

Unveiling UNCAC – Tracking Transparency in UNCAC Implementation

- CSOs from around the world use **freedom of information** requests to ask national governments to release key documents and information about what they have done to implement the provisions of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).
- The requests filed are tracked, **documenting how responsive and transparent different countries are** when asked to disclose information about their anti-corruption efforts.

Why is this important?

- The UNCAC is the **only** binding global anti-corruption mechanism. Almost all countries in the world have ratified the UNCAC. Are governments truly committed to its principles?
- The UNCAC review process is **weak**. The publication of official documents from the review process is **not** mandatory.
- Governments are **not** required to involve civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders in the review process.



Governments disclose **key documents** from the UNCAC review process.

What do we want to achieve?

The Self-assessment checklists and full Country Reports **become available to the public and will help inform civil society advocacy.**



The campaign provides an overview of which countries **truly handle their UNCAC review processes in a transparent and inclusive manner.**

The requests **facilitate the participation of civil society and strengthen the anti-corruption framework and implementation of recommendations** from UNCAC reviews.



What information is requested?



The **Self-assessment checklist** from the review process of the UN Convention against Corruption.



The **full Country Report** of the implementation review of the country being reviewed.



Which civil society organizations were involved in the UNCAC review process (if any).



Contact information of the UNCAC focal point, i.e., the person from the national government coordinating the review process.



Available **information and documents** on actions that have been taken to address findings and recommendations raised by the UNCAC review.

What are the expected contributions?

- We expect that the effort will take a commitment of **two to three hours in total**.
- Use the UNCAC Coalition **request template** to submit formal requests.
- Campaign finalized by November 2021, and findings presented at the UNCAC Conference of States Parties (CoSP) in December 2021.

To:
Name of the authority
Address of the authority

Date

Subject: Request for information concerning the review process of the UN Convention against Corruption

[To whom this may concern],

I am hereby kindly requesting the following documents and information under [country name] [name of the Freedom of Information law] and [Article XX of the Constitution]:

- 1) Please provide me with a copy of [country's] Self-Assessment Checklists created under the first and second cycle of the implementation review of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). If these documents are available in several languages, please submit them in all available languages. In case these documents are already publicly accessible online, please provide me with the link(s) to them.
- 2) Please provide me with the full review reports on [country's] implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption from the first and second implementation review cycles. If available in several languages, please provide me with the documents in all available languages. In case these documents are already publicly accessible online, please provide me with the link(s) to them.
- 3) Did any representatives of civil society, non-governmental organisations or other non-state actors participate in or contribute to the first and second cycle of the implementation review of the UN Convention against Corruption?
 - a. If yes, please provide me with a list of the organisations, entities or non-State actors who participated in or contributed to the review processes, including information to which review cycle the respective person or organisation contributed to.



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Feel free to adapt the language of the relevant letter template so that it has the appropriate level of formality and politeness which would typically be used in your country in communications with public authorities.

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Add your country's name here.

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Insert the name of your country's access to information law (if one is in place), and possibly also refer to the article which provides the right to ask for information.

If only a constitutional provision on access to information is in place, then refer to this relevant article of the Constitution.

If your country has no access to information legislation in place:

While the access to information provisions in the UN Convention against Corruption are not directly applicable, the Convention provides a useful reference point, as your country has committed to its principles.

We suggest you state:

"I am hereby kindly requesting the following documents and information in accordance with Articles 10 and 13 of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which [country] has ratified:"

Contact and more information:

- Visit the Campaign web page for all the details:
<https://uncaccoalition.org/uncac-review/access-to-information-campaign/>.
- Any civil society organization or anti-corruption activist can join the campaign. Write to ati@uncaccoalition.org to express your interest in participating.