

# Communications and Advocacy Toolkit

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for the 11th Conference of the  
States Parties to the United Nations  
Convention against Corruption



Global Civil Society  
**Coalition**  
for the **UNCAC**

*This toolkit has been created by the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC (the Coalition) as guidance for civil society organizations attending the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC CoSP). This information has been compiled from various sources and draws upon expertise from the Coalition and its communities.*

**Disclaimer: This document is not in any way affiliated with, nor represents official guidance issued by, the United Nations.**

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November 2025

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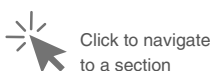
[@uncaccoalition.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/uncaccoalition)



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# 1: INTRODUCTION

## About this toolkit

The 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC CoSP11), taking place in Doha, Qatar between 15-19<sup>th</sup> December 2025, provides an important opportunity to create momentum around key anti-corruption issues and to contribute to advancing reforms.

This comprehensive toolkit sets out priority issues to help focus efforts around key anti-corruption topics identified by the Global Civil Society for the Coalition (the Coalition) and its community. This ensures we are providing effective advocacy and communications support to the relevant stakeholders working on these issues.

### Priority topics:

There are 5 key priorities identified by the Coalition, including specific resolutions of priority, which comprise a broader strategy for a wider reach, and will include targeted actions to be utilized across different platforms and settings.

These priorities are the following:

- [Next phase of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism \(IRM\)](#)
- [Environmental Crime and Corruption](#)
- [Human Rights and Corruption](#)
- [Access to Information](#)
- [Civic Space](#)

### Other topics:

These topics cover other cross-cutting issues that we consider crucial to advance. They include:

- Protection of reporting persons
- Gender, inclusion and corruption
- Victims of corruption
- Asset recovery
- Political finance

## Who is this toolkit for?

This toolkit contains messaging that has been developed with the support of experts from across the Coalition's different workstreams. It provides an overview of why each topic is relevant to address in the context of the UNCAC, and outlines goals and proposed actions for each. It contains overarching messages and tailored resources to support civil society in their advocacy efforts, which can be adjusted and adapted for use in different contexts.

## What are objectives of this toolkit?

The communications and advocacy objectives of this toolkit can be summarized through the following:



To raise awareness of anti-corruption issues and the profile of work being carried out by groups around the world to advance these key issues.



To consolidate and build upon shared messaging for communication around key anti-corruption issues, and to support advocacy efforts taking place at the global, regional and national level.

## What can you do from your country?

- Identify regional and national priorities, and use the relevant messaging in this guide to shape and map advocacy and communications efforts.
- The messaging provided is there for guidance. For greater impact with governments, tailor the messaging to the national context and use relevant legislation.
- Reaching out to governments before the CoSP is crucial, even if you are not attending. Through collective advocacy on the ground, civil society can influence plenary statements at the CoSP, and aim to incorporate specific language into resolutions of interest.

Please refer to our complementary guidance on how to engage in the CoSP process:



Civil Society Toolkit for the Conference of the States Parties



## What will you find in this toolkit?

### Social media messaging and templates

Templates have been compiled using the key messages provided under priority topics. You will also find thematic taglines and hashtags per topic, for use on social media.



Conference hashtag:  
• **#CoSP11**

### Priority actions for States Parties

Key actions around each topic were identified, thanks to the expertise of our community, tailored to advocacy with States Parties.

### List of good practice examples

A list of good practice examples has been provided under priority topics to exhibit the work of CSOs and governments in advancing anti-corruption efforts.

### Key resources and outputs

Easy access to resources and outputs, tailored per topic.



## Written submissions to CoSP11 from the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC

### 5 KEY TOPICAL SUBMISSIONS

- [Meaningful, Transparent and Inclusive UNCAC Implementation Reviews](#)
- [Key Recommendations for Strengthening the Next Phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the UNCAC](#)
- [Protecting and Promoting Civil Society Participation in Anti-Corruption: Fulfilling the Spirit and Intent of UNCAC Article 13](#)
- [Advancing Anti-Corruption through CoSP10 resolutions: Actions Taken by Civil Society to Promote Implementation of CoSP10 Resolutions](#)
- [Anti-Corruption Priorities from the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC](#)

### 9 WORKING GROUP SUBMISSIONS ON KEY ANTI-CORRUPTION ISSUES

- Working Group on Gender, Inclusion and Corruption:
  - [Advancing Resolution 10:10 by Addressing Sexual Corruption](#)
  - [Closing the Data Gap between Gender and Corruption](#)
  - [Gender Mainstreaming in Anti-Corruption Efforts](#)
- Working Group on Human Rights
  - [Recommendations for Integrating Human Rights into Anti-Corruption Frameworks](#)
  - [Promoting Policy Coherence Through the Systemic Integration of International Human Rights Law](#)
- Working Group on Victims of Corruption: [Recognizing and Addressing Collective Harm for Victims of Corruption](#)

### **Our calls to action: An overview of our recommendations and submissions**

### 5 REGIONAL SUBMISSIONS ON ANTI-CORRUPTION PRIORITIES

- [Asia and Pacific](#)
- [Europe](#)
- Latin America and the Caribbean ([English version](#), [Spanish version](#))
- Sub-Saharan Africa ([English version](#), [French version](#))
- South-West Asia and Northern Africa ([English version](#), [Arabic version](#))

- Working Group on Environmental Crime and Corruption: [Strengthening the UNCAC to confront environmental crime and the climate crisis](#)
- Working Group on Asset Recovery: [Transparency in Asset Recovery](#)
- Working Group on Protection of Whistleblowers and Other Reporting Persons:
  - [From Principle to Practice: A Joint Civil Society and Legal Expert Study on the Implementation of Whistleblower Laws](#)
  - [Protection of Journalists, their Sources and Defenders](#)

# 2: FIVE KEY PRIORITIES

Here we present the key priorities that have been identified by the Coalition and its community as areas to focus on.

In prioritizing these areas, the Coalition has been working closely with experts to provide

suggestions on how to strengthen and advance ongoing efforts, and priority actions have been outlined as guidance for advocacy with States Parties.

## 2.1 UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism

Enhancing anti-corruption efforts globally by adopting a more effective, transparent, and inclusive UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism.



## 2.4 Access to Information

Effective access to information is crucial for holding those in power accountable.



## 2.2 Environmental Crime and Corruption

Corruption fuels environmental crime, climate change, and biodiversity loss. States must use the UNCAC to confront these crises.



## 2.5 Civic Space

Without an open and safe civic space, meaningful anti-corruption progress becomes impossible.






## 2.3 Human Rights and Corruption

Corruption and human rights violations are two deeply interconnected challenges with far-reaching consequences for individuals, communities, and societies around the world.



### How to use this toolkit

-  Jump directly back to this page by clicking on the home icon
-  Access the full contents page by clicking on the bullet points
-  All resources and outputs can be accessed by clicking on the arrow icon



# UNCAC IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW MECHANISM (IRM)

## CoSP11 actions:

- Resolution tabled
- Written submission

*Enhancing anti-corruption efforts globally by adopting a more effective, transparent, and inclusive UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism.*

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

The UNCAC is the world's only comprehensive, legally binding anti-corruption instrument with near global coverage and 192 States Parties. Therefore, a robust UNCAC review mechanism that effectively promotes the Convention's implementation is a cornerstone for tackling corruption worldwide. CoSP11 will adopt a resolution on the next phase of the IRM – hopefully resulting in a strengthened review mechanism.

## KEY MESSAGES

### Enhance transparency

Publish timelines for country reviews and information on how stakeholders can engage, as well as all inputs and outcome documents from UNCAC reviews. This will enable civil society, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, journalists, academics, donors, development partners and other actors contributing to anti-corruption efforts to utilize the information.

### Strengthen stakeholder participation

Meaningfully consult with CSOs, academia, professional associations, the private sector, journalists and other non-governmental stakeholders at key stages of the country reviews and follow-up, including technical assistance a country may receive to support reforms, and reflect stakeholder participation and views in country reports and executive summaries. Allow non-governmental stakeholders to participate as observers in the meetings of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group, as well as in other UNCAC working groups.

### Increase efficiency

Publish a regularly updated global calendar of country reviews to keep the review schedule on track, providing explanations for delays and how they will be addressed.

### Here you can find:



Social media tiles



Good practices



Priority actions



List of resources and outputs

### Establish a structured follow-up process

Adopt a formal follow-up process to regularly monitor how countries have addressed recommendations from previous country reviews, including through technical assistance they receive, and to review new developments, with countries submitting and publishing progress reports annually.

### Assess effectiveness of implementation

Carry out reviews with a central focus on assessing UNCAC implementation in practice, examining aspects such as compliance, preventive, investigative, and enforcement actions, and the resourcing and independence of competent anti-corruption bodies.

Some of these messages are available as social media tiles in the [CoSP11 Drive](#).

### Strengthening the Implementation Review Mechanism

Enhancing anti-corruption efforts globally by adopting a more effective, transparent, and inclusive UNCAC IRM



#### Key principles:

- Enhance transparency
- Strengthen stakeholder participation
- Increase efficiency
- Establish a structured follow-up process
- Assess effectiveness for implementation



## PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

### Establish a relevant scope for country reviews

Country reviews in the next phase should assess:

- progress that States Parties have made to address recommendations, successes, good practices, challenges, and observations identified in previous country review reports;
- additional developments, including new measures adopted and the challenges faced;
- implementation of anti-corruption measures in practice, providing examples and showcasing impact;
- the provision of technical assistance to address observations and recommendations laid out in previous country review reports, its impact and outcomes, and whether additional technical assistance is needed.

### Enhance the participation of civil society at key stages of the country review and follow-up process

States Parties should enhance participation in a structured way, such as by involving them in country visits and in the preparation of responses to the self-assessment checklist through broad consultations.

### Solicit and consider information and data provided by NGOs

Reviewing States should take into consideration this information when drafting the country review reports.

### Publish a regularly updated, publicly available calendar of country reviews

UNODC should provide information on upcoming country visits and the completion of country reviews to increase transparency about the country review process and help promote greater efficiency and stakeholder engagement.

### Issue a press release to announce the completion of the country review

UNODC should issue a press release upon completion of a country visit that summarizes the review and its outcomes.

### Publish an online dashboard

UNODC should make available online good practices, lessons learned, technical assistance needs, and what's being provided, partners involved, and the outcomes of projects aimed at enhancing UNCAC implementation.

### Submit and publish periodic progress reports

States Parties should provide periodic written progress reports by a firm deadline following completion of country reviews, using a standardized template developed by UNODC, to facilitate and ensure consistency in reporting.

These priority actions have been compiled to **target States Parties** and to **help guide advocacy efforts**.



### Social media messaging

Use these messages to help raise awareness around the need for a stronger IRM.

When using social media, please tag the Coalition in your messages: [@uncaccoalition](https://twitter.com/uncaccoalition)

#### Main tagline and hashtags:

- **Let's make the IRM #FitForPurpose**

UNCAC related hashtags:

- **#UNCACagainstCorruption**
- **#UnitedAgainstCorruption**

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## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

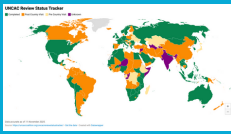
How has civil society around the world contributed to strengthening the IRM?

<p><b>Switzerland</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of civil society in key meetings with the reviewers led to their meaningful participation during the country visit, without the government present. They were encouraged by government representatives to speak openly and critically.</li> <li><a href="#">Public Eye</a> participated in the country visit and in the follow-up meeting held by the government to discuss the findings of the report.</li> <li><a href="#">Transparency International Switzerland</a> received periodic updates on the status of the review and the timeline for the publication of the country report.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Albania</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel report written by the <a href="#">Institute for Democracy and Mediation</a>.</li> <li>The UNCAC focal point consulted the Coalition for a list of CSOs to include in the country visit, which were all subsequently invited. Successful engagement with CSOs during the visit was achieved, with sufficient information and training provided beforehand.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chile</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Chile Transparente</a>; <a href="#">Fundación Multitudes</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel report written by <a href="#">Fundación Multitudes</a>.</li> <li>Civil society participated in the country visit, and there has been continuous engagement from CSOs through the multi-stakeholder initiative <a href="#">Alianza Anticorrupción UNCAC</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Togo</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Alliance Nationale des Consommateurs et de l'Environnement</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel report written by <a href="#">l'Alliance Nationale des Consommateurs et de l'Environnement (ANCE)</a>.</li> <li>The Coalition supported ANCE in producing the report, which provided them with valuable findings and recommendations when they took part in their country visit.</li> <li>The Coalition supported ANCE with <a href="#">follow-up activities</a> to the IRM in 2022, which enabled them to successfully coordinate civil society input to Togo's National Anti-Corruption Strategy.</li> </ul>

## USEFUL RESOURCES AND OUTPUTS

 <p><b>Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC</b></p>	<p><b><u>Written submission to CoSP11: Key recommendations for strengthening the next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the UNCAC</u></b></p> <p>The Coalition urges States to adopt a resolution that provides for a more effective, efficient, transparent, and inclusive IRM in its next phase. The resolution should establish a clear and relevant follow-up process and lay out a plan for implementation and a specific timeframe for when country reviews should begin, ideally, no later than 2027.</p>
 <p><b>Open letter to States Parties of the UNCAC</b></p>	<p><b><u>Open letter: Enhancing anti-corruption efforts globally by adopting a more effective, transparent, and inclusive UNCAC Review Mechanism</u></b></p> <p>Over 500 organizations from 125 countries urge the States Parties to the UNCAC to strengthen the Convention's Implementation Review Mechanism to increase its impact in preventing and combating corruption globally. The open letter outlines 5 key principles for achieving a stronger IRM.</p>

## UNCAC Review Tools by Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC:



Global map



### UNCAC Review Status Tracker

This global map and database provides an overview of the status of the UNCAC review in all States Parties to the Convention for the 2nd and ongoing review cycle, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> review cycle. Information is grouped by region and year of review, and provides details on UNCAC focal points, and the different stages and outputs of the review mechanism.



Transparency Pledge



### Transparency Pledge and Guide to Transparency and Participation in the UNCAC IRM

The Coalition is seeking sign-up by States Parties to the Transparency Pledge for the second UNCAC review cycle. The Pledge embodies a voluntary commitment to meet higher standards of transparency and civil society participation in the UNCAC review mechanism. Complementary to the Pledge is a Guide to Transparency and Participation in the UNCAC review process, which highlights good practices to ensure an inclusive process in English, French, Spanish.



Civil Society Reports



### Civil Society Parallel Reports

The Coalition offers technical as well as limited financial support to civil society organizations that want to become involved in, and contribute to, the UNCAC implementation review process in their respective country. It supports CSOs who wish to write a parallel report on the implementation of Chapters II (preventive measures) and V (asset recovery) of the UNCAC, as well as follow-up activities to do advocacy on key recommendations of parallel reports.



Campaign

Access to Information Campaign



### Access to Information Campaign

The Coalition invites civil society organizations from around the world to join a campaign in which CSOs file freedom of information requests with their national governments to obtain key documents and information from the UNCAC review.

The campaign tracks the requests filed around the world as well as the responses provided by governments on the Coalition's website, documenting how responsive and transparent different countries are when asked to disclose information about their anti-corruption efforts.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME AND CORRUPTION (ECC)

### CoSP11 actions:

- Resolution tabled
- [Written submission](#)

*Corruption fuels environmental crime, accelerates climate change, and drives biodiversity loss — with devastating consequences for people and the planet. The Coalition is addressing this challenge through the activities of the Environmental Crime and Corruption Working Group (ECC WG). We call on States to use the UNCAC as a powerful tool to confront environmental crime and the climate crisis.*

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Corruption — including bribery, embezzlement, state capture, and conflicts of interest — undermines the integrity and effectiveness of environmental and climate action. Organized criminal networks involved in environmental crimes depend on corruption at every stage of the global supply chain, enabling their operations and shielding them from accountability. The damage caused is often irreversible, with far-reaching consequences for economies, the rule of law, public safety, and human health.

### KEY MESSAGES

#### Leveraging the UNCAC to fight environmental crimes and corruption

The UNCAC is a powerful yet underused international instrument to address corruption driving crimes affecting the environment, including biodiversity loss and pollution, and climate change.

#### Adopting a strong CoSP11 resolution

Corruption linked to environmental crime and the climate crisis is escalating — governments must act now by adopting a strong CoSP11 resolution to close critical gaps and strengthen global prevention and enforcement efforts.

#### Effective implementation of the UNCAC will help curb corruption

Fully implementing the UNCAC will significantly enhance the global response to corruption driving environmental crime and impacting climate change.

#### CoSP as a key opportunity for change

This CoSP11 presents a key opportunity to strengthen and utilize the UNCAC to better meet the global challenge of environmental crime and corruption.

### Here you can find:



[Social media assets](#)



[Good practices](#)



[Priority actions](#)



[List of resources and outputs](#)

Some of these messages are available as social media assets from the [CoSP11 Drive](#).



### PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

#### Strengthen and effectively implement the UNCAC

Strengthen and more effectively implement the UNCAC at the national level to combat corruption that affects the environment and contributes to climate change, including through public procurement integrity, transparency, and accountability, beneficial ownership transparency, anti-money laundering measures, and effective enforcement and international cooperation.

## Identify interlinkages for more effective investigation and prosecution

Formally recognize the interlinkages between corruption, crimes that affect the environment, and climate change, including corruption involving organized criminal groups, and fully investigate and prosecute corruption as it relates to these crimes.

## Ensure transparency and accountability in climate finance

Enhance traceability, transparency, and accountability to prevent and counter corruption in the management, allocation, and use of climate finance and in climate finance reporting.

## Strengthen inclusive and safe multi-stakeholder collaboration on climate and anti-corruption

Bolster multi-stakeholder collaboration, in particular with CSOs and communities impacted by environmental degradation and climate change, and create a safe and enabling environment for CSOs, whistleblowers, journalists, indigenous people, communities, and other members of civil society to

## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

*How are civil society around the world helping fight anti-corruption in the context of environmental crime and corruption?*

<p><b>India</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CivicDataLab</a>, in collaboration with <a href="#">Open Contracting Partnership</a>, analyzed <a href="#">Assam's public procurement data</a> to estimate the share of green public procurement (GPP). GPP refers to procurement that incorporates climate and environmental goals. CivicDataLab developed a methodology to identify and measure green public procurement using tender titles. Early findings suggest that with the introduction of Green Public Finance Management systems in the state, more environmentally friendly spending tripled in the first year and quadrupled in the second year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Namibia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several former Namibian government officials are set to stand trial over the Fishrot scandal, accused of receiving payments from representatives of the Icelandic fishing company Samherji in exchange for lucrative fishing quotas. The <a href="#">Institute for Public Policy Research</a> played a key role in highlighting the scandal's human consequences, <a href="#">documenting</a> its impact on affected communities and advocating for victims' redress.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Philippines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2023, the <a href="#">Philippines' Multistakeholder group and EITI</a> commissioned an integrity study using <a href="#">NRGI's corruption diagnostic tool</a>. The study conducted a thorough investigation of integrity risks, particularly in licensing and contracting for large-scale nickel mines, and provided recommendations and an activity plan to strengthen</li> </ul>

make effective contributions on this issue, including the ability to work independently and without fear of reprisal.

These priority actions have been compiled to **target States Parties** and to **help guide advocacy efforts**.

### Social media campaign

The [Working Group on Environmental Crime and Corruption](#) is carrying out a communications campaign to raise awareness around the UNCAC and how it can be used to tackle environmental crime and corruption. This campaign will feature on our websites and other online channels.

When using these messages on social media, please tag the Wildlife Justice Commission, Nature Crime Alliance and the Coalition in your messages: [@WJCommission \(X, Facebook\)](#), [@Wildlife Justice Commission \(LinkedIn\)](#), [@NatureCrimeAll](#), [@uncaccoalition](#)

#### Main tagline and hashtags:

- **We need to bolster the #UNCAC for #EnvironmentalCrime**
- **#UNCACagainstCorruption**

	<p>anticorruption efforts. The NRCI's Corruption Diagnostic Tool is an adaptable multi-step tool designed to be used by a range of stakeholders to help identify and act on corruption issues in a country or region's extractive sector. In addition to the Philippines, it has already been used in Mongolia, Colombia, Chile, and Guinea.</p>
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">NGO Shipbreaking Platform</a> collects and documents data, including beneficial ownership, for ships dismantled worldwide each year. This information has been instrumental in several court cases addressing the illegal export of end-of-life ships as waste, which pose serious environmental and human risks. One notable example is the case of the <a href="#">HARRIER ship</a>, which underscores the importance of access to accurate beneficial ownership information in the shipping sector, particularly for tackling waste trafficking. Investigations by Norwegian authorities, supported by research from the NGO Shipbreaking Platform, revealed that the ship's beneficial owner sold it to a cash buyer who attempted to disguise it for illegal export to a shipbreaking yard in South Asia. The investigation ultimately led to the owner's conviction and a six-month prison sentence in November 2020.</li> </ul>
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simon Valoi, also known as "Navara", was one of the most notorious rhino poaching bosses in southern Africa. He recruited and armed Mozambican poaching teams, orchestrating incursions into Kruger National Park in South Africa and supplying rhino horns to traffickers in Asia. Intelligence indicates he was responsible for hundreds of rhino deaths over several years. Despite also being wanted in South Africa for murder and theft, Navara could move freely across the border, shielded by corrupt connections with police and immigration authorities.</li> <li>The <a href="#">Wildlife Justice Commission supported Mozambique's National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC)</a> with an intelligence-led investigation, leading to Navara's arrest in July 2022 in Maputo with 2.9 kg of rhino horn. In August 2024, he was convicted of buying and selling prohibited species, criminal association, and money laundering, and sentenced to 27 years' imprisonment. He was also ordered to pay 16 years of fines and MT 11 million (USD 172,000) in compensation to the state, along with forfeiting assets worth MT 9 million (USD 140,000).</li> </ul>
Global	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">Nature Crime Alliance</a> plays a leading role in advancing efforts to disrupt financial crimes linked to CAE. In line with FATF recommendations, the Alliance supports UNODC in organizing <a href="#">Private Sector Dialogues</a> that bring together diverse stakeholders to strengthen the detection and response to financial crimes. These Dialogues also help INTERPOL and law enforcement agencies identify emerging financial crime methods early, enabling faster and more effective action by authorities.</li> </ul>

**This is a non-exhaustive list of prominent organizations advancing anti-corruption in the context of ECC:**

- [Nature Crime Alliance/WRI](#), International
- [World Wildlife Fund](#), International
- [National Whistleblower Centre](#), United States
- [HEDA Resource Center](#), Namibia
- [U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center](#), Norway
- [Wildlife Justice Commission](#), International
- [Transparency International](#), International
- [Open Contracting Partnership](#), United States
- [FACT Coalition](#), United States
- [Natural Resource Governance Institute](#), Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa
- [Institute for Public Policy Research](#), Namibia
- [Basel Governance Institute](#), Switzerland

*\*Please note that we acknowledge the vast amount of organizations doing great work in this field. We provide here only a small sample.*

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## USEFUL RESOURCES AND OUTPUTS



Environmental Crime and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC



### **Written submission to CoSP11: Strengthening the UNCAC to confront environmental crime and the climate**

In this submission, the working group calls on State Parties to prioritize preventing and combating corruption that enables crimes that affect the environment and undermines environment and climate action as a central focus of UNCAC implementation. They call on States to adopt a strong dedicated resolution at CoSP11 with concrete, time-bound commitments and adequate support for technical assistance and capacity-building, while integrating environmental and climate considerations across other UNCAC processes and resolutions.



Compendium

Environmental Crime and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC



### **Corruption in Crimes that Affect the Environment and Climate**

A comprehensive review and deeper understanding of UNCAC implementation in relation to corruption and crimes that affect the environment (CAE) and climate is needed. This compendium seeks to address existing knowledge gaps while also providing justifications and showcasing best practices that may be relevant to the development of a potential resolution on the topic at the CoSP.



Environmental Crime and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC



### **Implementation Review Group Submission, June 2025: Applying the UNCAC to confront environmental crime and the climate crisis**

The ECC Working Group called on States Parties to prioritize tackling corruption that enables environmental crime and undermines environment and climate action as a central focus of UNCAC implementation. It calls on States to formally recognize the interlinkages between corruption, climate change and crimes that affect the environment and promote systematic coordination between relevant UN bodies and conventions, to bolster multi-stakeholder collaboration, and enhance the provision of technical assistance to help tackle such forms of corruption.



Environmental Crime and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC



### **Breaking the silos: Combating corruption and environmental crime to advance climate protection goals**

This discussion paper by the ECC Working Group aims to provide a foundation to facilitate discussions on interlinkages between corruption, environmental crime and climate degradation to inform future actions in multilateral fora, in particular at CoSP11 and the 30th UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties that both take place in 2025.

## 2.3

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND CORRUPTION

### CoSP11 actions:

- [Written submission 1](#)
- [Written submission 2](#)

*Corruption and human rights violations are two deeply interconnected challenges with far-reaching consequences for individuals, communities, and societies around the world. Solutions to address them must therefore also be interconnected.*

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Corruption directly undermines the enjoyment of human rights, impacting the right to equality and non-discrimination, access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and housing, and depriving the State of the resources needed to fulfill its obligations. It erodes the rule of law, weakens democratic institutions, and undermines the transparency and accountability mechanisms essential for protecting human rights.

## KEY MESSAGES

### Integrating a human rights-based approach into anti-corruption strategies

Integrate a human rights-based approach into anti-corruption strategies by ensuring participation, transparency, accountability, and non-discrimination, and adopting a victim-centred approach to protect and promote fundamental freedoms.

### Protecting those most affected by corruption

Address the needs of those in vulnerable situations, who are often the first victims of corruption and face disproportionate consequences for their lives and livelihoods.

### Promoting synergies between human rights and anti-corruption efforts

Champion cooperation between human rights and anti-corruption bodies in UN fora and at the national level to ensure that synergies are leveraged for a coordinated, effective global response.

### Aligning UNCAC and other human rights mechanisms for greater impact

Ensure that reviews under the UNCAC Implementation

### Here you can find:



[Social media tiles](#)



[Good practices](#)



[Priority actions](#)



[List of resources and outputs](#)

Review Mechanism and UN human rights processes, such as the UPR, build on and reinforce each other to effectively tackle these systemic challenges.

Some of these messages are available as social media tiles in the [CoSP11 Drive](#).



## PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

### Recognize the mutual reinforcement of human rights and anti-corruption efforts

Formally recognize that the promotion and protection of human rights, and the prevention and fight against corruption are mutually reinforcing, and that protecting human rights domestically is central to the fight against corruption at all levels.

## Advancing policy coherence across UN processes on corruption and human rights

Ensure policy coherence among the intergovernmental processes in Geneva, Vienna and New York on corruption and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

## Integrating UN Human Rights findings into anti-corruption efforts

Take account of the comprehensive UN study on implementing existing human rights obligations into anti-corruption processes.

These priority actions have been compiled to **target States Parties** and to **help guide advocacy efforts**.

## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE

*How are countries around the world addressing human rights issues through an anti-corruption lens?*

### Colombia

Colombia implements the Corruption and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights RADAR which is a measurement tool developed by the Anti-Corruption Observatory of the Secretariat for Transparency.

This metric identifies how corruption affects rights such as education, health, public services, and labour. The system makes it possible to pinpoint the territories where corruption negatively impacts the effective enjoyment of these rights, with the aim of prioritizing areas for more effective public policies to combat corruption and guarantee rights.

Using advanced statistical methods, RADAR evaluates two key areas:

- corruption (both visible and hidden),
- and the exercise of rights.

In doing so, it seeks to strengthen transparency and improve the State's response in protecting and promoting human rights.

## This is a non-exhaustive list of prominent organizations advancing anti-corruption in the context of human rights:

- Article 19, United Kingdom
- Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, United States
- Due Process of Law Foundation, United States
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Sweden
- Transparency International, Germany
- Transparency International Brazil
- U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (CMI), Norway
- UPR Info, Switzerland
- Ufuq Organization for Human Development, Iraq
- Basel Governance Institute, Switzerland
- GI TOC, Austria

*\*Please note that we acknowledge the vast amount of organizations doing great work in this field. We provide here only a small sample.*



## Social media messaging

Use these messages to help raise awareness around the interconnectedness of human rights and corruption.

When using social media, please tag Transparency International and the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC in your messages: [@anticorruption](#) [@uncaccoalition](#)

### Taglines and hashtag to use:

- [#HumanRights4AntiCorruption](#)
- [#Integrity4HumanRights](#)

OHCHR Human Rights Day 2025 campaign hashtag:

- [#OurEverydayRights](#)

## USEFUL RESOURCES AND OUTPUTS



**The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law**



### **The nexus between anti-corruption and human rights**

This study focuses on translating theoretical discussions about the connections between human rights protection and anti-corruption work into practice. Its intended audiences are anti-corruption specialists wishing to know more about what human rights principles and institutions can bring to their work and human rights specialists wishing to build bridges between human rights practice and anti-corruption work.



**U4 CMI**  
**Author: Naomi Roht-Arriaza**



### **The right to be free of corruption: A new frontier in anti-corruption approaches through national courts**

The report examines the emerging legal concept of a right to be free of corruption, how national courts are beginning to treat corruption as a distinct human-rights violation, and the implications of this shift for access to justice and anti-corruption governance.



**Transparency International**  
**Author: Gillian Dell**



### **Tackling Grand Corruption Impunity: Proposals for a Definition and Special Measures**

This working paper identifies special national and international measures that increase accountability of grand corruption offenders and improve remedies for the harm they cause.

**Academic paper series:**  
**Anna Peters, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law**

2023



2024



### **Human Rights and Corruption: Problems and Potential of Individualising Systemic Problem**

This article series examines the pitfalls and potentials of the recent deliberate legal-political strategy of individualizing the systemic problem of corruption.



**UPR.info**  
**Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC**



### **Bridging anti-corruption and human rights efforts: A guide for anti-corruption advocates to engage in the Universal Periodic Review process**

This guide is a call to action for CSOs and offers practical, accessible steps for engaging in the UPR process. By leveraging this mechanism, CSOs can play a strategic role in pushing for systemic reforms that strengthen both governance and the protection of human rights.

**Academic paper:**  
**Anita Ramasastry, University of Washington**



### **Is there a right to be free of corruption?**

Rather than focusing solely on human rights, or trying to create a new “human right” to be free from corruption, this article explores the right to a legal remedy for victims of corruption as set forth in Article 35 of the UNCAC

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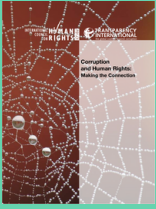
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**International Council on Human Rights Policy (ICHRP), Transparency International**



**Corruption and Human Rights: Making the Connection**

This report develops a conceptual framework to explore how acts of corruption can be linked to violations of human rights, argues for a closer cooperation between anti-corruption and human-rights actors, and sets out practical pathways for human rights bodies and anti-corruption practitioners to work together more effectively.

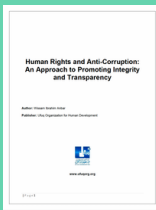


**Geneva Academy, Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)**



**Corruption and Human Rights: How to better integrate corruption issues in the UN human rights mechanisms - A practitioners' guide and strategic advocacy tool for civil society organisations**

This guide focuses on how UN human rights mechanisms can be better used to report on corruption issues. It provides guidance and practical recommendations on how to effectively integrate human rights into anti-corruption efforts.



**Ufuq Organization**  
Author:  
Wissam Ibrahim Anbar



**Human Rights and Anti-Corruption: An Approach to Promoting Integrity and Transparency**

This guide is an important reference for those involved in human rights and anti-corruption efforts in Iraq and represents a significant step towards promoting integrity and transparency within national institutions and civil society.

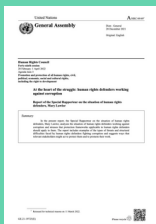


**OHCHR**



**OHCHR Recommended Principles on Human Rights and Asset Recovery**

This document presents a set of nine practical principles linking human rights obligations with all phases of asset recovery—from prevention and detection of corruption to the tracing, confiscation, return, and social reuse of recovered assets—and provides a vital framework to ensure that asset-recovery efforts are inclusive, transparent, and aligned with human-rights standards.



**At the heart of the struggle: human rights defenders working against corruption,**  
Author: Mary Lawlor



**At the heart of the struggle: human rights defenders working against corruption**

In this report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, Mary Lawlor highlights the risks faced by human rights defenders combating corruption, shows how corruption directly undermines human rights and the rule of law, and offers concrete State and civil-society recommendations to strengthen protection of anti-corruption defenders.



**OHCHR**



Knowledge Hub

**ESCR Knowledge Hub**

The ESCR Knowledge Hub serves as a global, open-access resource platform offering a wide array of knowledge products — from policy briefs and white papers to infographics, factsheets, and multimedia — aimed at supporting the implementation and protection of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). It consolidates best practices, research, tools and guidance to help States, civil society, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders translate human-rights standards into concrete laws, policies and services that foster equality, dignity and social justice.

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## 2.4 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

*Effective access to information is crucial for holding those in power accountable.*

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

The right to access information held by State bodies is crucial for civil society organizations, the media, academia, and citizens to understand government decision-making, and who influences it, to monitor the use of public funds, to identify potential corruption risks and cases, and push for adequate transparency in government.

### KEY MESSAGES

#### **Access to information is an essential tool in the fight against corruption**

Despite being recognised as a cornerstone of democracy, there is a perceived decline in access to information in practice in many countries; several countries have weakened their freedom of information frameworks and undermined the role of independent oversight bodies.

#### **Transitioning from a culture of secrecy to an “open by default” practice of sharing information**

According to [a recent report by UNODC](#), 60% of States received recommendations to reform or effectively implement access to information laws in their countries under UNCAC Article 10, demonstrating the worldwide coverage of the shortcomings.

#### **Focus on public availability of clean, comprehensive data and documents**

While many governments and stakeholders talk about the potential of artificial intelligence tools in anti-corruption, we need to first make sure that data and documents relevant to detecting and preventing corruption exist, are of high quality, and accessible in a timely manner to the general public in formats that facilitate reuse. Poor or opaque data paired with AI tools may present more dangers than opportunities.

#### Here you can find:



[Social media tiles](#)



[Good practices](#)

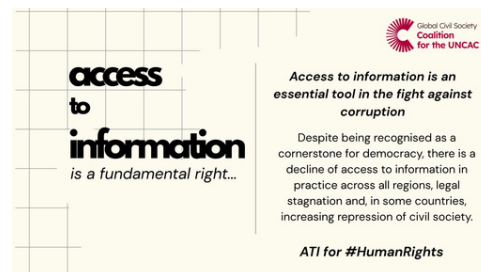


[Priority actions](#)



[List of resources and outputs](#)

Some of these messages are available as social media tiles from the [CoSP11 Drive](#).



### PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

#### **Ensure effective access to information to prevent corruption**

Adopt and implement strong access-to-information laws aligned with international standards, and ensure effective and prompt access to information in practice by proactively disclosing information held by public bodies linked to preventing corruption, and by ensuring prompt responses to information requests.

## Establish robust safeguards for transparency and oversight

Strong safeguards should be put in place in the form of independent oversight bodies, narrow exceptions in the provision of requested information, whistleblower protections, and sanctions for obstruction.

## Use digital tools to proactively publish official data in reusable formats

Fully implement access to information laws and ensure information is accessible and available to the public, including through digital tools and platforms.

## Define key data categories for proactive public disclosure

Identifying categories of data to be proactively made public, such as budget allocations and expenditure, procurement planning and awards, audit reports, asset and interest declarations, investigation outcomes and data on political financing, subject to reasonable redactions.

These priority actions have been compiled to **target States Parties** and **to help guide advocacy efforts.**



### Social media messaging

Use these messages to help raise awareness around the need for stronger access to information laws.

When using social media, please tag the Global Civil Society for the UNCAC in your messages: [@uncaccoalition](#)

#### Main tagline and hashtags:

- **Access to information is a #FundamentalRight**
- **ATI for #HumanRights**

UNCAC related hashtags:

- **#UNCACagainstCorruption**

## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

*How are civil society around the world pushing for more transparency in access to information laws?*

<b>Europe / Greece / Austria</b>	<p><u>Access Info Europe</u> and partner organizations recently released a <u>study on access to information frameworks in 15 European countries</u>, offering practical recommendations for aligning access to information laws with the <u>Tromsø Convention</u> (the Council of Europe's Convention on access to official documents) in pilot countries.</p> <p>In Greece, <u>Vouliwatch</u> identified key weaknesses in Greece's access-to-information system, including the absence of independent oversight and requirements that discouraged the public and journalists from requesting information. Through targeted advocacy, public awareness efforts, and engagement with policymakers, the organization succeeded in securing important reforms: the removal of the requirement to demonstrate a "reasonable interest," acceptance of anonymous requests, and amendments to the Code of Administrative Procedure. These achievements mark a significant shift toward stronger transparency and help lay the foundation for further improvements to openness and accountability in Greece.</p> <p>In Austria, following 11 years of civil society advocacy, the freedom of information act went into force in September 2025, as the last European democracy to grant citizens a right to access documents held by State bodies.</p>
<b>Senegal</b>	<p>Under Senegal's 3rd <u>OGP National Action Plan</u>, <u>ARTICLE 19</u> has championed the adoption of a long-awaited Access to Information law as a foundation for transparency and accountability. Following the 2024 elections, the project mobilized advocacy with parliament and civil society to push for reforms, based on Senegal's low open parliament scores and the urgent need for citizen participation in governance.</p>

In July 2025, the Council of Ministers approved a [draft Access to Information Law](#), now set for adoption by the National Assembly. Once passed, the law will give people in Senegal stronger tools to fight corruption, take part in decision-making, and hold leaders accountable.

## Pakistan

[Transparency International Pakistan \(TIP\)](#) publishes an annual assessment of proactive disclosure by public authorities. The 2024 report focused on 59 climate-related departments at both federal and provincial levels, evaluating their compliance with the proactive disclosure provisions of Pakistan’s right to information laws.

Given that Pakistan [loses billions](#) annually to disasters linked to climate change, the project aims to incentivize public bodies to improve transparency in climate action. By independently assessing disclosure practices, the report highlights compliance gaps, enhances accountability, and pressures non-compliant departments to update their websites and publish required information. TIP complements the report with advocacy efforts to strengthen scrutiny and encourage systematic improvements in proactive disclosure across the climate sector.

### This is a non-exhaustive list of organizations working to strengthen access to information frameworks:

- [Article 19](#), International
- [Acción Ciudadana](#), El Salvador
- [Open Data Charter](#), International
- [MySociety](#), United Kingdom
- [Access Info Europe](#)
- [Centre for Law and Democracy](#), Canada
- [Africa Freedom of Information Center](#), International
- [FragDenStaat.de](#), Germany

*\*Please note that we acknowledge the vast amount of organizations doing great work in this field. We provide here only a small sample.*

## USEFUL RESOURCES AND OUTPUTS



Centre for Law and Democracy



Database

### [The Global Right to Information \(RTI\) Rating Map](#)

The RTI Rating is the leading global tool for assessing the strength of national legal frameworks for accessing information held by public authorities (i.e. the right to information or RTI). It is widely used by inter-governmental organisations, RTI advocates, governments, legislators, lawyers, academics and others.



Council of Europe



### [The Tromsø Convention](#)

The Tromsø Convention is the only binding international convention that sets down minimum standards for freedom of information frameworks governing access to official documents held by State bodies, covering the administrative processes and appeals processes to independent bodies or courts in case access to information is denied.



Access to Information Campaign



Campaign

### [Access to Information Campaign](#)

The Coalition invites CSOs from around the world to join a campaign in which they can file freedom of information requests with their national governments to obtain key documents and information from the UNCAC review. The campaign tracks the requests filed around the world as well as the responses provided by governments on the Coalition’s website, documenting how responsive and transparent different countries are when asked to disclose information about their anti-corruption efforts.

## 2.5 CIVIC SPACE

CoSP11 action:

- Written submission

*Without an open and safe civic space, meaningful anti-corruption progress becomes impossible.*

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Civil society has a crucial role to play in preventing and combating corruption, as laid out in UNCAC's Article 13. However, investigative journalists, whistleblowers, activists and other civil society actors face increasing risks in carrying out anti-corruption work as civic space shrinks across the globe.

### KEY MESSAGES

#### Empowering civil society as a key partner in anti-corruption efforts

Civil society and non-state actors have a vital role to play in preventing and combating corruption, as recognized in Article 13 of the UNCAC. A well-informed and engaged civil society provides valuable expertise and experience, and a different perspective from that of public officials, ultimately contributing to more informed decision-making and better outcomes.

#### Protecting anti-corruption defenders and safeguarding civic space

In many countries, investigative journalists, activists, whistleblowers, and other civil society actors face significant risks in carrying out anti-corruption work, which includes physical threats, intimidation and harassment, restrictive laws, legal challenges, and inadequate funding. These barriers are only increasing as civic space shrinks globally.

#### Here you can find:



Social media tiles



Good practices



Priority actions



List of resources and outputs

Some of these messages are available as social media tiles from the **CoSP11 Drive**.



### PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

#### Ensuring a safe and enabling environment for civil society

States Parties must provide a safe and enabling environment for civil society actors and ensure that the conditions are present for civil society to operate independently and without fear of reprisal in their efforts to combat corruption and promote transparency and accountability, as envisioned by the UNCAC, the UNGASS Political Declaration, the CoSP Resolution 10/1, and the Atlanta Declaration.

## Institutionalize meaningful civil society participation in anti-corruption efforts

Meaningful participation of civil society actors must be institutionalized through structured consultations, access to decision-makers and decision-making processes, at the national, regional, and global levels, and full implementation of Article 13 and other UNCAC provisions.

## Strengthen civil society participation at key stages of the UNCAC review process

Meaningfully consult with civil society organizations, academia, professional associations, the private sector, journalists and other non-governmental stakeholders at key stages of the country reviews and follow-up, including on technical assistance, and reflect stakeholder participation and views in country reports and executive summaries. Allow non-governmental stakeholders to participate in the meetings of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group, as well as in other UNCAC working groups.

## Establish early warning and protection mechanisms for anti-corruption actors facing reprisals

States should develop and support early warning and protection mechanisms to help those actors who face reprisals for their anti-corruption work and strengthen coordination among donors and international organizations to defend non-governmental stakeholders coming under attack.

## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

<b>Chile</b>	<p><u>Chile Transparente</u>; <u>Fundación Multitudes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parallel report written by <u>Fundación Multitudes</u></li><li>• Civil society participated in the UNCAC country visit, and there has been continuous engagement from CSOs through the multi-stakeholder initiative <u>Alianza Anticorrupción UNCAC</u>.</li></ul>
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	<p><u>Open Government Partnership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A free and active civil society is key to ensuring that institutions are open, accountable, and responsive. As the Americas face growing challenges, the Dominican Republic is defying regional trends of democratic backsliding by taking bold steps to institutionalize civic participation with the launch of its National Strategy for Civic Space.</li></ul>

These priority actions have been compiled to **target States Parties** and **to help guide advocacy efforts**.



### Social media messaging

Use these messages to help raise awareness around the need for a strengthened civic space.

When using social media, please tag the Global Civil Society for the UNCAC in your messages:

[@uncaccoalition](#)

#### Main tagline and hashtags:

- **Anti-corruption thrives in an #OpenCivicSpace**
- **#CivicSpace4Change**

UNCAC related hashtags:

- **#UNCACagainstCorruption**

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## This is a non-exhaustive list of prominent organizations working to protect and strengthen civic space:

- [CIVICUS](#), International
- [International Center for Not-For-Profit Law \(ICNL\)](#), International
- [Transparency International](#)

*\*Please note that we acknowledge the vast amount of organizations doing great work in this field. We provide here only a small sample.*

## USEFUL RESOURCES AND OUTPUTS




Database

**CIVICUS Monitor** →

### **CIVICUS Monitor: Tracking civic space**

The CIVICUS Monitor tracks civic space, providing daily updates across 196 countries. Based on a global research collaboration, it receives information from activists and organizations on the ground to compile country ratings which are calculated using qualitative and quantitative data. This data evaluates civic space conditions for activists, journalists and civil society groups operating in different contexts.



**OHCHR,**  
Author: Gina Romero,  
Special Rapporteur  
on the rights to  
freedom of peaceful  
assembly and of  
association →

### **Freedom of assembly and association rights, collective action and human solidarity facing an existential threat**

In a recent report from Gina Romero, [Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association](#), called on State Parties as they prepare for the next phase of the UNCAC review to ensure safe and enabling environments for civil society, to repeal restrictive laws, protect journalists, and guarantee meaningful participation in decision-making.



Early warning mechanism

Hivos, CIVICUS,  
Democracy Reporting  
International,  
European  
Partnership for  
Democracy, Forus,  
Transparency  
International →

### **The EU System for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society (EU SEE)**

The CSO Meter supports regular and consistent monitoring of the environment in which civil society organisations operate in the Eastern Partnership countries. It consists of a set of standards and indicators in 11 different areas to measure both law and practice. It is based on international standards and best practices.



Protection mechanism

**Protect Defenders.eu** →

### **Protect Defenders.eu**

An EU-funded protection mechanism that provides emergency help, relocation, and tailored grants to human rights defenders and their organisations at risk worldwide



Protection mechanism

**Front Line Defenders** →

### **Front Line Defenders (FLD)**

An organisation that works to improve the security and protection of human rights defenders and organisations around the world at risk for their peaceful and legitimate human rights work. As identified by human rights defenders themselves, FLD responds to protection and security needs by providing support through grants, capacity building, visibility, networking, and advocacy, at the international, regional and local levels.



Protection  
mechanism



### Civil Rights Defenders

#### **Civil Rights Defenders**

Civil Rights Defenders works for and together with human rights defenders fighting for democracy and civil and political rights across the world. Their task is to make sure that they can work smarter, faster, and safer. Through advocacy, litigation, and public campaigns, they defend human rights.



Protection  
mechanism



### Freedom House, Front Line Defenders

#### **CSO Lifeline**

Through Freedom House and Front Line Defenders, Lifeline provides small, short-term emergency grants to CSOs threatened because of their human rights work.



Protection  
mechanism



### Defenders Defenders

#### **DefendersDefenders**

DefendDefenders exists to strengthen the work of human rights defenders in the East and Horn of Africa's sub-region by reducing their vulnerability to the risk of persecution and by enhancing their capacity to effectively defend human rights.

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# 3: OTHER CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

This section of the toolkit addresses the other cross-cutting issues that are crucial to advance.

These cross-cutting issues comprise messaging that can be used in relevant resolutions and in relation to the key priorities.

The Coalition has been identifying potential advocacy entry points to advance these cross-cutting issues. You can find in this section key messages, resources and outputs, and priority actions for States Parties in order to support other ongoing advocacy efforts.

## 3.1 Protection of Reporting Persons



Click to navigate to a section

## 3.4 Asset Recovery



## 3.2 Gender, Inclusion and Corruption



## 3.5 Political Finance



## 3.3 Victims of Corruption



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## 3.1

# PROTECTION OF REPORTING PERSONS

### CoSP11 actions:

- [Written submission 1](#)
- [Written submission 2](#)

*Protecting whistleblowers is essential to effective anti-corruption systems, public accountability, and the rule of law. Continued commitment from governments, international organizations, and civil society remains critical to ensuring that the principles of CoSP10 resolution 10/8 translate into meaningful, practical protections for those who speak up in the public interest.*

## KEY MESSAGES

### Strengthening protective measures

Basic protection is insufficient; there is a need for full and effective protection of whistleblowers. The burden of proof in retaliation cases against whistleblowers should be on the perpetrator; we need protection against Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) that aim to silence or intimidate.

### Effective whistleblower protection frameworks

The cornerstone of effective whistleblower protection frameworks is anti-retaliation protection. Reporting must not be penalized, and remedies must be comprehensive, including reputational rehabilitation, psychological support, relocation assistance, and interim relief.

### Resource constraints impede effectiveness

Few countries offer systematic training for personnel handling reports, and rights-awareness campaigns are limited despite their importance. Most countries lack periodic assessments of framework performance, hindering improvements and adaptation. This leads to weak implementation of Resolution 10/8 on the protection of reporting persons.

## PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

### Strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks

States Parties need to strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks and should exchange good practices, while recognizing that additional steps are

needed to address gaps, such as burdens of proof and protection against SLAPPs.

### Provide direct support

Offer legal aid, safety, and solidarity to whistleblowers who come under threat for exposing corruption.

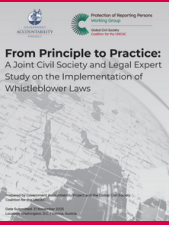
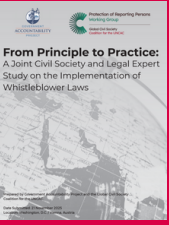


### Priorities for effective implementation of Resolution 10/8 should include:

- Enacting comprehensive legislation in countries lacking dedicated frameworks
- Ensuring universal adoption of burden-shifting and SLAPP protections
- Embedding gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches
- Strengthening institutional capacity, resources, and mandates
- Expanding monitoring, evaluation, and data collection
- Enhancing technical assistance, peer learning, and international cooperation
- Supporting robust civil society engagement in all aspects of implementation

### Keep resolution 10/8 alive through continued global commitment

Continued commitment from governments, international organizations, and civil society remains critical to ensuring that the principles of Resolution 10/8 translate into meaningful, practical protections for those who speak up in the public interest.

## USEFUL RESOURCES AND OUTPUTS

 <p><b>Protection of Reporting Persons Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Written submission to CoSP11: From Principle to Practice: A joint civil society and legal expert study on the implementation of whistleblower laws</u></b></p> <p>This submission provides a brief overview of challenges and best practices, including those embodied in Resolution 10/8, across 48 countries, drawing on survey responses from 57 legal experts and CSOs. It forms part of a wider study that examines legal frameworks, reporting mechanisms, protective measures, and the role of civil society.</p>
 <p><b>Protection of Reporting Persons Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC, Government Accountability Project</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>From Principle to practice: A joint civil society and legal expert study on the implementation of whistleblower laws</u></b></p> <p>A report prepared by Government Accountability Project and the Working Group, evaluates the global implementation of UNCAC Resolution 10/8 on the Protection of Reporting Persons and Article 33. Resolution 10/8 affirms the fundamental role of reporting persons in combating corruption and calls for comprehensive legislative, institutional, and social measures to protect them from retaliation.</p>
 <p><b>Protection of Reporting Persons Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Written submission to CoSP11: Protection of Journalists, their Sources and Defenders</u></b></p> <p>This submission calls on the UNCAC Conference of States Parties to adopt a resolution that meaningfully strengthens protections for all forms of public-interest reporting actors, regardless of medium, employment status, or organizational affiliation, and their sources, including whistleblowers, and defense lawyers.</p>
 <p><b>Campaign</b></p> <p><b>Transparency international España, Oficina Antifrau de Catalunya, Libera Associazioni nomi e numeri contro le mafie, Autorita Nazionale Anticorruzione, Center for the Study of Democracy, CPDP, Universita di Pisa</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Open the Whistle: Protecting Whistleblowers through Transparency, Cooperation, and Open Government Strategies</u></b></p> <p>This project aims to create a safer environment for whistleblowers and promote a speak-up culture across Europe. It addresses key challenges such as unclear reporting procedures, low trust in whistleblowing systems, insufficient training for those managing reports, and limited cooperation among stakeholders.</p>

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## 3.2

# GENDER, INCLUSION AND CORRUPTION

### CoSP11 actions:

- [Written submission 1](#)
- [Written submission 2](#)
- [Written submission 3](#)

*To fight corruption effectively, we must understand and address how its impact differs across women, men, girls, boys and LGBTQI+ persons.*

## KEY MESSAGES

### Addressing the gendered impact of corruption

Corruption is felt differently across groups, and policies so far have been insufficient in understanding how it undermines the principle of equality before the law. Corruption is not gender-neutral and involves the abuse of authority to demand sex, most acutely felt by women and girls.

### Criminalizing sexual corruption

Coercing sexual acts as a form of bribe, or as abuse of authority, needs to be formally recognized as corruption – any legal gaps need to be closed to ensure such acts are criminalized and prosecuted.

### Building awareness among public officials and the general public

Often, perpetrators are unaware that sexual acts can be considered a form of corruption. It is crucial to build awareness among public officials and the general public that the abuse of authority for sexual acts is a serious form of corruption.

## PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

### Advance Resolution 10/10 on addressing the societal impacts of corruption

States Parties should take measures to address sexual corruption by raising awareness of the existence of sexual corruption, closing legislative gaps, and implementing effective prevention and law enforcement measures. The resolution further recognizes that sexual corruption predominantly affects women and girls, underscoring the gendered consequences and highlighting its psychological, social, and economic impacts.

### Conduct and promote research on how corruption undermines the equality of law

Continue conducting further research on how corruption undermines equality before the law, and promote the collection of disaggregated data to be able to develop effective anti-corruption policies and programmes.

### Improve understanding of the gendered dimensions of corruption

States Parties need to continue improving their understanding of how men and women's experiences of corruption differ, including situations involving the abuse of authority to demand sex as a particular form of corruption.

### Prevent and criminalize the abuse of authority of public officials

Prevent and criminalize the abuse of authority of public officials to solicit or accept sexual acts in the exercise of official duties, and to adopt and implement measures to protect reporting persons who report such conduct, including accessible and confidential reporting mechanisms and protection against retaliation.

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## USEFUL RESOURCES AND OUTPUTS

 <p><b>Gender, Inclusion and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Written submission to CoSP11: Closing the Data Gap between Gender and Corruption</u></b></p> <p>The negative impact of corruption undermining governance, development and trust in institutions is further exacerbated by gender roles, power asymmetries and social norms. This submission outlines results from a study that mapped 18 global, regional, and national datasets relevant to understanding the relationship between gender and corruption.</p>
 <p><b>Gender, Inclusion and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Written submission to CoSP11: Advancing Resolution 10/10 by Addressing Sexual Corruption</u></b></p> <p>The negative impact of corruption undermining governance, development and trust in institutions is further exacerbated by gender roles, power asymmetries and social norms. This submission outlines results from a study that mapped 18 global, regional, and national datasets relevant to understanding the relationship between gender and corruption.</p>
 <p><b>Gender, Inclusion and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Written submission to CoSP11: Gender Mainstreaming in Anti-Corruption Efforts</u></b></p> <p>This submission builds on a policy brief pending publication by the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre and the Working Group. It highlights meaningful practices of gender mainstreaming in anti-corruption efforts in the past 10 years, lessons learned, and gaps that need addressing. It also provides recommendations to governments willing to engage in this area, and to civil society organizations working on anti-corruption and gender issues.</p>
 <p><b>Uppsala University Research Environment on Sexual Corruption</b></p> <p>Article</p> <p>Author: Elin Bjarnegård et al</p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>UNODC publication: What is Sexual Corruption? The Challenges of Raising Awareness and Legislating in the Absence of Recognition</u></b></p> <p>This article discusses the implications of the general scarcity of legislation around sexual corruption. Given the lack of recognition of sexual corruption as corruption, it argues that victim-centered campaigns, focused on awareness-raising, reporting and victim empowerment, run the risk of causing further harm to victims. To coherently move forward with policy-making and legislating, this research proposes a definition of sexual corruption that is firmly anchored in the abuse of entrusted power.</p>
 <p><b>U4 Anti-Corruption Center; Gender, Inclusion and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC</b></p> <p>Toolkit</p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Advocacy toolkit: Promoting a Gender-Sensitive and Inclusive Approach to Anti-Corruption</u></b></p> <p>This article discusses the implications of the general scarcity of legislation around sexual corruption. Given the lack of recognition of sexual corruption as corruption, it argues that victim-centered campaigns, focused on awareness-raising, reporting and victim empowerment, run the risk of causing further harm to victims. To coherently move forward with policy-making and legislating, this research proposes a definition of sexual corruption that is firmly anchored in the abuse of entrusted power.</p>



U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center

Guide



### **Gender and Corruption: Basic guide**

Gender and anti-corruption are both subjects of mainstreaming efforts in donor programming. This guide looks at the relationship between them, and how to combine the two perspectives. There are indications that gender affects levels of corruption, so applying a gender lens may benefit anti-corruption programming. But most importantly, efforts to reduce corruption must consider gender-specific outcomes.



U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center  
Author: Ortrun Merkle



### **Mainstreaming gender and human rights in anti-corruption programming**

This publication highlights why anti-corruption efforts must integrate gender and human rights to be effective, equitable, and inclusive. It explains how corruption impacts different groups in distinct ways and provides practical guidance on mainstreaming these perspectives throughout programme design and implementation.



Gender, Inclusion and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC,  
Author: Michele Coleman



### **Measuring the relationship between gender and corruption: closing the data gap**

This report examines the relationship between gender and corruption data and highlights the urgent need for gender-disaggregated data to inform inclusive anti-corruption strategies. It begins by setting out the context and rationale for focusing on the gendered dimensions of corruption, reviewing existing research and evidence that reveal how women and gender-diverse individuals are uniquely affected, including through forms of sexual corruption often rendered invisible in standard measurements.

## **3.3 VICTIMS OF CORRUPTION**

CoSP11 action:

- [Written submission](#)

*Corruption undermines human rights, erodes democratic institutions, and directly harms individuals and communities.*

### **KEY MESSAGES**

#### **Recognizing and empowering victims of corruption in the justice process**

Victims of corruption in most jurisdictions and cases remain invisible and without standing, excluded from proceedings that profoundly affect their rights and lives. These proceedings remain exclusive to state institutions, with limited access to victims who have been harmed. This is a narrow approach that fuels impunity and blocks the return of stolen resources to society. Recognizing victims of corruption as active participants in the justice process is both a legal imperative and a democratic necessity.

#### **Acknowledging the collective harm caused by corruption**

Corruption doesn't just harm state institutions or individually harmed victims, but also affects collective rights and social interests.

#### **Ensuring redress for victims of corruption**

Victims of corruption need fair treatment and assistance, including reparations and return of assets to affected communities.

## Leveraging human rights mechanisms to help fight anti-corruption

Corruption offenses are undeniably linked to human rights violations, and using human rights mechanisms to address anti-corruption can pave the way to progress in anti-corruption cases.

## Mobilizing civil society to advance justice and recover stolen assets

Coordinated civil society action can drive litigation, expand legal standing, and secure reparations to ensure that stolen assets are returned for the benefit of affected communities.

## Transforming justice through participation

Citizen participation, collective rights, and the recognition of victims of corruption can be transformative when incorporated into legal systems.

## PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

### Adopt a victim-centred approach in corruption cases

Adopt a victim-centred approach in corruption proceedings, recognising the negative impact all forms of corruption have on access to basic services and the enjoyment of human rights.

### Enable participation of victims and civil society in proceedings

Enable the participation of victims, witnesses, civil societies, groups of victims, and reporting persons in the investigation of corruption offenses and enforcement proceedings.

## USEFUL RESOURCES AND OUTPUTS



**Gender, Inclusion and Corruption Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC**



### **Written submission to CoSP11: Recognizing and Addressing Collective Harm for Victims of Corruption**

This submission outlines the preliminary findings from a questionnaire carried out to develop the International Database on Corruption Damage Reparation and Legal Standing for Victims of Corruption, originally launched in 2022. The updated database, scheduled for early 2026, will include a dedicated section on Collective Damage and Reparation.

## Protect victims, witnesses, and whistleblowers from retaliation

Protect victims, witnesses and reporting persons from potential retaliation or harm, in accordance with the fundamental principles of human rights and the UNCAC.

## Align commitments with international justice standards for victims

State Parties should align their commitments to UNCAC article 35 and to the 1985 General Assembly's Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power which states that individuals or communities who have suffered from crimes and abuses of power, including corruption, need access to justice, fair treatment, and assistance, and to receive prompt redress and remedies, including protection, restitution, and rehabilitation.

## Increase transparency and mechanisms for victim compensation

State Parties should share information on existing laws and practices that help to identify and provide compensation to victims of corruption.

## Ensure broad definitions of victims and access to compensation

Ensure that victims are broadly defined and that they can benefit from compensation, returned or restituted assets.

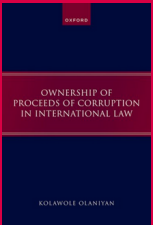


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### **The social re-use of seized and confiscated assets: good policies and practices**

This report presents national policies and real-world practices for transforming improperly acquired assets into positive community outcomes. It highlights how the final phase of the asset-recovery cycle can advance transparency, strengthen affected communities, and reinforce the rule of law by redirecting confiscated resources toward social benefits.



Kolawole Olaniyan  
Oxford University Press



### **Ownership of Proceeds of Corruption in International Law**

This comprehensive work explores how international law increasingly recognises the right of populations to assert ownership over the proceeds of corruption. It examines the legal frameworks under the UNCAC alongside human-rights principles, and argues that civil society and affected communities must be empowered to pursue asset-recovery actions, challenge state inaction, and claim redress and remedies.



Interview with  
Kolawole Olaniyan



Interview

### **Interview: Recovered loot should go to victims, says Amnesty adviser Olaniyan**

Legal Adviser, Amnesty International Secretariat, London, Dr. Kolawole Olaniyan, has identified ways the Tinubu Administration can boost the anti-graft war. He also tells recoups how recovered proceeds of corruption can be managed.



Global Civil Society for the  
UNCAC



Database

### **International Database on Corruption Damage Reparation and Legal Standing for Victims of Corruption**

The Global Civil Society for the UNCAC Working Group on Victims of Corruption has created an international database on corruption damage reparation and legal standing, which shows how victims of corruption are recognised and/or remedied around the world. It shares information that illustrates the broad range of practices according to legislative frameworks.



African Center for  
Governance, Asset  
Recovery and  
Sustainable  
Development, Juliet  
Ibekaku-Nwagwu



Article

### **The Galactica Asset Return Agreement – Why Third Party Monitor is Critical**

This article examines the landmark Galactica asset-return agreement and underscores why independent third-party monitoring is essential to ensure transparency, accountability and public trust when repatriating corruption-linked proceeds. It highlights how involving civil society monitors and non-state oversight mechanisms strengthens implementation and helps avoid repeating pitfalls of earlier asset-return efforts.



African Center for  
Governance



Article

### **CSOs Recommend the Adoption of an Inclusive Regional Law on the Management and Return of Proceeds of Corruption**

This article outlines how civil society organizations across Africa are calling for a dedicated regional legal framework to govern the management and return of corruption-proceeds, spotlighting the need for inclusive, transparent mechanisms and stronger oversight to ensure recovered assets benefit affected communities and bolster accountability.

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## 3.4 ASSET RECOVERY

CoSP11 action:

- [Written submission](#)

Every year, developing countries lose billions of dollars at the hands of corruption. This is money that could be spent on tackling poverty, providing decent public services and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

### KEY MESSAGES

#### Transparency is vital in the recovery and return of assets stolen through corruption

Proactive disclosure of data and documents is a key pillar of public accountability – including the publication of amounts frozen, confiscated, and returned, as well as case information, legal frameworks, and return agreements.

#### Closing the data gap in asset recovery commitments

Despite more than a decade of commitments made at the UN General Assembly and successive UNCAC CoSPs, reliable and comparable data on asset recovery remains extremely limited.

#### Addressing fragmented reporting and persistent data gaps in asset recovery

Official reporting is fragmented and reveals a persistent data gap that makes it difficult to assess progress over time and undermines efforts to evaluate whether asset recovery is being conducted in a fair, effective, and inclusive manner.

### PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

#### Create a central public portal for asset recovery information

Governments should set up or designate a dedicated easy-to-access public webpage linking to all relevant information on asset recovery, including legislation, national strategies, case information, memoranda of understanding and other agreements, statistics, and methodologies for calculating asset recovery figures

#### Initiate inclusive processes to develop missing frameworks.

Where key documents do not currently exist

(for example, policies on cost-sharing or national strategies on asset recovery), States should initiate inclusive processes to develop these frameworks and ensure they are made publicly available.

#### Publish annual asset recovery data with clear methodologies

States should also publish annual asset recovery statistics, accompanied by clear and accessible explanations of how these figures are compiled. Where such statistics are not yet being collected or collated, policies should be adopted to institutionalize regular data collection and publication.

#### Strengthen international coordination on data and return practices

To enhance international cooperation, States should commit to exchanging experiences and work toward coordinated approaches in gathering and presenting asset recovery data, and in developing return policies, strategies, and agreements.


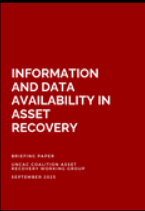

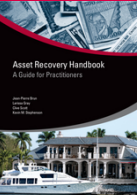
#### Improve reporting to the StAR asset recovery watch platform

States should also continue to regularly transmit case information to the StAR Asset Recovery Watch database, and make efforts to identify and close any existing gaps in their reporting.

#### Ensure transparency through strong access-to-information guarantees

Transparency frameworks should be supported by access to information laws that clearly apply to asset recovery processes – currently, States often apply secrecy provisions in this field. Where data is not proactively published, stakeholders should be able to request access through legally guaranteed mechanisms, and States should expedite responses to increase public oversight.

## USEFUL RESOURCES AND OUTPUTS

 <p><b>Asset Recovery Working Group, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Written submission to CoSP11: Transparency in Asset Recovery</u></b></p> <p>This submission brings together insights from two distinct but complementary research efforts conducted in 2025 by the Working Group. The first coordinated by CiFAR, assesses the availability and accessibility of asset recovery data at the national level. The second, by Transparency International France, is based on data from the StAR Asset Recovery Watch Database. It assesses the extent to which a sample of governments publicly disclose data related to corruption-related asset recovery.</p>
 <p><b>CiFAR, Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Information and data availability in asset recovery</u></b></p> <p>This project led by CiFAR, based on a 2025 survey conducted through the the Coalition Asset Recovery Working Group, assesses the availability and accessibility of asset recovery data across 15 jurisdictions, covering both major asset-returning states and countries involved in efforts to return stolen funds to their jurisdiction.</p>
 <p><b>Transparency International France</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Handbook for asset restitution: Good practices and recommendations for the responsible restitution of stolen assets</u></b></p> <p>This handbook provides good practices and recommendations for the responsible return of stolen assets, including the main stages of the process.</p>
 <p><b>Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR)</b></p> <p>→</p>	<p><b><u>Asset Recovery Handbook A Guide for Practitioners</u></b></p> <p>Designed as a how-to manual, the handbook guides practitioners as they grapple with the strategic, organizational, investigative, and legal challenges of recovering assets that have been stolen and hidden by corrupt leaders. It provides common approaches to recovering stolen assets, identifies the challenges, and introduces good practices.</p>



## 3.5 POLITICAL FINANCE

CoSP11 action:

- Resolution

*Improving the level of transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties, campaigns and candidates is essential to reducing incentives and opportunities for corruption in politics. If political leaders or parties come to power with adequate or corrupt funding, this not only undermines the integrity of elections but it also results in a high risk of continued conflicts of interest, abuse of power, and corruption throughout their leadership.*

### PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR STATES PARTIES

#### Transparency of political financing

Political parties and candidates should be required to report on their income and expenditure, and publish this information online in user-friendly formats in a timely manner. Donors need to be identifiable before election day so voters can take this information into account when they vote.

#### Close loopholes for dirty money

Tackle entry points for opaque and illicit funds from entering politics, including by requiring that political finances are managed through the banking system and through the disclosure of beneficial ownership of corporate donors. States Parties should also restrict foreign funding to parties, candidates and campaigns to prevent undue foreign interference in domestic affairs.

#### Invest in oversight

Promote accountability of political finances through independent bodies with adequate resources, mandates, and powers, that actively promote integrity, oversee the finances of parties and candidates, cooperate with other relevant agencies, investigate and sanction violations, and protect whistleblowers who expose wrongdoing and corruption.

#### Reduce the financial cost of doing politics

High costs of campaigning create barriers to entry and incentives for illicit funding. States Parties should adopt measures to limit spending during clearly defined campaign periods, introduce ceilings for contributions for single donors, and take steps to ensure a fair and equitable allocation of public

resources and financing to parties and candidates, based on objective criteria.

#### Prevent the misuse of State resources

Rules must be in place and enforced to ensure that State resources – public funds, infrastructure, officials, and decision-making – are not abused for the advantage of particular parties or candidates or to otherwise influence elections. Political contributions by public bodies and state-owned enterprises should be banned.

#### Engage society

An informed public is crucial to promoting integrity in political finances. States should encourage and promote collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders in international and national efforts to enhance political finance transparency – including election observation groups, anti-corruption watchdogs, the media, the private sector, and oversight bodies. Domestic election observers should be recognized as a crucial contribution to promoting political finance integrity.

#### Regulate third-party campaign expenditures

States should ensure that, where relevant, third-party actors – outside groups that are directly influencing campaigns or elections in favor of or to the detriment of specific candidates or parties – are also covered by transparency and accountability measures.

