

Getting ready for the UNCAC CoSP 10

3rd Briefing for Civil Society – 11 October 2023

Yonatan Yakir

Programme Manager & UN Affairs Lead

yonatan.yakir@uncaccoalition.org

info@uncaccoalition.org

About the UNCAC Coalition

- Global civil society network of more than 350 CSOs 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

- 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

[CoSP Civil Society Toolkit](#)

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

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, as well as some side events.
- 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 CSO)
 - If interested, discuss with your government ASAP

Status of Civil society participation

- Hundreds of CSOs received invitations
- non-ECOSOC NGOs- double amount of invitations in compare to CoSP 9
- ECOSOC-NGOs should express their interest in participating by sending an email to the UNCAC Secretariat: uncac@un.org (no deadline)
- CSOs that haven't received an invitation could be part of another delegation, including UNCAC Coalition
- Eligible CSOs that haven't received invitations, contact: uncac@un.org

Objections to CSOs participation

- 7 CSOs objected (3 from CoSP 9)
- Objections are politically motivated and seem unjustified
- Pressure on the objecting countries to withdraw objections
- CoSP is preparing for a voting scenario if objections remain
- Objected CSOs should plan their travel under another delegation & continue CoSP preparations

What can we do?

- At this stage, urge relevant governments to take action!
- At a later stage, if necessary, we will coordinate and take public actions

CSO Participation: logistics

- UNODC Information for participants [published](#)
 - travel, visa, hotels, costs, registration, submitting documents, plenary statements, ,interpretation, catering, etc.
- Official invitations to NGOs were dispatched
- Indico registration [is open](#): **deadline-1 December**
- Registration on the ground: starting Thursday and Friday before CoSP for pickup, and remain open throughout the entire weekend
- Follow [UNCAC Coalition CoSP 10 webpage](#) for updates

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](#)
- Visa application fee is \$160 worldwide
- **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
 - Supporting documents for visa application: official invitation, NGO delegation list, Indico registration confirmation.

CoSP 10 - CSO facilities



- NGO lounge (meeting and work space for civil society attendees)
- CSO meeting room (also will be used for side events)
- Registered 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 (by 27 November)
- Bring printouts from home as it may be difficult to print on site

Pre-CoSP Civil Society Forum

- UNCAC Coalition, US, UNODC will hold a day of briefings and preparatory session
 - **Sunday, 10 December, 09:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Conference venue**
- Goal to
 - a) brief civil society attendees on the Conference
 - b) to discuss priority issues and coordinate advocacy efforts throughout the conference

Pre-CoSP Civil Society Forum: agenda

- [Open](#) to all stakeholders, not only CoSP attendees.
- 500 + registered so far (vast majority CSOs, in-person)
- First time break out sessions to discuss resolutions
- High level closing panel
- (Probably) an evening reception
- Registration [link](#)
- Separate registration for civil society's closed morning session

Academic Symposium on 9 Dec., Youth change makers event on morning of 10 Dec.

Side Events

- 5 possible time slots (from 09:00-19:50)
- More than 200 proposals on 70 available slots
- UNODC is approaching event organizers to merge proposals
- Some events will be open to the public online
- Schedule will be published on CoSP website
- **Please share info on approved side events you are involved in**

Advocacy & Communication

- Civil Society toolkit
- Guide for Governments
- Key asks
- More elaborated position papers- further led by thematic leaders
- Thematic communities and mailing lists- actions, resolutions, etc.
- Social media toolkit
- Suggesting language for draft resolutions
- Discussions taking place in: Coalition's Working Groups, Regional Groups, thematic communities mailing lists , CoSP 10 general list,

Draft Resolutions: status

- Public Procurement (France)
- Beneficial Ownership Transparency (Nigeria)
- Gender Dimensions of Corruption (Ghana)
- Links between Organized Crime & Corruption (Italy, Mexico)
- Marrakech Follow-up (Morocco)
- Small Islands (Kiribati)

Draft Resolutions: status

- Civil and administrative procedures (Ecuador)
- Private sector incentives (Brazil)
- Measurement of corruption (KSA)
- Abu Dhabi declaration follow-up (UAE)
- Atlanta Declaration (USA)
- Draft decisions: extension of UNCAC IRM, host of CoSP 11

Hoping to see resolutions on: Environment & Corruption,
Whistleblower Protection, Political Financing

Written Submissions

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.
- Possibility of joint submissions
- What shall submissions include/not include?
 - Submissions should avoid abusive language
 - Follow UNODC guidance note (bottom of page 6 here: [link](#))
- PoC for questions: Danella

Plenary Statements

- Under each agenda item, after the States parties (register on-site)
- In-person; limited online possibilities for statements
- **The (high level) General debate:**
 - Requires registration: opens 13 November
 - Pre-recorded statement should be sent 4 December (follow exact instructions [here](#))
 - Videos submitted without the written text will not be interpreted.
 - No online statements during general debate (other agenda items probably possible)

Civil Society Coordination

- Final virtual briefing in December.
- The civil society forum on 10 December
- Daily update meetings throughout the Conference week
- CoSP 10 mailing lists for CSOs for advocacy coordination & updates

What to do at this point?

- Take care of US visa ASAP
- Register under a CoSP delegation & Indico
- Consider preparing a written submission
- **Engage with your Government**
 - Ideas in [CSO Toolkit](#)
 - Ask about the country priorities
 - Express interest to be part of the national delegation
 - Raise awareness to priority issues and key asks from resolutions
 - Urge to actively defend CoSP civic space
 - [Guide for Governments](#)

What to do at this point?

- Join the CoSP thematic communities of interest
- Join advocacy efforts around draft resolutions and
- Join awareness raising campaigns and other strategic comms. action
- Share about meaningful actions, planned side events, other actions
- Prepare engagement & meetings on the spot
- Other ideas?

Slides and recording will be uploaded to our [CoSP 10 webpage](#)

Resources and guidance

- UNODC [COSP 10 website](#)
- CoSP [website by host country](#)
- [UNCAC Coalition CoSP 10 webpage](#)
- UNCAC Coalition CoSP [toolkit for CSOs](#)
- UNCAC Coalition [Guide for Governments](#)
- UNODC [Guidance note for NGOs \(2019\)](#)

Resources and guidance

- CoSP10 resources for civil society [shared google drive](#)
- UNCAC [Coalition newsletter](#)
- Sign-up form to UNCAC Coalition [Thematic CoSP10 Mailing Lists](#)
- Registration link for CoSP10 on indico: deadline to apply is 1 December:
<https://indico.un.org/event/1006889/>
- UNODC [Guidelines for Side events](#)

Contacts

UNCAC Coalition:

Yonatan Yakir (general CoSP matters): yonatan.yakir@uncaccoalition.org

Danella Newman (written submissions):

danella.newman@uncaccoalition.org

General questions if relevant to everyone: cosp10@lists.uncac-coalition.org

Contacts at UNODC:

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