

10th Session of the UNCAC CoSP

Briefing for Civil Society – 1 February 2023

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About the UNCAC Coalition

- Ensure that the voice of civil society is heard in UNCAC fora
- Advocacy for policy priorities and civic space
- Facilitation of joint advocacy, networking and coordination among civil society groups
- Support to civil society groups engaging in the UNCAC implementation review process
 - Support and funding for UNCAC parallel reports
 - Transparency Pledge signed by 33 governments
- Regular engagement with delegations in Vienna
 - Briefing sessions, sharing of good practices and civil society asks

UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (CoSP)

- Main policy-making body of the UNCAC
- Improve the capacity of States to implement the Convention
- Policy guidance to UNODC to develop and implement anti-corruption activities
- Main outcome: adoption of resolutions and decisions
- Side events (“special events”)
- Civil society observers allowed at the CoSP (not subsidiary bodies)
- Subsidiary bodies of the CoSP

The UNCAC CoSP - General info

- Every two years
- Admission allows participation until next CoSP
 - In annual UNCAC NGO briefing, intersessional meetings,...
- **10th session in Atlanta, USA, 11-15 December 2023**
- In-person & online participation (aspects of online participation TBD)
- Civil Society orientation briefing on site: 10 December

CoSP 10: Assumptions & Context

- 20 Years of UNCAC adoption
- Host country supportive of strong civil society participation
- Momentum to defend civic space (UNTOC voting)
- Geo-political situation impacts consensus and civic space
- Early preparation will allow active participation
- Early and coordinated engagement will increase advocacy impact on resolutions
- CSO representatives in government delegations increases advocacy impact

Why should civil society participate?

- Demonstrate civil society contribution and expertise
- Impact CoSP resolutions and discussions – so we raise the bar on global anti-corruption commitments and standards
- Monitor States' commitments & positions on anti-corruption
- Engage with gov. officials, CSOs, international organizations
- Strengthen civic space at UN level
- **Raises CSOs' profile, provides opportunities for advocacy**

*154 CSOs registered to last CoSP

CSO Participation: Key objectives

- Wide participation and strong presence of civil society
- No NGOs are excluded from the Conference due to unjustified government objections
- Strong impact of civil society on the Conference's agenda
- Meaningful resolutions are adopted

Meaningful CoSP Resolutions?

- Strengthen & raise the bar on existing commitments
- Elaborate on necessary actions rather than reiterating a general call for implementation.
- Provide mandates for States parties to share information and for UNODC to do research, reporting and develop up-to-date guides
- Set the agenda for CoSP subsidiary bodies discussions
- Influence technical assistance provided to requesting States parties

Priority Issues

*Not listed according to the level of importance..

- Beneficial ownership transparency
- Public procurement transparency
- Environmental Crime and Corruption
- Whistleblower protection
- Strengthening the UNCAC Implementation Review mechanism
- Asset recovery
- Defending civic space

Priority Issues

- Grand corruption
- Gender & Corruption
- UNTOC & UNCAC
- Access to Information
- Political Finance Transparency
- Victims of corruption
- UNGASS follow-up

CSO Participation: modalities

- In-person (or online) participation as part of your CSO delegation
 - Individual attendance outside an organizational/country delegation is not possible
- As part of your country delegation (contact your Gov. ASAP)
- Travel: On your own cost
 - US embassies may have funds to support local NGOs' participation

CoSP 10: estimated registration timeline

- UNODC will publish [call for interest](#) in **May/June**
- Non-ECOSOC NGOs to express interest until **August/September**
- ECOSOC-NGOs can express interest even **later**
- The NGO receives an invitation from UNODC (if no objection was raised)
- Final step: Registration done through INDICO system

Entry Visa to the US (B1/B2)

INDICO registration

- Each participant opens an account
- Don't register in the last moment, INDICO has been unstable in the past
- Documents needed:
 - official letter signed by head of your organisation,
 - passport copy,
 - photo.
- **Save your confirmation of registration!**

CoSP 10: Entry Visa application

- Apply ASAP!
- In numerous countries: Difficult to get a visa appointment at the US embassy
- If no available appointments this year: General possibility for an [expedited appointment](#) through local US embassy point of contact
- Contact the UNCAC Coalition in case of problems ASAP

Opportunities for civil society contributions

Written submissions to CoSP

- Not more than 1500 words (non-ECOSOC CSOs) / 2000 words (ECOSOC CSOs); must not mention country names
- To be submitted 2 weeks before Conference to uncac@un.org.

Oral statements in plenary

- Under each agenda item, after the States parties
- In-person or pre-recorded video statements submitted in advance

Side events (led by CSOs/ partnering with States)

- Notice deadline for applications (TBD)

Opportunities for civil society contributions

Networking and engagement

- Opportunity to network and meet with government representatives, CSOs, international organizations – bilateral meetings to discuss initiatives, coordination meetings, workshop/trainings, etc.

Impacting resolutions

- Engaging with delegates to propose language and encourage stronger commitments in resolutions

On-site activities and actions

- UNCAC Coalition: conference newsletter, AC-games
- Other actions to be discussed

CoSP 10: NGO facilities

- NGO lounge (meeting and work space for civil society attendees)
- CSOs can display materials (reports, documents)
- Conference materials must be cleared by UNODC **two weeks ahead of the CoSP**: send email to uncac@un.org
- Bring printouts from home as it may be difficult to print on site

Coordination meetings on site

- UNCAC Coalition & UNODC will hold a day of briefings and preparatory session (10 December TBC)
- Goal to
 - a) brief civil society attendees on the Conference
 - b) to discuss priority issues and coordinate advocacy efforts throughout the conference
- Will host daily check-in sessions throughout the Conference

Resources and guidance

- COSP page on UNODC website:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/conference-of-the-states-parties.html>

- CoSP website by host country (forthcoming)
- UNCAC Coalition guide for CSOs CoSP participation (forthcoming)
- UNCAC Coalition newsletter (<https://uncaccoalition.org/newsletter/>)
- UNODC [Guidance note for NGOs \(2019\)](#)

Resources and guidance

Contacts at UNODC:

- Civil Society Unit: unodc-ngounit@un.org
- UNCAC Secretariat: uncac@un.org

What can you do at this point?

- Plan your travel (mark your calendar, apply for visa, seek resources)
- Engage with your Government:
 - Ask about the country delegation's priorities
 - Advocate for making strong commitments
 - Express interest to be part of the national delegation
- Join the Coalition's advocacy efforts
- **Q: How can the USA as CoSP president best support civil society?**

Next steps..

Next briefings:

- more organizational details
- discuss advocacy coordination

Look out for:

- Guide for CoSP CSO Participation
- Our listserv & newsletter updates
- Coalition's CoSP 10 webpage
- Discussions within [UNCAC Coalition working groups](#) & Regional groups

Thank you very much for your attention!

In case you have questions or require further information, please contact us:

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