

Getting ready for the 10th Session of the UNCAC CoSP

2nd Briefing for Civil Society – 31 May 2023

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About the UNCAC Coalition

- Global civil society network of more than 350 NGOs working to advance the monitoring and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

Goals:

- Facilitate wide civil society participation in CoSP10
- Help ensure that the voice of civil society is heard in UNCAC fora
- Coordinate joint advocacy for policy priorities and civic space
- Facilitate networking, collaboration and coordination among CSOs

CoSP10 is a key advocacy opportunity to advance global anti-corruption standards and practices

UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (CoSP)

COSP10: Atlanta, United States – 11-15 December 2023

- May likely be the largest global anti-corruption event

Main policy-making body of the UNCAC

- 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

- but not in its subsidiary bodies

Why should civil society participate?

- Demonstrate civil society contributions and expertise on anti-corruption
- Share best practice approaches and lessons learned
- 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 your CSOs' profile, use opportunities for advocacy

Your rights as observers

Make written submissions to the Conference

- 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.

Make oral statements in plenary

- Under each agenda item, after the States parties (register on-site)
- In-person; limited pre-recorded video statements may be possible

Organize side events (led by CSOs/ partnering with States)

- Call for applications: anticipated for September
- Not all side events may be approved due to limited slots
- NGO-led events tend to be towards end of the Conference

Your rights as observers

Participation in events until CoSP11

- Annual UNCAC NGO briefing
- Possible CoSP special sessions

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.
- Showcase your work

Impacting negotiations of resolutions

- Engaging with delegates to advocate for language and encourage stronger commitments in resolutions
- Daily check-in-meetings organized by the Coalition

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

CSO Participation: modalities

- In-person (or online) participation, as part of a delegation of an observer organization
- Individual attendance outside an organizational/country delegation is not possible
- Plenary discussion will be webcast
- Some States include non-governmental experts in their official government delegation
 - Additional personnel for the delegation => ability to cover more negotiations
 - Access to meetings closed for NGO observers
 - Representation of the State => limits other observer rights (cannot speak on behalf of an NGO)
 - If interested, discuss with your government ASAP

CSO Participation: modalities

- Travel: **Anticipate that travel will be on your own cost**
 - US embassies may have funds to support local NGOs' participation
 - Fundraise from other donors
- U.S. will soon release a COSP10 website
 - List of hotels near the Conference venue
 - Official conference Hotels are approx. \$200+ per night

CoSP 10: registration timeline

- UNODC has published [the call for participation for non-ECOSOC NGOs](#):
 - Apply by 23 June: submit contact form & letter
 - List of applicants will be shared by UNCAC Secretariat with States
 - If no objection is raised, invite will be issued around September
- ECOSOC-NGOs should have received communication on their participation
 - Will receive their invitation around September
 - If you have not received any communication: express your interest by writing to uncac@un.org

CoSP 10: U.S. entry visa application

- NGO participants should apply for a B1/B2 (combined) visa for the USA
 - Unless they enjoy visa-free travel to the United States, [eligible through ESTA](#)
 - If your ESTA is denied /not possible (e.g. because of travel to a “state sponsor of terrorism” – Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria) => you need to apply for a B1/B2 visa
 - If a combined B1/B2 visa is not available in your country on the [DS-160 application form](#), choose a B1 visa
- **Apply!** – Even if no visa appointments are available for your country until after CoSp10:
 - apply to participate in CoSP10 and apply for visa as soon as possible!
 - If needed, contact the consulate to request an expedited visa process (there should be a dedicated email address or online form for each consulate for this purpose)
 - Each consulate can prioritize visa processes

CoSP 10: U.S. entry visa application

- There will be no formal invitation letters from the UN
 - Invitations to organization will only be issued in September (approx.)
- If you need to provide a supporting document for your visa appointment, we suggest you [use the UNODC call for applications](#)
- Visa application fee is \$160 worldwide
 - some countries have added reciprocity fees on top if the visa is approved
- If you encounter unmountable other difficulties, please let us know

Civil Society day before CoSP

- U.S. has highlighted its commitment to facilitate strong involvement of civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders
- UNCAC Coalition, U.S. & UNODC will organize a day of briefings and preparatory session (**10 December** – tbc)
 - a) brief civil society attendees on the Conference
 - b) to discuss priority issues and coordinate advocacy efforts throughout the conference

=> **Plan to arrive early!**
- Forum for youth representatives and academics (9 December – tbc)



Our Global Coalition Conference

27-29 June 2023

The Road to CoSP10

Opening session, 5 topical sessions (on resolution topics), closing session

Moderated panel discussions + discussions in breakout rooms/plenary
on HOW to advance these issues and WHAT CSOs can do.

A virtual conference to discuss key anti-corruption issues, mobilize civil society and coordinate global advocacy to ensure strong outcomes at the 10th UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (CoSP10) in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Agenda



| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Day 1 – Tuesday, 27 June 2023 | <i>14:30-15:15 (CEST)</i> Opening Session | <i>15:30-17:30 (CEST)</i> <i>(last 30 min. optional)</i> Whistleblower Protection | |
| Day 2 – Wednesday, 28 June 2023 | <i>14:00-16:00 (CEST)</i> <i>(last 30 min. optional)</i> Political Financing | <i>16:30-18:30 (CEST)</i> <i>(last 30 min. optional)</i> Procurement | |
| Day 3 – Thursday, 29 June 2023 | <i>14:00-16:00</i> <i>(last 30 min. optional)</i> Beneficial Ownership Transparency | <i>16:00-18:00</i> <i>(last 30 min. optional)</i> Civic space | <i>18:00-18:30</i> Closing session |

Questions & Answers

What are your questions about CoSP10?

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 \(2019\)](#)

Contacts

UNCAC Coalition: Yonatan Yakir, yonatan.yakir@uncaccoalition.org

Contacts at UNODC:

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

What can you do at this point?

- Apply for CoSP10
- Apply for visa
- Seek & secure resources for your participation in CoSP10
- Plan side events over the summer
- Engage with your Government:
 - Ask about the country delegation's priorities
 - Express interest to be part of the national delegation
- Join the Coalition's advocacy efforts
 - Global Coalition Conference: June 27-29
 - Contribute to our consultation on CoSP10 asks (June)

UNCAC Coalition advocacy: COSP 10 run-up

- Continuing Network consultation to update our advocacy asks (June)
- Suggesting language for draft resolutions
- Facilitating civil society's involvement in side events
- COSP 10 written submissions on priority issues
- Discussions taking place in: Coalition's Working Groups, Regional Groups, ad-hoc.

Next steps..

- We will post the slides and a recording of the presentation on our website, where you can find more details about CoSP10:
 - <https://uncaccoalition.org/the-uncac/uncac-bodies/conference-of-states-parties/cosp10/>
- We will share updates on our Global Listserv and in our newsletter
- We will refine advocacy asks in our consultation process
- We will discuss key advocacy priorities in our Global Coalition Conference

Thank you very much for your attention!

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

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