

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

17 December 2025
Prevention

Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC.

The report on the “State of Implementation of the UNCAC” published by UNODC in 2025 revealed **critical shortcomings in the legal and institutional frameworks** that significantly **undermine corruption prevention in many States Parties**. In particular:

- Political financing remains a major area of concern, as many countries still lack comprehensive legal frameworks.
- Rules aimed at preventing conflicts of interest are often too narrow in scope, insufficiently defined, or poorly enforced.
- Many States Parties struggle to safeguard the capacity, resources, and independence of audit and oversight institutions. In the judiciary and prosecution services, selection and removal of judges and prosecutors are, in some States, not adequately protected from political interference.
- Persistent challenges also exist with regard to the reporting of corruption, while protections for whistleblowers remain limited in scope and effectiveness.
- On access to information and the implementation of Article 10 of the Convention, common obstacles include overly broad exemptions, and overly complex administrative procedures.
- Finally, implementation of Article 13 continues to be hindered by restrictions on civil society and media activities, as well as by the lack of a culture of proactive transparency.

In light of these shortcomings in the implementation of preventive measures, and based on **extensive consultations within our network of more than 400 civil society organizations, and 50 civil society reports** on UNCAC implementation at the national level, the UNCAC Coalition wishes to highlight five priority areas where decisive and prompt action is needed:

- First, States should strengthen political financing rules to ensure transparency and oversight of party and campaign funding;
- They should improve the detection and prevention of conflicts of interest, through the collection, verification, and publication of asset and interest declarations for a broad range of public officials;
- States should ensure the transparent management of public resources and safeguard the independence of oversight institutions and the judiciary;
- States should better connect anti-corruption efforts with efforts to prevent and address the links between corruption and crimes affecting the environment; with the protection of human rights, for instance by encouraging cooperation between anti-corruption bodies and national human rights institutions; with the protection of whistleblowers; and with mainstreaming gender perspectives to strengthen anti-corruption institutions and policies.
- Finally, decisive action is needed to improve access to information in practice, guarantee an enabling civic space, and ensure inclusive and meaningful civil society participation in anti-corruption efforts at national, regional, and international levels, including in the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism.

Civil society participation is a pillar of the Convention. As also highlighted in the Sevilla Commitment adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development earlier this year, **civil society and the media play a crucial role** in exposing corruption and illicit financial flows in a fair, transparent, and ethical manner. Corruption prevention efforts cannot succeed without their contribution.

Let me conclude by calling on States Parties to strengthen their follow-up to resolutions adopted at the CoSP. Our submissions to CoSP11 also emphasize the critical role of civil society in advocating for, monitoring, and **contributing to the development and implementation of corruption preventive measures**.

Since CoSP10, the Coalition's network has monitored and supported implementation efforts of CoSP resolutions. We will expand this work after this Conference, to help ensure that both CoSP10 and CoSP11 resolutions, some of which address the above-mentioned priorities, **translate into stronger laws, policies, and practices**. CoSP resolutions are effective only when they are fully implemented with meaningful civil society participation and a genuine approach to preventing corruption that encompasses society as a whole.

Thank you.