

UNCAC CoSP11

Statement by the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC (UNCAC Coalition)

16 December 2025

Prevention

Mr President,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I would like to underline that many non-governmental organizations are eager to contribute to the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism, and that civil society strongly believes the review process should be an engine for real reforms.

Under the current second cycle of the IRM, the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC has supported more than 50 NGOs in producing parallel reports assessing national UNCAC implementation. This year alone, seven such reports were finalized. In several countries, their recommendations have already influenced policy debates and national anti-corruption strategies.

However, the IRM in its current form still lacks sufficient transparency, inclusiveness, and efficiency. In particular, we see the need to strengthen civil society participation, increase transparency of the review process, and improve follow-up to recommendations.

Basic information – such as updated review schedules and focal point contact details – should be made public so that civil society can identify entry points to contribute. To help address this gap, the Coalition has developed an UNCAC Review Status Tracker, and we thank the many focal points who already share this information upon request.

Similarly, key review documents, including self-assessment checklists and full country reports, should be made public. It is encouraging that a clear majority of States Parties are publishing their full country reports.

To further promote transparency, the Coalition launched a Transparency Pledge. To date, 44 States Parties have signed the Pledge, committing to higher levels of transparency and civil society inclusion. We welcome Costa Rica, which signed last week, and Brazil, which signed here at the CoSP yesterday.

We also commend Switzerland and Chile, which became fully compliant with the Pledge over the past year. Since we began tracking compliance, the number of signatories that are mostly compliant has more than doubled. We invite additional States Parties to join the Transparency Pledge and to demonstrate leadership on transparency and participation in the IRM and its follow-up.

On Friday at 11:00, together with the government of Denmark, we will host a special event on the meaningful participation of civil society in UNCAC reviews, in Special Event Room 5. We warmly invite you to attend. We also encourage you to consult our written submission to the Conference on the review mechanism and its future.

At this CoSP, we strongly hope to see the adoption of a resolution launching the next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism. We call on States Parties to agree on a mechanism that is more transparent, inclusive, effective, and efficient.

More than 520 civil society organizations and anti-corruption experts from over 125 countries have endorsed an open letter urging that the next phase of the IRM be strengthened. It should assess actual implementation, reflect current realities, enable meaningful participation by non-governmental stakeholders, draw on diverse and credible sources, and include follow-up reporting. This would provide a solid evidence-base to guide reforms and technical assistance.

The next phase must also address the limitations of the first phase. A review mechanism that relies primarily on findings that are more than a decade old risks missing a crucial opportunity for impact. This next phase is a key chance to strengthen global anti-corruption efforts for the decade ahead.

We therefore strongly encourage all States Parties to engage constructively in the remaining informal consultations and to support a review mechanism that is truly fit for purpose.

Finally, I invite you to visit our booth to learn more about the Transparency Pledge and to discuss how we can work together to ensure a more transparent, inclusive, effective, and efficient next phase of the UNCAC review mechanism.

Thank you.