthen the quality, credibility and legitimacy of reviews and help identify implementation gaps and priority recommendations. We, as civil society organizations and non-governmental experts, and practitioners dedicated to combating corruption, underscore our interest in meaningfully contributing to national reviews, and in using the findings and outcome documents to advance the fight against corruption globally, and in our respective countries.

Signed by (in alphabetical order):

Non-governmental organizations, associations, companies, and other entities¹

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Eye Transparency And Integrity Initiative (EETAIL), Nigeria; Echo Public Association, Kazakhstan; EG Justice, Equatorial Guinea; Elcena Jeffers Foundation, United Kingdom; Empower India, India; Engagement Citoyen pour la promotion de la Paix et du Développement (ECPD-RDC), Democratic Republic of the Congo; Entrepreneurship Development and Support Initiative, Nigeria; Equal Namibia, Namibia; European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL), the Netherlands; Expert Forum (EFOR), Romania; Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights (FEEDAR & HR), Cameroon; FEJED-Guinée (Femmes Enfants Jeunes Education Développement), Guinea; FONAC, Benin; Foundation for Environmental Rights Advocacy and Development FENRAD Nigeria, Nigeria; Freedom for Eurasia, Austria; Freedom of Information Center of Armenia, Armenia; Fundación B77, Ecuador; Fundación Multitudes, Chile; Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo - Transparencia Internacional El Salvador (FUNDE), El Salvador; Fundación Poder Ciudadano - Transparencia Internacional Argentinian Chapter, Argentina; Fundación T.E.A. Trabajo, Educación, Ambiente, Argentina; Fundeps - Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables, Argentina; Fundlink Aid International, Nigeria; Gender and Development for Cambodia, Cambodia; GGTNIGERIA, Nigeria; Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), Ghana; Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC Oceania), Australia; Global Peace and Development Organization (GPDO), Liberia; Goa Foundation, India; Good Governance Africa, Mauritius, Ethiopia, Ghana & Nigeria; Government Transparency Institute, Hungary; Gray Child Foundation, Nigeria; Green Network Organization - GNO, Myanmar; Groupe de réflexion pour l'avenir et la construction du Tchad (GRATCHAD), Chad; HAND Social Enterprise, Thailand; Hawkmoth, The Netherlands; HEDA Resource Centre, Nigeria; Hope for Communities and Children Initiative (H4CC), Nigeria; House of Africa, Chad; Human Rights and Environment Improvement Center (HREIC), Nepal; Human Rights Center in Iraq, Iraq; Human Rights Foundation (HRF), United States; Humanity For The World (HFTW), France; HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement, Belgium / Lebanon; Ibsar Association, Tunisia; Improve Your Society Organization, Yemen; Independent Forestry Monitoring Network (JPIK), Indonesia; Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW), Indonesia; Iniciativa para la Recuperación de Activos Venezolanos (INRAV), United States; Institute Alternative, Montenegro; Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Albania; Institute for Development Research and Alternatives (IDRA), Albania; Instituti i Kosovës për Drejtësi / Kosovo Law Institute, Kosovo; Instituto de Direito e Inovação (ID-i), Brazil; Instituto Qualidade, Brazil; Integrity Initiatives International, United States; Integrity Initiatives International Europe, The Netherlands; Integrity Watch, Afghanistan / Canada; International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Sri Lanka; International Governance Institute IGI-Cameroon, Cameroon; International Institute for Anticorruption Studies, Colombia; International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development (IMAECSED), India; International Youth Council - Yemen (IYCY), Yemen; Ipandetec, Panama; Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Center, NGO, Ukraine; Jamaa Resource Initiatives, Kenya; Jordan Transparency Center, Jordan; Journalists for Human Rights, North Macedonia; Juritrust Centre for Socio-Legal Research and Documentation, Nigeria; Just Access e.V., Germany; Justice for Wildlife Malaysia, Malaysia; K-Monitor, Hungary; Keen and Care Initiative (KCI), Nigeria; Kenya Human Rights Commission, Kenya; Kigoma Development Organization (KDO), Tanzania; KOK - German NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings, Germany; Kosova Democratic Institute (KDI) - Transparency International Kosova, Kosovo; La Strada International, The Netherlands; Lawfulness 4 Mexico A.C. 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