

UNCAC CoSP11
Statement by the
Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC

18 December 2025
Asset Recovery

Thank you, Chair.

Distinguished delegates,

Transparency is not optional in asset recovery. It is foundational. Without proactive disclosure of data and documents, asset recovery cannot be credible, accountable, or trusted. Transparency on amounts seized or frozen, confiscated and returned, on the legal bases used, and on return agreements is essential to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention and to assess whether its asset recovery provisions are delivering in practice.

Yet, despite more than a decade of commitments and the adoption of successive resolutions at successive Conferences of States Parties, reliable and comparable data on asset recovery remains extremely limited. Reporting is fragmented, uneven across jurisdictions, and too often insufficient to allow meaningful scrutiny. This persistent data gap makes it difficult not only for civil society, but also for States themselves, to assess progress and to evaluate whether asset recovery is conducted in a fair, effective and inclusive manner.

These concerns are grounded in evidence. A civil society survey covering 15 jurisdictions shows that only a minority of States regularly publish asset recovery data, and even fewer disclose the methodologies behind those figures. Case-level information remains fragmented, national strategies are often unpublished, and return agreements and cost-sharing rules are rarely made public. An analysis of the StAR *Asset Recovery Watch* database confirms this picture. Only half of UNCAC States Parties responded to at least one of the StAR's surveys that feed the database, including notable non-respondents among G7 and G20 countries. Even where States do report, key information is often missing, leaving major gaps in the global picture of asset recovery.

In this context, while we regret that there is no resolution at this Conference dedicated specifically to asset recovery, we welcome the ongoing adoption of the Palestine-led resolution on cooperation between Financial Intelligence Units and Anti-Corruption Authorities. The inclusion of language on data collection, reporting and statistical dashboards is an important step in the right direction. At the same time, we encourage States Parties to make this issue more central and establish clear standards, methodologies and mechanisms to publish this data and to follow up on data publication. Asset recovery is not a peripheral issue: it is a fundamental principle of the Convention and a central tool to combat corruption and give effect to its objectives.

Civil society stands ready to contribute by analysing data, identifying patterns and supporting accountability. But transparency requires political will. States — whether financial centres or countries of origin — must demonstrate their commitment to recovering and returning stolen assets by making their efforts visible. This starts with robust data collection policies, systematic reporting, data sharing and follow-up. Improving transparency in asset recovery is not a technical exercise; it is a test of the Convention's credibility and of States' commitment to implementing it effectively.

Thank you.