

UNCAC CoSP8

Statement to the general plenary session on other matters (on the implementation of article 63 concerning cooperation with non-governmental organisations) by Mathias Huter (UNCAC Coalition/Vienna Hub Coordinator)

Abu Dhabi, 19 December 2019

Mr President, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Mathias Huter and I am speaking on behalf of the UNCAC Coalition.

Civil society plays a crucial role in the fight against corruption. We believe, and this is stated in different places around this centre, that we have to fight corruption together: states parties, civil society, experts, academia and the private sector. We all have to work together to address corruption issues effectively.

We call on the states parties to take further steps to facilitate and ensure civil society participation in UNCAC fora. This includes the timely issuing of visas for civil society participants to attend fora and conferences such as this one.

Another issue is that civil society currently does not have observer status in COSP subsidiary bodies. We call on states parties to allow civil society experts to attend the IRG and working group meetings and to provide an opportunity and space to share the expertise and experiences of civil society in these fora so that we can contribute to the fight against and the prevention of corruption more effectively.

Furthermore, we call on states parties to step up their measures to ensure adequate protection of those uncover and fight corruption, including whistle-blowers, journalists, civil society activists and citizens who use their right to request information from states parties.

To summarise, we thank all the states parties who advocate for adequate space for civil society and non-state actors to have their voices heard. And we call on this forum, on states parties, to take measures to ensure that we can all fight corruption together.