

UNCAC Coalition

Association for the implementation of the
UN Convention against Corruption

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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FOREWORD

Dear reader,

Thank you for taking an interest in the UNCAC Coalition's 2019 Annual Report. Civil society has a crucial role to play in advancing anti-corruption efforts, transparency and accountability, and the Coalition facilitates joint advocacy of over 300 civil society organisations (CSO) globally on these important issues related to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The UNCAC, which has been signed or ratified by 186 countries, is the only universal binding anti-corruption mechanism, making it an important lever to promote change.

2019 marked an important milestone for the UNCAC Coalition: For the very first time, we established a permanent presence in Vienna where the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Secretariat for the UNCAC, is based. We opened an office and started building a highly motivated team.

This infrastructure enables the Coalition to engage with a wide range of UNCAC stakeholders, from diplomatic delegations and the UNODC to other Vienna-based organisations on a regular basis, promoting good anti-corruption practices and recommendations identified by our members with them. On the other hand, we share UNCAC-related developments with our members and support CSOs around the world in applying the Convention to advance their missions, including by contributing to the review process in their country. Furthermore,

the Vienna Hub team works to ensure that the voice of civil society is heard and present in UNCAC fora – to the extent that we are allowed to be in the room.

A strong civil society is now more important than ever: Civic space in the anti-corruption sphere globally continues to shrink, and the same is true for the UNCAC. Governments can anonymously object to CSOs observing the UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) without providing any reasons and with no due process: five CSOs were excluded from the 2019 CoSP in Abu Dhabi. Subsidiary bodies of the CoSP remain closed for civil society. Meanwhile, the UNCAC review severely lacks openness – the full review reports, as well as countries' self-assessments can remain secret and governments are not required to involve civil society in the process. However, by the end of 2019 we had managed to get 19 governments to sign our Transparency Pledge, committing to six principles of transparency and civil society involvement in the UNCAC review process.

Our joint efforts would not be possible without the commitment of our members and our board, whom I sincerely thank for contributing their time and expertise to advance the Coalition's mission. I look forward to jointly advancing the global fight against corruption in years to come.

Mathias Huter,
Vienna Hub Coordinator
of the UNCAC Coalition



ABOUT THE UNCAC COALITION



WHO ARE WE?

The UNCAC Coalition is a global network of more than 350 civil society organisations (CSOs) in over 100 countries, committed to promoting the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Established in 2006, it mobilises civil society action around the UNCAC at international, regional and national levels.

Given the UNCAC's relevance for a wide range of CSOs, the Coalition convenes groups working in the areas of government transparency, human rights, access to information, freedom of speech, democratic governance, environmental and private sector accountability, as well as economic and social development.

In 2019, the UNCAC Coalition established a permanent presence in Vienna, Austria. The team of the Coalition's Vienna Hub office engages UN and government stakeholders as well as civil society partners and provides technical and advocacy support to CSOs around the world that use the UNCAC to advance their mission.

The Coalition's work is overseen and guided by its board, the Coalition Coordination Committee (CCC), comprised of representatives of member organisations and representing different regions of the world and membership groups.

ABOUT THE UNCAC COALITION

OUR FOCUS

To help realise the UNCAC's full potential, the Coalition is presently focused on:

- Strengthening the UNCAC Review Mechanism with greater transparency, inclusivity and follow-up on recommendations;
- Increasing accountability in the return of assets;
- Promoting the right to access information about anti-corruption efforts and promoting transparency in areas crucial to preventing corruption, such as public procurement, company registries, and asset declarations of public officials;
- Advancing beneficial ownership transparency and countering money laundering to stem illicit financial flows;
- Improving policies and mechanisms to protect those who uncover and report on corruption, including whistleblowers, activists and reporters;
- Advancing recognition of victims' rights and compensation for the harm caused by corruption;
- Gaining recognition of grand corruption as an international crime and of the need for special measures to address it;
- Securing civil society participation in UNCAC fora, particularly in UNCAC country reviews, and observer status for CSOs in UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) subsidiary bodies.

HOW WE DO IT

Advocacy – the Coalition jointly campaigns around common positions, through direct engagement with governments, written submissions and oral statements at and around UNCAC meetings.

Monitoring – the Coalition supports CSOs to engage in and contribute to the UNCAC review process, including through technical and financial support.

Solutions – the Coalition conducts research on cutting-edge UNCAC issues, develops policy proposals, shares best practice approaches and experiences at UNCAC Conferences of the States Parties (CoSP) and UNCAC Implementation Review Group (IRG) side events, and convenes key players from government and civil society to refine and adopt actions.

Capacity – the Coalition provides guidance and training to both governments and civil society, facilitates networks and joint civil society action.

CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOPS ON IMPLEMENTING THE UNCAC AND ITS REVIEW MECHANISM

The UNCAC Coalition co-organised and contributed to civil society workshops and meetings on implementing the UNCAC and its Review Mechanism all around the world.

The Coalition's Chair Juanita Olaya and the Vienna Hub Coordinator Mathias Huter participated in discussions on how to improve the implementation of the Convention and facilitate civil society participation in UNCAC fora:

- Upon invitation by the Kuwait Anti-corruption Authority, Coalition Chair Juanita Olaya attended the international conference "Integrity for Development", organised by the Government of Kuwait, in January 2019, where the government launched its new anti-corruption action plan. She participated in a panel that focused on corruption measurement and discussed questions regarding UNCAC implementation and measuring the performance of action plans. The conference was also a good opportunity to discuss with different actors in the region their expectations regarding the upcoming UNCAC Conference of States Parties (CoSP).
- Coalition Chair Juanita Olaya represented the Coalition at the OECD Integrity Forum in March 2019 in Paris and participated in discussions to review the 2009 OECD Anti-Bribery Recommendation. She then followed up on the Coalition's feedback to the OECD on non-trial resolutions in the review context.

The Coalition believes that the increased use of non-trial resolutions in corruption enforcement needs to be accompanied by improvements in transparency and accountability of those procedures and should also focus on repairing the damages caused by corruption. Olaya also participated at the Meeting of Influencers convened during the Forum. On the sidelines, she had informal discussions with country representatives, including on their expectations towards the 2019 UNCAC CoSP.

- The Coalition also worked to help advance UNCAC implementation in the Western Balkans. In February 2019, Coalition Hub Coordinator Mathias Huter co-facilitated a follow-up meeting to an UNCAC multi-stakeholder workshop in Belgrade, organised by the UNODC. The attendees of the meeting produced an outcome statement that was endorsed by two dozen CSOs and private sector groups from the Western Balkans, highlighting their willingness to help advance UNCAC implementation in their region and the importance of an inclusive and transparent UNCAC review process allowing for civil society participation.[1]

This effort was also presented by UNODC at the UNCAC CoSP in December 2019.

CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOPS ON IMPLEMENTING THE UNCAC AND ITS REVIEW MECHANISM



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER UNCAC WORKSHOP

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

27 civil society and 26 government representatives from 14 African countries (Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia) participated in a 'Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Implementing the UNCAC and its Review Mechanism'[2] from 8 to 11 April 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop was jointly organised by the UNCAC Coalition and the UNODC, with funding from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

The overall objectives of the training were to equip participants with a strong understanding of the UNCAC and its provisions and to motivate them to contribute to their country's review mechanisms. Furthermore, the workshop connected UNCAC government focal points with civil society activists, and generated mutual understanding for the respective roles, including through role-playing games, in order to facilitate better cooperation and knowledge sharing.

Coalition representatives led sessions on transparency and participation in the UNCAC review process, on drafting a parallel report to contribute to the review, on developing an advocacy strategy, and on using the UNCAC to advocate for access to information. They

CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOPS ON IMPLEMENTING THE UNCAC AND ITS REVIEW MECHANISM



also covered issues such as budget and public procurement transparency, among other issues. Besides informative talks by anti-corruption experts, the agenda included an interactive role-playing exercise on how to conduct a country review.

The issue of asset recovery was of particular interest to many activists. David Ugolor, Executive Director of the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ), an UNCAC Coalition member, shared insights from Nigeria's experience with asset recovery cases, including on the role of civil society in monitoring the disbursement of returned funds.

There was broad consensus that it is crucial to ensure a transparent and truly inclusive

UNCAC review process that provides opportunities for civil society to contribute, share findings and provide recommendations, in order to maximize the UNCAC's impact to create momentum for reforms.

IMPACT

After the workshop, several civil society activists from three countries who had participated in the workshop contributed to the national UNCAC review process, including by meeting with country reviewers to provide them with expert input from a civil society perspective.

CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOPS ON IMPLEMENTING THE UNCAC AND ITS REVIEW MECHANISM



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER UNCAC WORKSHOP

Cartagena, Colombia

Civil society and government representatives from Latin American came together for a workshop on 'Fast-Tracking the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and its Review Mechanism', which was organised by the UNODC, with support from the UK government, on 7 to 10 May 2019 in Cartagena, Colombia.[3]

The conference launched the UNCAC Coalition's new Regional Anti-Corruption Platform for Latin America which provides more visibility and facilitates networking

among civil society groups. Coalition Chair Juanita Olaya facilitated the civil society track of the conference, attended by 24 CSO representatives from ten countries.

The CSOs drafted a joint outcome statement on the policy priorities for Latin America, which the Coalition facilitated and translated. The statement[4] highlighted four cross-cutting issues that require special attention from governments, businesses and civil society alike. It is essential:

- To develop public policies, legal frameworks and independent mechanisms that implement and provide proactive and effective protection to whistle-blowers, witnesses and informants, the guaran-

CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOPS ON IMPLEMENTING THE UNCAC AND ITS REVIEW MECHANISM

teed exercise of the right of access to public information and the right to freedom of expression.

- To implement coherent integrity systems that are committed to developing a culture of honesty in the exercise of public functions, beyond meeting the requirements established by the UNCAC. There is a need for the region to implement open and interconnected information management models of beneficial ownership, sworn interest and asset declarations, as well as transparent records of suppliers and contractors to the public sector, beneficiaries of bidding processes or of direct invitations to government contracts.
- To assure the responsibility of legal persons and international judicial cooperation, i.e. the independence and integrity of the judiciary and control bodies.
- For States to take concrete and measurable actions in the fight against corruption.[5]

With the Coalition's coordination and translation support, 17 CSOs drafted a joint letter addressed to UNODC and the governments attending the conference, calling for: the effective participation of civil society in UNCAC fora and follow-up meetings; fast progress in implementing UNCAC commitments and expressing their readiness to work with governments on implementing measures to ensure high standards of transparency; whistleblower protection and other measures to fight corruption.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER UNCAC WORKSHOP

Skopje, North Macedonia

In June 2019, Coalition Hub Coordinator Mathias Huter spoke at a regional conference on the UNCAC, hosted by the NGO Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation.

The Centre released a report on North Macedonia's UNCAC implementation in attendance of media, civil society and government representatives. The group also presented a report on corruption challenges and the frameworks for civil society participation in the UNCAC review process across the region, and engaged the government on ensuring a transparent review process.[6] The CSO also translated an UNCAC anti-corruption guide developed by Transparency International and the UNCAC Coalition into Macedonian.[7]

THE UNCAC IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP



To advance discussions on UNCAC implementation and share best practice approaches, the UNCAC Coalition organised several side events around the NGO briefing of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group at the UN in Vienna, as well as at the Conference of the States Parties in Abu Dhabi.

IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP

The 10th resumed session for the UNCAC Implementation Review Group[8] (IRG) took place from 2 to 4 September 2019 at the United Nations in Vienna. Civil society is not allowed to observe these meetings, and is also excluded from the meetings of UNCAC working groups.

On 3 September 2019, UNODC and the UNCAC Coalition co-organised a briefing session for NGOs[9] on the sidelines of the IRG. More than 100 members of delegations and CSOs attended the briefing, which provided some opportunities for CSO representatives to engage with delegates and with representatives of the UNODC.

UNCAC Coalition Chair Juanita Olaya highlighted in her statement that it was time to end the nine years of exclusion of CSOs from participating in UNCAC subsidiary bodies and to grant civil society observer status in these meetings. Furthermore, she urged the UNCAC Secretariat and States Parties to develop alternative procedures so that CSOs no longer have to submit documents for screening before they can be

THE UNCAC IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP

displayed, and to amend rule 17 of the rules of procedure, allowing governments to object against non-ECOSOC accredited CSOs attending the CoSP as observers, without any due process or disclosure which government objected for what reasons. The statement triggered reactions from several delegations, including some that defended the status quo.



Coalition Chair Juanita Olaya giving her statement at the NGO briefing on the side-lines of the IRG

The UNCAC Coalition also organised two special events on 3 September 2019, one in cooperation with Transparency International entitled “Grand Corruption Cases – What schemes and what consequences?” and

another entitled “Repairing the Damage: Redress for Victims of Corruption”, which took place before and after the NGO briefing, respectively.

The special event on grand corruption sought to advance UNCAC States Parties’ discussions on grand corruption by reflecting on the lessons learned from several major cases of grand corruption, including on the role of networks of major financial institutions and shell companies, supported by legions of lawyers and accountants. The session also presented and discussed a definition of the criminal offence of grand corruption, proposed by Transparency International.

The special event on victims of corruption sought to facilitate an expert discussion on approaches and best practices for addressing redress for damage caused by corruption in line with UNCAC Articles 34 and 35, and with this the identification of different types of victims of corruption and the establishment of mechanisms for compensation and redress.



Pictures of the NGO briefing, both special events and the audience that was made up of many country delegates

THE UNCAC IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP



UNCAC Coalition board member David Banisar (Article 19) making an intervention at the NGO briefing

The panellists of the special event on Grand Corruption, organised by the Coalition and TI



In three written submissions to the IRG, the Coalition called for improvements to the review mechanism, including by creating more transparency and civil society inclusion, as well as a follow-up mechanism, and for NGO observer status in CoSP subsidiary bodies. The Coalition also submitted recommendations on robust action to ensure transparency in company ownership together with Transparency International.[10]

On the side-lines of the IRG meeting, the Coalition's board members met with several country delegations and senior UNODC officials to discuss priority policy issues and civil society participation in the UNCAC CoSP and the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) against Corruption in 2021.

IMPACT

UNODC started to add information on country visits from UNCAC reviewers and links to documentation of measures taken after the review process had been completed to the UNCAC country profiles – steps the Coalition had long advocated for.

Resulting from a conversation between the Coalition's board and senior UNODC officials, UNODC produced a guidance note on the participation of representatives of non-governmental organisations in sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its subsidiary bodies, published in October 2019. The UNCAC Coalition had provided feedback on a draft version.

Although the document contains useful information and references that will help CSOs navigate how they can participate in UNCAC fora, it does not clarify a number of important issues that are at the centre of concerns over civic space, including the criteria applied to the approval of documents and access to documents for NGOs at the CoSP. Furthermore, the guidance note failed to improve the situation around the objection process under rule 17 which allows governments to block non-ECOSOC accredited NGOs from attending the CoSP. [11]

THE 8TH UNCAC CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES



8TH UNCAC CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The 8th UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) which took place in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) from 16 to 20 of December 2019 was an important opportunity for the Coalition and other CSOs to advocate for improved anti-corruption policies and a strong implementation of the UNCAC.[12]

Ahead of the CoSP, the Coalition co-hosted a webinar to share experiences from past conferences and to help prepare attendees

for the CoSP. The Coalition facilitated the attendance of numerous civil society representatives at the CoSP, including by sharing relevant news and deadlines with its members and within its networks, by providing support to groups that had difficulties navigating the application and by covering travel costs of close to 20 activists, including several from the MENA region.

In consultation and cooperation with its members and other CSOs, the Coalition developed specific wording and input for CoSP resolutions that was shared with some governments, including on beneficial ownership transparency, access to information, public procurement transparency, openness of company registries, civic space, improvements to the UNCAC review process, etc.

THE 8TH UNCAC CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

The Coalition also engaged with a number of country delegations on the plans and priorities for the first-ever UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) against corruption. In particular, the Coalition's advocacy focused on securing civil society participation in the session and its preparation – which was fairly successful, as numerous countries made this a priority in their negotiations of the UNGASS modalities resolution: all CSOs that were present at the CoSP would be allowed to participate in the three CoSP intersessional meetings on UNGASS preparations taking place in Vienna in 2020. Furthermore, other CSOs will be able to apply to attend the UNGASS. However, in these cases, governments will be able to anonymously object against the participation of non-ECOSOC accredited organisations without any due process.

The UNCAC Coalition's delegation to the CoSP included 33 civil society representatives from 25 different CSOs.

The day before the CoSP, the Coalition hosted a day-long prep meeting for civil society organisations on the CoSP. The Chair of the Conference welcomed participants, John Brandolino, Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs at UNODC, and other UNODC officials gave an introductory briefing and answered questions.

The briefing allowed CSO representatives attending the conference to learn about how

to discuss and coordinate with other activists the policy priorities and advocacy opportunities the conference provides.



Pre-conference civil society briefing organised by the UNCAC Coalition

In the afternoon, CSO representatives introduced split into several groups according to key policy issues and developed advocacy strategies for the week of the Conference. The Coalition hosted daily follow-up meetings for civil society representatives to update each other on their advocacy efforts and to exchange information on relevant developments at the Conference.



Daily update session in the CoSP NGO lounge

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Through several written statements as well as half a dozen oral statements by Coalition Chair David Banisar, Vienna Hub Coordinator Mathias Huter and board member Gillian Dell, who spoke on behalf of Transparency International (TI) alongside TI Chair Delia Ferreira Rubio, the UNCAC Coalition highlighted the need to advance the implementation of the UNCAC and good practices, as well as the importance of civil society being able to participate in and contribute to the fight against corruption in UNCAC fora and the UNGASS 2021.[13]



Coalition board members Gillian Dell (TI) and Chair David Banisar (Article 19)

UNCAC Coalition Chair David Banisar speaking in the plenary of the CoSP



UNCAC Coalition Chair David Banisar (right) and TI Chair Delia Ferreira Rubio at the CoSP

The Coalition's written statements to the CoSP covered a range of priority policy issues; one included its Transparency Pledge, and another one included its Guide to Transparency and Participation in the review process. Transparency International also made three submissions to the CoSP.

To engage with and inform delegates and attendees of the CoSP, the Coalition organised several corruption-related games and activities, including a simple role-play where the player has to make choices on how to trace down an anonymous shell company and while doing so, develops an understanding of the importance of publicly accessible registers of beneficial ownership. Instructions for the game, including pictures and detailed explanations on how to prepare it can be found on our website.[14]

J. Brandolino (UNODC), throwing the Coalition's UNCAC ball to knock down pegs representing corruption challenges



Coalition team members handed out flyers, stickers and post cards it had specifically designed for the CoSP, and produced three editions of the conference newspaper "the Observer"[15], which was distributed online, via email and in print, and highlighted activities of CSOs at the CoSP as well as se-

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lected key advocacy issues, keeping government delegates informed about civil society involvement in anti-corruption efforts. Delegates shared their anti-corruption vision for 2020 with notes on a wall that the Coalition had set up.



A delegate pinning his 2020 anti-corruption vision on the Coalition's resolutions wall (Picture by UNODC)



A delegate at the UNCAC CoSP in Abu Dhabi reads the UNCAC Coalition's Transparency Pledge

Through several events, the Coalition promoted best practices of anti-corruption efforts at the CoSP: The Coalition hosted one side event together with Article 19 and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovakia on 20 December 2019, which highlighted

technology-driven approaches to facilitate public access to information, in particular, to make procurement information, company data and asset declarations of public officials available to the public.[16]

Panellists discussed the impact of such transparency to prevent and detect corruption: Anna Andrejšinová from the Slovak Ministry of Justice and Jozef Daňko of the Slovak Public Procurement Office presented Slovakia's mandatory disclosure of public sector contracts; Nkemdilim Ilo, CEO of the NGO Public & Private Development Centre – PPDC, Nigeria, shared her organisation's experiences in piloting the open contracting data standard and monitoring public procurement in Nigeria; and Chris Taggart, CEO and Co-founder of OpenCorporates, spoke about their efforts to make the world's company data open for all. Finally, Adhi Setyo Tamtomo of Indonesia's Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) shared his country's experience with public online access to information of public officials' interest declarations.



The panellists of the Coalition's side event on technology-driven approaches to access to information

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The Coalition co-hosted a second side event together with StAR, Transparency International, UNODC-ROSEAP and the Nigerian NGO CISLAC on 17 December 2019, entitled "Getting Serious About Beneficial Ownership Transparency." [17] Executive Director of OpenOwnership Thom Townsend presented his organisation's work of building beneficial ownership (BO) registers, developing a common data standard, and spoke about the key requirements for any BO regime: timely information release, findable data across different jurisdictions and nations, and verified data. Irina Stefuriuc, Anti-Corruption Team Lead at the European Commission (DG Home), presented the BO requirements in the 4th and 5th EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive. Speakers from Slovakia, Indonesia, Uruguay and Jersey elaborated on their countries' BO regimes, with an emphasis of different approaches to reporting and verification. The interactive session, which also discussed challenges regarding BO transparency, was facilitated by Shervin Majlessi (StAR) and Jose Marin Aguirre (TI).



The panellists of the Coalition's joint side event on beneficial ownership transparency

The Coalition facilitated two training sessions for CSOs on the link between corruption and human rights, held by the Center for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) [18], which received very positive feedback from all participants. [19]

To facilitate regional networking and exchange, the UNCAC Coalition and Transparency International jointly organised an advocacy meeting for the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region on the sidelines of the UNCAC CoSP. Civil society representatives from 12 CSOs, the UNCAC Coalition's Vienna Hub Coordinator, TI's Chair and TI's and Article 19's regional coordinators for the MENA region attended the meeting, which focused on challenges regarding access to information. The groups also discussed a possible campaign to promote access to information and transparency. Several groups indicated their willingness to participate in a campaign to request UNCAC related documents.



Representatives from CSOs from the Middle East and Northern Africa at the CoSP8

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Space for civil society at the CoSP in Abu Dhabi was restricted. Five groups were unable to observe the CoSP due to an anonymous objection made by a country, with no reasons being provided. In a symbolic step, four of these objections were removed on the last day of the conference. Several civil society representatives, primarily from the Middle East and Northern Africa, were not provided with visas on time to attend the CoSP.

Despite being officially invited by UNODC to speak at one of the conferences' Special Events as a panellist, the renowned Serbian journalist Stevan Dojčinović was detained and questioned upon arriving at Abu Dhabi airport before being sent back to his home country. In order to still make his voice heard and raise awareness about the limited space for civil society participation at the Conference, the Coalition and Transparency International issued a joint press release and managed to get a brief statement from the journalist, which we read out at the panel where he was supposed to speak.[20] The incident was covered by international media, including Reuters and the New York Times.



Journalist Dojčinović's seat stayed empty during the special session he was to speak at

MORE PICTURES OF THE COSP8



The UNCAC Coalition's Vienna Hub team Mathias Huter (right), Danella Newman (middle) and Charlotte Honnigfort (left) at the COSP in Abu Dhabi



The UNCAC Coalition's resolutions wall filled with anti-corruption resolutions from delegations and civil society representatives from around the world

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE UNCAC REVIEW PROCESS

TRANSPARENCY PLEDGE AND GUIDE

The Coalition developed two tools to promote a transparent and inclusive review process:

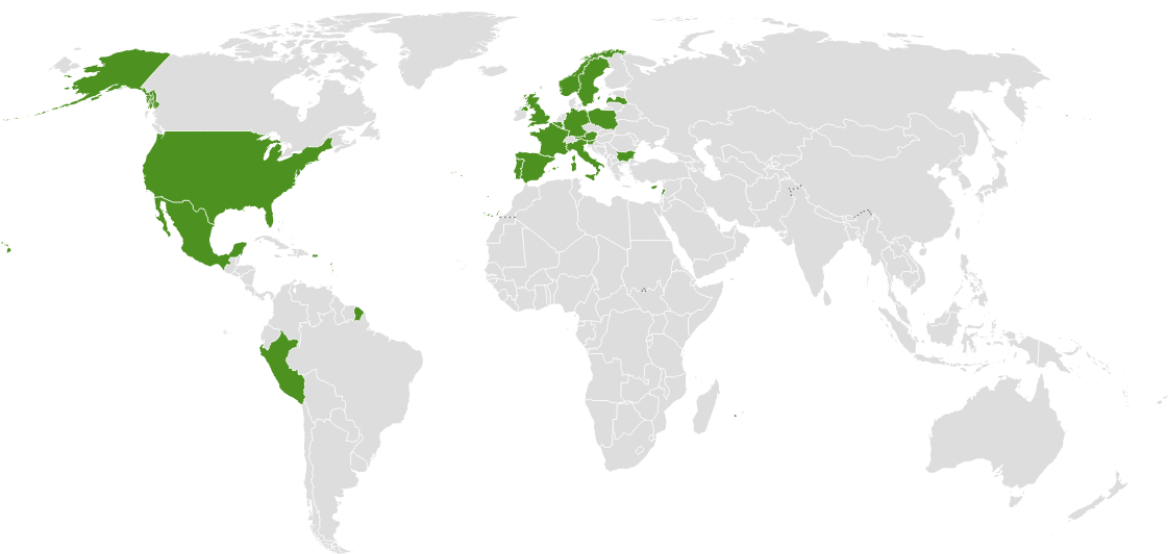
- The Guide to Transparency and Participation in the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism is directed at governments and includes good practices to ensure an inclusive and effective review process. In 2019, we updated, expanded and translated the guide into the UN languages.[21]
- The Coalition's Transparency Pledge for the second review cycle of the UNCAC review includes six principles to ensure an adequate level of transparency.

In the fall of 2019, the Coalition conducted

extensive outreach to civil society and governments to promote these tools.

We individually contacted 54 delegations via email and, in cases where contact information was available, UNCAC focal points. The messages encouraged the respective administration to sign the Transparency Pledge, adopt practices outlined in the guide, and ensure adequate levels of transparency and civil society inclusion in the review process.

The countries we contacted were scheduled for their second cycle UNCAC review in 2017, 2018 or 2019. The Coalition contacted at least 92 CSOs in those 54 countries in 2019, encouraging them to engage their governments on the UNCAC review and to share contact details of the government focal point, if known, as well as information on the current stage of the review process.



CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE UNCAC REVIEW PROCESS

We followed up with both governments and CSOs online and in person at the UNCAC CoSP in December, where we approached and engaged country delegations using games, stickers and post cards as ice-breakers, and sought their commitment to a transparent and inclusive UNCAC review process. Coalition team members briefed CSOs on challenges related to the transparency and inclusiveness of the review process on the national level and coordinated follow-up actions, with CSOs engaging their governments to sign the Transparency Pledge – or at least agree to publish the self-assessment checklist and/or the full country report and to invite CSOs to a meeting with the country reviewers, providing CSOs with an opportunity to contribute to the review process.

At least two delegations (USA and Austria) highlighted that they had signed the Pledge and encouraged other countries to do the same in statements they gave at the CoSP plenary and in the IRG meeting respectively.

By the end of 2019, 19 countries had signed the Coalition's Transparency Pledge. The list of countries includes Austria (new addition), Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Little progress had been made in terms of countries completing the second cycle of the UNCAC review, which is very much behind

schedule. It was supposed to be completed by the end of 2020, but has been extended to June 2024. By the end of 2019, approximately 35 States Parties had completed the second cycle and had published the executive summary; the number of countries that have published the full country review report had increased to at least 14 countries on the UNODC website, but only six countries had published the self-assessment checklist. [22]

CIVIL SOCIETY PARALLEL REPORTS

To support CSOs in contributing to the second cycle of the UNCAC review process, the Coalition has developed a set of guidance documents for CSO researchers creating a parallel report on UNCAC implementation. These include general instructions for the organisation and the researcher, a report template, a questionnaire covering all articles of chapter II (prevention) and (in a late draft version) chapter V (asset recovery). The guidance documents will serve as living documents that will be updated and improved over time, to reflect feedback and questions from researchers as well as to include new sources and materials. On its website, the Coalition has published an open call for CSOs to apply for technical and financial support to produce a parallel report.[23] Due to constraints in human resources, this support has only been rolled out in 2020.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Coalition provided extensive input to a public consultation of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in April 2019, highlighting relevant UNCAC provisions, promoting synergies between the Anti-Bribery Convention and the UNCAC, and presenting positions that the Coalition has taken in UNCAC fora that are also relevant to the work of the OECD Working Group on Bribery. Input the UNCAC Coalition alongside Transparency International and other civil society organisations had previously provided was reflected in the 2019 OECD publication 'Resolving Foreign Bribery Cases with Non-Trial Resolutions – Settlements and Non-Trial Agreements by Parties to the Anti-Bribery Convention'.[24]

The Coalition prepared an up-to-date primer on the UNCAC that will likely serve as a reference document for many diplomats and stakeholders working with the UNCAC. In May, the Coalition updated 'UNCAC in a nutshell – A quick guide to the UNCAC for donor agency and embassy staff' upon request of Transparency International's help desk (on behalf of the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center). The guide provides an overview of the provisions of the UNCAC and in its updated version also addresses issues of transparency and civil society participation in UNCAC fora and the review process.[25]

The Coalition co-organised a joint presentation of three Vienna-based CSO umbrella groups to reach country delegations. On 23 September, the Coalition, the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Jus-

tice and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, held a briefing for Vienna delegations at the Vienna International Center to introduce CSO umbrella groups.[26] The briefing was attended by 70 people, including members of at least 24 country delegations. Mathias Huter presented the Coalition's mission and work and particularly focused on the Transparency Pledge and the importance of creating a transparent and inclusive review process.

In several blog posts, the Coalition documented the work of civil society groups regarding the implementation of the UNCAC. Topics included the involvement of activists in the UNCAC review process of South Sudan, the implementation of international anti-corruption commitments of Nigeria, and the take of civil society groups on high-profile asset recovery cases.

STATEMENTS ON RESTRICTED CIVIC SPACE

Civil society does not only push for progress in anti-corruption but increasingly has to fight against setbacks.

In September 2019, the Coalition issued a statement in coordination with Indonesia Corruption Watch and on behalf of its members, voicing its concern about a law threatening the Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission's (KPK) independence.[27] The statement referenced the

OTHER ACTIVITIES

commitments Indonesia had made under the UNCAC regarding the independence of anti-corruption bodies. It triggered numerous media reports[28] and was viewed close to 2,000 times on the Coalition's website. After massive protests in Indonesia, the implementation of the problematic law appears to have been halted, at least temporarily.

In November 2019, the Coalition expressed its concern over the arrest of Halim Feddal, Secretary-General of the Algerian National Association in the Fight Against Corruption (ANLC) after receiving an alarming letter from this CSO.[29]

DAPHNE

In October 2017, the journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was assassinated in Malta. She had investigated and uncovered numerous corruption cases and worked to hold those involved to account. Those behind her murder remain unknown and have not been brought to justice.

On the second anniversary of her death, members of the UNCAC Coalition Hub joined members of the International Press Institute, Reporters without Borders Austria and the journalist association Presseclu Concordia in a vigil to remember Daphne in front of the Maltese embassy in Vienna. International freedom of expression, anti-corruption and journalists' organisations, including Coalition member organisations Article 19 and Transparency International, have published a letter[30] to the Maltese authorities, urging

them to ensure that this is the very last anniversary that passes without full justice for Daphne Caruana Galizia.



ONLINE PRESENCE

In 2019, the UNCAC Coalition increased its social media activities and overhauled large sections of its website:

Our website www.uncaccoalition.org was visited 25,356 times by 16,246 visitors, creating a total of 50,802 page views. At the end of 2019, @uncaccoalition had 4,900 followers on Twitter. In December 2019 alone, our tweets generated 140,000 impressions and received 333 mentions. The Coalition's Facebook page was revived in late 2019 after several years of inactivity due to access issues, attracting 733 followers. A newly created LinkedIn account had 167 followers at the end of the year.

THE UNCAC COALITION COORDINATION COMMITTEE (CCC)

The UNCAC Coalition's Coordination Committee (CCC) is the organisation's board. It is the policy-making and steering body of the Coalition and oversees the work of the Vienna Hub office.

Board members are elected for 2-year terms by the membership, representing different regions and member groups. Five members were re-elected in June 2019. Juanita Olaya (individual member) served as Chair until September 2019. David Bansiar (Article 19), who had previously served as Vice-Chair, was elected as the new Chair.

Americas Regional Seat



Marcelo GIULLITTI OLIVA

representing the Civil
Association for Equality and
Justice (ACIJ)

A specialist in transparency, anti-corruption and justice and author of several publications on these topics, Marcelo has led different transparency-related projects and has represented ACIJ in national and international civil society networks linked to these issues.

East Asia, Central Asia and Pacific Regional Seat



Cynthia GABRIEL

representing The Center to
Combat Corruption and
Cronyism

A key advocate for human rights and good governance in Malaysia, Cynthia has spent most of her professional life in the field of advancing democratic freedoms, reforms and policy change in the country and region.

Europe Regional Seat 2



Grzegorz MAKOWSKI

representing the Stefan
Batory Foundation

Grzegorz is the Program Director of the Public Integrity Program at the Stefan Batory Foundation in Poland. He holds a PhD in sociology and one of his academic specialisations is the problem of corruption and anti-corruption policy.

THE UNCAC COALITION COORDINATION COMMITTEE (CCC)

Middle East and North Africa Regional Seat



Hilda AJEILAT

representing the Jordan
Transparency Center

President of Jordan Transparency Center (JTC), Hilda has successfully managed to transform JTC from a small, local NGO to a key player in Jordan and MENA by exhibiting leadership, perseverance and commitment.

South Asia Regional Seat



Iftekhar ZAMAN

representing Transparency
International Bangladesh

Iftekhar is the Executive Director of TIB. He served in the past as Executive Director of Bangladesh Freedom Foundation, Executive Director of Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo, and Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Seat 1



Joke FEKUMO

representing the Socio-
Economic Rights And
Accountability Project
(SERAP)

Joke is a lawyer and senior legal adviser with the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) in Nigeria. She holds a Masters degree in law and has been a member of the Nigerian Bar Association since 2010. She served as Vice-Chair from June 2019 to June 2020.

Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Seat 2



Gladwell OTIENO

representing the Africa
Centre for Open
Governance (AfriCOG)

Gladwell is the Executive Director of AfriCOG. She worked in the past for TI in Berlin, then moved to South Africa to the Institute for Security Studies. She was also the Executive Director of TI-Kenya.

THE UNCAC COALITION COORDINATION COMMITTEE (CCC)

**International Member
Organisation Seat 1**



David BANISAR

representing ARTICLE 19

David is Senior Legal Counsel for Article 19 in London. He leads the organisation's efforts on transparency and access to information, focusing on the fields of development and environment. David served as Chair for a year from June 2019 to June 2020.

**International Member
Organisation Seat 2**



Gillian DELL

representing Transparency
International

Gillian is the head of the Conventions Unit at Transparency International in Berlin. Prior to joining Transparency International, she worked as a lawyer, as a research fellow, as a consultant at the United Nations, and as a law lecturer and administrator.

Individual Member Seat



Juanita OLAYA

Juanita has worked with the UNCAC Coalition on various issues. She is a lawyer with a master degrees in Economics and Public Administration and a PhD in International Public Economic Law. Juanita served as Chair between May 2018 and June 2019.

UNCAC COALITION MEMBERSHIP

VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY

On 30 January 2019, the Coalition held a virtual membership assembly, which provided an important opportunity for engagement with the membership.

The attending members approved a preliminary budget for 2019, as well as the Comptrollers' report for the 2017 finances. The membership also approved changes to the Charter, including a broader and more detailed definition of the Coalition's purpose and of its activities, as well of its sources of revenue (following recommendations from the Coalition's tax advisor). Furthermore, changes were made to facilitate the transition of responsibilities from the former Coalition Secretariat held by Transparency International to the Vienna Hub office.

MEMBERS

The UNCAC Coalition has a network of more than 300 civil society organisations around the world.

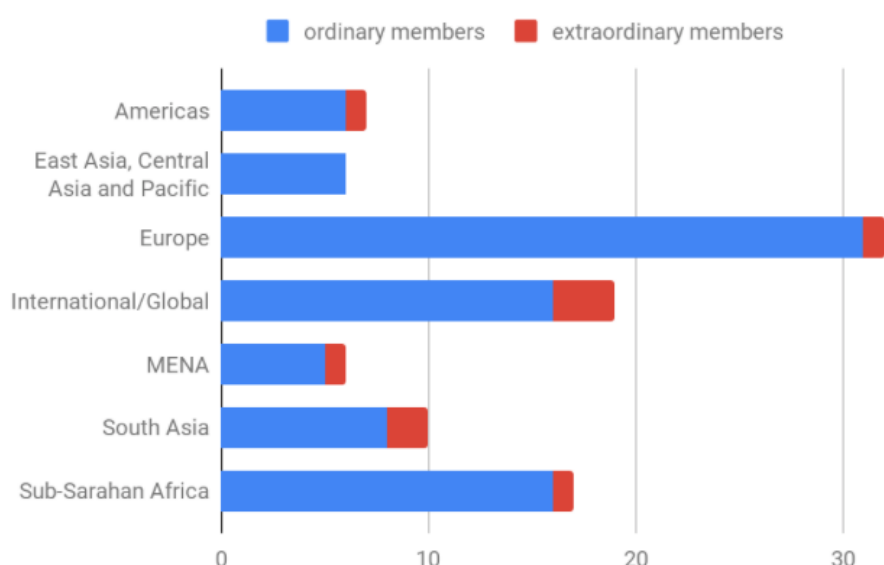
By late 2019, the UNCAC Coalition had:

- 97 members member organisations
- 16 ordinary international members
- 72 ordinary national members
- 9 extraordinary members

MEMBERS BY REGION

- Americas: 7
- East Asia, Central Asia and Pacific: 6
- Europe: 32
- MENA: 6
- South Asia: 10
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 17
- International/Global: 19

Member Organisations by Region



UNCAC COALITION MEMBERSHIP

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Affiliated civil society groups and organisations are in the Coalition's wider network — including those that are part of the regional anti-corruption platforms operated by the Coalition. Organisations listed as affiliated groups have not gone through the same rigorous registration process, providing a registration certificate, audited report, annual activity report, among others, and therefore, do not have the rights and responsibilities member organisations have in line with the Coalition's Charter.

Following a project agreement with UNODC, the UNCAC Coalition also operates regional anti-corruption platforms for Africa, South-East Europe, South-East Asia and Latin America. They serve the purpose of connecting organisations in the region that

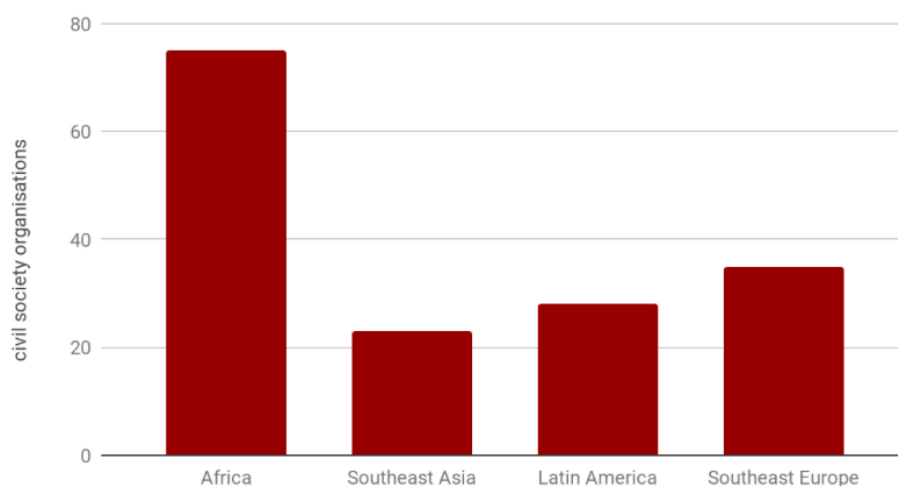
work on anti-corruption issues with each other to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices. All organisations that apply to become part of one of the platforms now are automatically also listed as an affiliated group.

By the end of 2019, the UNCAC Coalition had 231 affiliated groups and organisations. 97 of them were not part of the regional platforms.

As of the end of January 2020, there were 161 organisations on the regional platforms. Of those, 27 were member organisations of the Coalition and thus not counted as affiliated groups or organisations:

- Africa: 75
- Southeast Asia : 23
- Latin America: 28
- Southeast Europe: 35

Regional Anti-Corruption Platforms



FINANCES

REVENUES

The UNCAC Coalition received the following donor funds in 2019:

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	EUR 147.326
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA/Danida)	EUR 198.834
Sigrid Rausing Trust	EUR 57.309
United Nations* (UNODC)	EUR 50.960
Transparency International*	EUR 800

* The funding from the United Nations and Transparency International was received through service contracts. Some of the funding from the United Nations relates to activities implemented in 2018, some of the received funding from other donors was earmarked for use in 2020.

We thank our donors for their financial support!

EXPENSES

Salaries and consultants	EUR 163.785
Project and advocacy expenses	EUR 53.027
Office Rent	EUR 7.909
Office and administrative expenses	EUR 3.802
Banking fees	EUR 320
Payroll & accounting	EUR 2.956
Audit	EUR 4.013
Travel and miscellaneous expenses	EUR 6.755
TOTAL	EUR 242.567

You can find further information on the UNCAC Coalition's finances on our website and in our audit reports, available at <https://uncaccoalition.org/about-us/our-funding/>.

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- [4] UNCAC Coalition: Anti-Corruption Recommendations of Civil Society Organisations for Latin America: <https://uncaccoalition.org/mesa-redonda-de-organizaciones-de-la-sociedad-civil-en-el-marco-de-la-conferencia-regional-para-america-del-sur-y-mexico-contribuyendo-a-la-aceleracion-de-la-implementacion-de/>.
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- [6] UNCAC Coalition: CSO Reports on UNCAC Implementation in North Macedonia: <https://uncaccoalition.org/cso-reports-on-uncac-implementation-in-north-macedonia/>.
- [7] Transparency International & UNCAC Coalition: Using the UN Convention against Corruption to Advance Anti-corruption Efforts: a Guide: <https://uncaccoalition.org/resources/uncac-guide/uncac-advance-anti-corruption-efforts-guide-en.pdf>.
- [8] Implementation Review Group of the UN Convention against Corruption: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/IRG/session10-first-resumed.html>.
- [9] Tenth resumed session of the Implementation Review Group (10th IRG): <https://uncaccoalition.org/uncac-bodies/implementation-review-group-irg/10th-irg>.
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- [11] UNODC: Guidance note on the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its subsidiary bodies: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session8/Guidance_note_participation_of_NGOs_in_COSP_and_subsidary_bodies.pdf.
- [12] For detailed documentation of the UNCAC Coalition's activities at the CoSP, see: The Eighth Session of the UNCAC Conference of States Parties (8th CoSP): <https://uncaccoalition.org/uncac-bodies/conference-of-states-parties/cosp8/>.

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- [13] COSP8 statements by the UNCAC Coalition and its representatives, as well as representatives of member organisations: <https://uncaccoalition.org/uncac-bodies/conference-of-states-parties/cosp8/>.
- [14] UNCAC Coalition Beneficial Ownership (BO) Transparency Box Game: <https://uncaccoalition.org/uncac-coalition-beneficial-ownership-bo-transparency-box-game/>.
- [15] The Observer: [Issue #1](#), [Issue #2](#), [Issue #3](#).
- [16] UNCAC Coalition: CoSP8 Special Event “Making Transparency Work: Technology-Driven Approaches to Facilitate Public Access to Information”: <https://uncaccoalition.org/cosp8-special-event-making-transparency-work-technology-driven-approaches-to-facilitate-public-access-to-information/>.
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