

UNCAC CoSP9 – Plenary on asset recovery - 16 December 2021

**Statement by CISLAC (Executive Director Auwal Musa Rafsanjani)**

We regret the exclusion of TI Georgia from this COSP.

Thank you for the floor, I have 5 points that I consider of the utmost importance:

Firstly, origin and destination jurisdictions have to make a genuine effort to implement the UNGASS commitments and the Global Forum Asset Recovery principles. Modest volumes of recovered assets have made little or no difference in terms of domestic resource mobilization in Africa and other jurisdictions.

Secondly, a genuinely global and national effort has to be made to implement Know Your Customer and other anti-money laundering measures to prevent losing illicit funds off-shore under anonymous legal structures.

Thirdly, the commitments to implement beneficial ownership registers are a good start but the lack of readiness by most jurisdictions in Africa and beyond to act on actionable financial intelligence underscores the fundamental problems in implementation to prevent capital flight.

Fourthly, while we encourage the usage of non-conviction based approaches in asset seizures and plea bargains, we call for greater data transparency on international and domestic asset recovery at all stages as this is crucial for assessing progress.

Lastly, we call for unrestricted civil society presence in all global and national asset recovery-related discussions.