

9th Session of the UNCAC CoSP

Briefing for Civil Society – 27 October 2021

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About the UNCAC Coalition

- Ensure that the voice of civil society is heard in UNCAC fora
- Advocacy for policy priorities and civic space
- Facilitation of joint advocacy, networking and coordination among civil society groups
- Support to civil society groups engaging in the UNCAC review process
 - Support and funding for UNCAC parallel reports
 - Transparency Pledge signed by 27 governments
- Regular engagement with delegations in Vienna
 - Briefing sessions, sharing of good practices and civil society asks

The UNCAC CoSP - General info

- Main policy-making body of the UNCAC
- Improve the capacity of States to implement the Convention
- Policy guidance to UNODC to develop and implement anti-corruption activities
- Negotiation and adoption of resolutions and decisions
- Side events (“special events”)
- Civil society observers allowed at the CoSP (not subsidiary bodies)
- Subsidiary bodies of the CoSP

The UNCAC CoSP - General info

- Takes place once in two years
- Admission allows participation until next CoSP
 - annual UNCAC NGO briefing, intersessional meetings,...
- 9th session in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, 13-17 December (12 Dec)
- In-person & online participation
- Official 9th CoSP website:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/session9.html>

Covid-19 & Safety

- Organisers encourage in-person participation, are developing a Covid-19 safety plan
- Conference venue is huge (for up to 7,000 people)
- Vaccination will be required (any recognized by WHO)
- Assess health and safety risk of travel to the COSP!
 - Make sure you have health insurance coverage!
- CoSP venue is UN jurisdiction but invitation does not guarantee safety of individuals

CoSP 9 - Registration

- Approx 432 CSOs should receive invitations
 - 9 NGOs were objected against by States
- ECOSOC-NGOs can still express interest in attending.
 - **However, the deadline of 26 November will not allow enough time to complete the visa application!**
- Registration done through INDICO (instructions in CoSP 9 website)
- Direct link for CoSP 9 registration:
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/corruption/registration/cosp9/>

INDICO Registration

- **Deadline for registration on INDICO: 12 November**
 - Don't register in the last moment, INDICO has been unstable in the past
- Documents needed:
 - official letter signed by head of your organisation,
 - passport copy,
 - photo.
- **Save your confirmation of registration!**
 - **might be needed for visa application**

CoSP 9 - CSO Participation

- Online or in-person participation as part of your CSO delegation
 - Individual attendance outside an organizational delegation is not possible
- Possibility to be part of UNCAC Coalition delegation: contact us ASAP.
- As part of your country delegation (contact your gov ASAP)
- Travel: On your own cost
 - We are not aware of any financial support for CSOs

CoSP 9 - Visa application

- Visas are granted individually
- A valid visa and passport are required for entry into Egypt
 - Passports have to be valid at least six months from the date of entry
- No special visa for the CoSP (tourist visa not sufficient)
- No visa fee
- Obtaining visas has been a challenge for civil society at the last CoSP

CoSP 9 - Visa application

- Contact the Egyptian embassy or consulate in your country for exact info
- Carefully read the “information for participants” on CoSP 9 website (list of hotels, shuttle buses)
- Apply no later than 3 weeks ahead of the conference! (22 November)
 - Do NOT start the process 3 weeks before the conference
- Likely, you will need to submit: passport, flight & hotel reservation, invitation letter for your organization, INDICO registration copy

Opportunities for civil society contributions

Written submissions to CoSP

- Not more than 1500 words (non-ECOSOC CSOs) / 2000 words (ECOSOC CSOs); must not mention country names
- To be submitted 2 weeks before Conference to uncac@un.org.

Oral statements in plenary

- Under each agenda item, after countries spoke
- In-person or pre-recorded video statements submitted in advance (see detailed guidance), max 4 min

Side events

- Deadline for submissions has passed, scheduling is ongoing

Opportunities for civil society contributions

Networking and engagement

- Opportunity to network and meet with government representatives, CSOs, international organizations – bilateral meetings to discuss initiatives, coordination meetings, workshop/trainings, etc.

Impacting resolutions

- Engaging with delegates to propose language and encourage stronger wording in resolutions

On-site activities and actions

- UNCAC Coalition: film screenings, conference newsletter, AC-games
- Other actions to be discussed

CoSP 9 - Agenda of the Plenary

Plenary (CSOs can attend)

- Organisational matters (including discussion on objections to CSOs)
- General discussion (including high-level reps.)
- Agenda items (prevention, asset recovery, review of UNCAC implementation, etc.)
- New agenda item: UNGASS follow-up
- Adoption of resolutions & closing

Annotated agenda: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session9/CAC-COSP-2021-1/V2107305_E.pdf

Preparatory Meeting for Civil Society

The logo for UNCA Coalition features the text "UNCA" in a bold, dark red font, followed by a large red letter "C" that contains a white circle. The word "Coalition" is written in a dark grey font to the right of the "C". Above the "C" is the word "CIVIL" and below it is "SOCIETY", both in a smaller, dark grey font.

- UNCAC Coalition & UNODC will hold a day of briefings and preparatory session
 - Sunday, 12 December, 10:30 am – 5:30 pm at the Conference venue
- Goal to a) brief civil society attendees on the Conference
- b) to discuss priority issues and coordinate advocacy efforts throughout the conference
 - Will host daily check-in sessions throughout the Conference

DRAFT AGENDA

CIVIL SOCIETY PREPARATORY MEETING

9th Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC (COSP 9)

Sunday, 12 December 2021

NGO Meeting Room, International Congress Centre (ICC) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

10:30-11:15	<p>Opening</p> <p>Mathias Huter, Managing Director, UNCAC Coalition Member of the Bureau (TBC)</p> <p>John Brandolino, Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC (TBC)</p>
11:15-11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30-13:00	<p>UNODC Session: Briefing on COSP & Explaining the role of CSOs at the Conference Moderator: Mirella Dummar Frahi, Chief, Civil Society Unit, UNODC</p> <p>Speakers: Brigitte Strobel-Shaw, Chief, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch (CEB), UNODC Livia Krings, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, CEB, UNODC</p> <p><i>Q&A</i></p>
13:00 -14:00	<i>Lunch Break – Self Catering</i>
14:00-15:30	<p>UNCAC Coalition Session: Coordinating civil society advocacy and messaging at the Conference Moderator: UNCAC Coalition representative</p> <p>Overview of on-site CSO activities</p> <p>Lightning talks on priority topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preventive measures – Beneficial ownership transparency – Asset recovery – Civic space & improved UNCAC review mechanism – Follow-up to the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on corruption – Other issues (identified by participants, dependent on proposed resolutions) <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:30-15:40	<i>Break</i>
15:40-17:30	<p>UNCAC Coalition Session: Coordinating civil society advocacy and messaging (continued)</p> <p>Break-out sessions to discuss the above priority topics Reporting back to the plenary Wrap-up and planning of activities throughout the week</p>

Agenda:

<https://uncaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/CoS>

[P9---CSO-Preparatory-Meeting-Agenda.pdf](https://uncaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/CoS/P9---CSO-Preparatory-Meeting-Agenda.pdf)

CoSP 9 - NGO facilities

- NGO lounge (meeting and work space for civil society attendees)
- CSOs can display materials (reports, documents)
- Conference materials must be cleared by UNODC **two weeks ahead of the CoSP**: send email to uncac@un.org
- Bring printouts from home as it may be difficult to print on site

Anticipated key topics at the CoSP

- UNGASS follow-up
- Asset Recovery
- Beneficial Ownership Transparency
- Prevention of corruption / Transparency / Covid-19 response
- Role of civil society in the UNCAC

CoSP 9 - Resolutions

We anticipate around 7-8 resolutions (unconfirmed)

- Sharm El-Sheik Declaration (Egypt)
- Corruption prevention (Morocco)
- Beneficial Ownership / Asset Recovery (Nigeria)
- UNGASS Follow-up (Peru, Columbia, UAE)
- Training & education (Russia)

Deadline for States to present resolutions is 12 November

You can find [all resolutions from previous CoSPs here](#)

CoSP 9 - Special Events

- More applications than available slots, events are merged / consolidated, schedule is yet to be published
- Numerous NGO-led events (primarily on the last day – Friday)
- Scheduled before and after Plenary and during lunch
- StAR day focusing on asset recovery
- In-person or hybrid (not fully virtual), only open to CoSP participants, speakers have to be members of CoSP delegations

Resources and guidance

- COSP9 page on UNODC website:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/session9.html>

- UNODC Information Note for Participants:

https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session9/COSP9_Information_for_Participants_unedited_version.pdf

- CoSP website by host country (forthcoming)

- UNCAC Coalition CoSP9 page

<https://uncaccoalition.org/uncac-bodies/conference-of-states-parties/cosp9/>

- UNCAC Coalition newsletter (<https://uncaccoalition.org/newsletter/>)

- UNODC [Guidance note for NGOs \(2019\)](#)

Resources and guidance

- UNODC CoSP8 page (2019):

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/session8.html>

- UNCAC Coalition CoSP8 page (2019):

<https://uncaccoalition.org/uncac-bodies/conference-of-states-parties/cosp8/>

- Contacts at UNODC:

- NGO unit: unodc-ngounit@un.org
- UNCAC Secretariat: uncac@un.org

Questions?

Thank you very much for your attention!

In case you have questions or require further information, please contact us:

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