ADVOCACY TOOLKIT:

ENSURING EFFECTIVE REPARATION TO VICTIMS OF THE HARM CAUSED BY CORRUPTION

UNCAC Coalition Working Groups on Asset Recovery; Gender, Inclusion and Corruption; Grand Corruption and State Capture; and Victims of Corruption.

NOVEMBER 2023
ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

The 10th UNCAC CoSP, taking place in Atlanta, Georgia (United States) on 11–15 December 2023 offers an opportunity to create momentum and advance the right of victims to participation and reparation in corruption cases worldwide.

This toolkit presents the key messages that need to be treated as a priority area within the UNCAC, as well as our key asks at the CoSP.

We encourage you to use this toolkit and messages as a starting point for your own advocacy and personalized messaging to drive impactful change. You can tailor and adapt the messages to suit your context.
Our aim at the CoSP10 is to ensure that the issue of victims' right to participation and reparation in corruption cases takes center stage in the discussions.

The specific objectives can be summarized as:

1. At least 5 countries and 5 NGOs should make declarations or public statements towards advancing the issue of victims' reparation such as calling for UNODC to prepare a longer study and/or asking for a follow-up to the 2016 Working Group on Asset Recovery.

2. The inclusion of victims' language in two resolutions. Suggestions are available in the Priorities for State Parties section of this toolkit.

3. In side events and side discussions, encourage the organization of a dedicated session within the Asset Recovery Working Group to address the issue of Victims' Remedies and/or in the Implementation Review Group.
TACTICS

Demonstrate civil society unity around key asks

Share our open letter to UNCAC States Parties, written inputs, and joint statements during key moments to emphasize civil society’s anti-corruption expectations for the 10th CoSP. This will signal to States Parties that their efforts may be evaluated negatively unless the expectations are at least partially met.

Earn visibility

Through effective messaging and good ‘hooks’ and ‘angles’, we will aim to get more coverage in the lead-up to the CoSP to help influence States Parties. See the messages shared in the social media messaging section.

Target key countries

While the submissions and statements address all States Parties, we can be strategic in which countries we target through direct advocacy.

Share our open letter to UNCAC States Parties here:

- **English version**
- **Spanish version**
- **French version**
ACTIVITIES

Use social media:

- Tweet daily about the issue starting now using #CoSP10.
- On **9 December**, International Anti-Corruption Day, tweet about this issue using the messages below.
- On **10 December**, the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, raise awareness on this issue using the messages below and social media content from our Resources for Civil Society shared google drive.

Contact the media:
Raise awareness on this issue, drafting and sharing an **op-ed** showcasing the cases happening in your country and linking to our open letter to State Parties.
The submissions must uphold UN standards and avoid abusive language. In practice, we have come to understand that what UNODC means by this is that country names should not be used in a critical context, but highlighting good practice examples is ok. However, there is no official guidance on this aspect available.

- NGOs with ECOSOC status can submit written reports of up to 2000 words.
- NGOs without ECOSOC status that were accredited to the CoSP can submit written reports of up to 1500 words.
- If you want copies of your submission to be made available to delegates, make sure to bring a sufficient number of hard copies on the first day of the Conference.
- Written submissions have to be sent to UNODC at uncac@un.org two weeks before the Conference, so by Monday, 27 November 2023.
ACTIVITIES

Prepare for the CoSP:

- Prepare a 3-minute **statement** to deliver in a plenary session
- Prepare **interventions** for the Q&A sections of side events
- Reach out to the **delegation** of your country


Share the Joint WGs submission: https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/
PRIORITIES FOR STATES PARTIES

Corruption causes direct harm to individuals, institutions, communities, and societies as a whole. Such harm constitutes, for the most part, human rights violations. The UNCAC is explicit and unambiguous about the need to address the consequences of corruption and the rights of its victims. The Political Declaration adopted at the 2021 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) against Corruption expressly acknowledges victims of corruption, reiterating commitments to protect these individuals from threats and to compensate victims appropriately and justly. Yet, few victims have successfully obtained redress, and most of them have remained unidentified, unrepresented, or absent from corruption cases.

We ask that the States Parties at the 10th UNCAC CoSP and all national and international actors enact measures and adopt practices to enforce the existing international legal framework and overcome practical obstacles to the rights of victims in corruption cases, as follows:

1. Article 34 on consequences of acts of corruption, calling on States to provide for remedial actions; Article 35 on the right to initiate legal proceedings and compensation for damage; Article 32(5) on participation in proceedings; and Article 57(3)(c) on asset recovery.
States should enforce the obligation of addressing the consequences of corruption and providing remedies to its victims, including assurances and/or guarantees of non-repetition in accordance with Article 4 of the draft convention on justice and support for victims of crime.\(^5\)

States should recognize in their legal frameworks and procedures the special gravity of grand corruption and that grand corruption results in widespread human rights violations and abuses, ranging from denial of collective rights of vital public services (health, education, infrastructure, etc) and of individual political and civil rights. The frameworks and procedures should allow for these harms to be remedied.

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INFORMATION, CAPACITY AND COOPERATION

3 State Parties are encouraged to monitor, report on and communicate instances of reparation.

States should make it mandatory for law enforcement authorities to identify, at an early stage, potential victims in corruption and other related offense cases at home and abroad, especially those affected by collective harm. Appropriate means of representation and reparation should be ensured in both cases. Countries are encouraged to develop operational guidelines and criteria for victims’ identification based on international norms.

4 Victim engagement is important throughout the process. States Parties should notify victims about proceedings and investigations on corruption at home and abroad in a reasonable yet timely and accessible manner to enable victims to play a role, whether this involves being legally represented and seeking reparation, contributing information or being able to conduct advocacy and awareness raising campaigns. Victims' notifications could be published via online platforms, considering the literacy, gender gap and digital gender divide.

5 Countries should provide training and capacity-building programs for law enforcement and oversight agencies, judiciary, and other relevant stakeholders on the rights and related exigencies of victims of corruption, as well as on effective methods for providing redress and support, using a rights-based, gender-sensitive and trauma-informed approach.
Countries should, where they do not already exist, create mechanisms in accordance with their national laws for victims to participate in criminal, civil, constitutional and administrative proceedings to represent their interests, allowing individuals, collectivities and associations representing the public interest or diffuse interests to make claims for individual, collective and social reparation. Such legal standing should, where appropriate, provide victims with the right of appeal against decisions of the prosecutorial authority not to prosecute, particularly when that is a condition for reparation.

A more balanced representation of perpetrators and victims in settlements is needed. Rules and criteria for settlements and out-of-court agreements should ensure victims' direct representation and ensure reparation of harm.

States should enact laws to limit litigation costs for victims and should provide support services, including but not limited to financial and legal aid, psycho-social support, and information on victims' rights and available avenues for redress. Civil, administrative or other proceedings should not impose a financial burden upon victims that would prevent or discourage them from seeking redress.\(^6\)

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The participation of victims in decisions about the actual use, destination and oversight of reparation funds, whether governmental or private, for specific purposes, should be enabled through appropriate mechanisms that allow for individual and collective representation in order to ensure that their interests are considered.

Given the range of obstacles to claims of victims, including for collective and social harm, also in grand corruption cases, states should appoint a victims’ coordinator to identify, notify, represent and coordinate victims of corruption.

Instruments for victim representation should recognize that citizens are not all affected the same way due to societal gender roles. Therefore, explicit direct representation of women, minorities and other discriminated or excluded groups is required.
FORMS OF REPARATION

The obligation of States to protect human rights and offer redress is not suspended in cases of corruption and is not subordinated to establishing the legal responsibility of perpetrators. State reparation of such damages should be promoted, for example, through funds provided for that purpose, which should cover material and immaterial harms through monetary or other types of reparation (e.g. psycho-social and medical remedies for victims of sexual corruption or restitution).

Reparation awards should be mandatory, not discretionary, and consistent with the gravity and type of offense. Reparation of collective harm in cases of corruption can not be conditioned to establishing direct causality, nor individual liability.

States Parties should implement interim or preliminary measures to address imminent harms and provide relief to victims while the case is being investigated or prosecuted. Imposing interim or preliminary measures can prevent further harm and protect the interests of victims during the legal process. These measures can include seizing assets, imposing travel restrictions, or issuing injunctions to prevent the dissipation of proceeds of corruption or obstruction of justice.
FORMS OF REPARATION

States should recognize that the collective rights harmed by grand corruption include right to self-determination, right to the disposition of natural wealth and resources, right to the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. These harms can be captured through concepts like social damages and moral damages.

Reparation can be material, immaterial or symbolic. Rehabilitation (i.e., legal, medical, psychological, financial, practical/material, and other assistance) should be provided, without discrimination of any kind and support best suited to victims who are particularly vulnerable because of a characteristic, such as gender, age, or ethnicity.

You can find the full Joint Working Groups submission here.
KEY COSP MILESTONES

- **November** – Informals for CoSP 10 resolutions being tabled
- **27 November** – Deadline for written submissions
- **10 December** – US government hosts a Civil Society Forum and Young Changemakers Event, including opportunities to provide input on resolutions
- **11-15 December** – CoSP10 is held, marking the 20th anniversary of UNCAC
RESOURCES

- Joint Working Group's full written submission: https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/
- International Database on Corruption damage Reparation and Legal Standing for Victims of Corruption at: https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
- UNCAC Coalition CoSP10 landing page with updates and resources: https://uncaccoalition.org/cosp10/

USEFUL LINKS

- CoSP10 conference website: https://cosp10.us
- Webpage of the UNCAC Coalition Working Groups on Asset Recovery, Grand Corruption and State Capture, Gender, Inclusion & Corruption, and Victims of Corruption: https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/
SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGING

You will find below some messages based on the UNCAC Working Groups Joint submission.

Social media cards can be found in the UNCAC Coalition CoSP10 Drive.

Share these messages on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and any other social media platform.
Prioritizing collective well-being: we call on #UNCAC States Parties to address the collective damage caused by #corruption. Let's work together to foster a world of justice and integrity 💪 #VictimsofCorruption
See our #CoSP10 submission
👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/

Corruption violates human rights & robs citizens of public goods & services. The collective damage it inflicts demands repair. Let's stand for victims' rights, #UnitedAgainstCorruption at #CoSP10,
Watch the powerful short film, winner of our contest 🎬
https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/film-contest/i-wanted-to-find-a-school/

Corruption directly harms individuals, institutions, communities & societies as a whole. States Parties have a duty to protect against such human rights violations. We stand with the #VictimsofCorruption at #CoSP10.
See our open letter 👉
#CoSP10 is a major opportunity to address the direct harms of corruption on Victims 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/
#VictimsofCorruption #UnitedAgainstCorruption #HumanRights

👨‍⚖️ Reparation for damage to #VictimsofCorruption isn't a favor; it's an obligation under the #UNCAC and fundamental legal principles. Let's uphold #HumanRights, ensuring justice for all those affected👨‍⚖️

🤝 Together, we can build a more accountable & resilient global community. #UNCAC States Parties, let's promote transparency & justice by sharing info about reparation in corruption cases.
💼 #VictimsofCorruption #CoSP10
Check out our International Database 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
Join the conversation at #CoSP10! Share your country's best practices for securing reparation for corruption's damages. Let's inspire & learn from each other. 💬💡 #VictimsofCorruption #UnitedAgainstCorruption

🔍 Are victims seeking redress for corruption cases in your country? Let's amplify the voices of #VictimsofCorruption & raise awareness at #CoSP10 🗣️ينا @uncaccoalition
Check out our International Database 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
Thread post:
✊ If fighting #corruption does not translate into the well-being of citizens, it is doomed to fail.

We are calling on #UNCAC States Parties at #CoSP10 to enact measures & adopt practices in the interests of the rights of #VictimsofCorruption, while enforcing existing laws.

Our Working Groups on Victims of Corruption, Asset Recovery, Grand Corruption & State Capture and Gender, Inclusion & Corruption have clustered priorities for States Parties into 4 key areas, with recommendations to overcome practical obstacles to the rights of victims...

The 4 priority areas are:
1. Prevention and recognition of corruption as a human rights violation
2. Information, capacity and cooperation
3. Standing, voice and representation
4. Forms of reparation

Read the full list of recommendations in our joint working group submission on the rights of #VictimsofCorruption 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/
Social media messaging (ENGLISH)

Please tag relevant individuals and organizations as you see fit:

- Thread multiple messages together to tell a longer story about what is needed.
- Hashtags: #VictimsofCorruption #HumanRights #corruption #integrity #UnitedAgainstCorruption #UNCAC20 #CoSP10
- Tag us in your posts: @uncaccoalition

Links to be shared:

- Read the Joint WGs submission at: https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/
- Check out our International Database on Corruption damage Reparation and Legal Standing for Victims of Corruption at: https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
- Check out our Short Film contest at: https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/film-contest/short-film-series/
Priorizar el bienestar colectivo: pedimos a los Estados Parte de la #UNCAC que aborden el daño colectivo causado por la #corruption. Trabajemos juntos para fomentar un mundo de justicia e integridad 🏋️‍♂️ #VictimsofCorruption
Consulta nuestro reporte a la #CoSP10 👈 https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/

🗣 La corrupción viola los derechos humanos y priva a los ciudadanos de bienes y servicios públicos. El daño colectivo que inflige exige reparación. Defendamos los derechos de las víctimas, #UnitedAgainstCorruption en la #CoSP10,
Mira el impactante cortometraje ganador de nuestro concurso 🎬
https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/film-contest/i-wanted-to-find-a-school/

🚨 La corrupción perjudica directamente a las personas, las instituciones, las comunidades y las sociedades en su conjunto. Los Estados Parte tienen el deber de proteger contra estas violaciones de los derechos humanos. Estamos con las #VictimsofCorruption en la #CoSP10.
#CoSP10 es una gran oportunidad para abordar los daños directos de la corrupción en las víctimas 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/ #VictimsofCorruption #UnitedAgainstCorruption #HumanRights


Juntos podemos construir una comunidad global más responsable y resistente. Estados Parte de la #UNCAC, promovamos la transparencia y la justicia compartiendo información sobre la reparación en casos de corrupción. 🌍 #VictimsofCorruption #CoSP10

Consulta nuestra Base de Datos Internacional 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
¡Únete a la conversación en la #CoSP10! Comparte las mejores prácticas de tu país para garantizar la reparación de los daños causados por la corrupción. Inspirémonos y aprendamos unos de otros.💬💡 #VictimsofCorruption #UnitedAgainstCorruption

🔍 ¿Hay víctimas que buscan reparación por casos de corrupción en tu país? Amplifiquemos las voces de las #VictimsofCorruption y concienciemos en la #CoSP10 💬⚖️ @uncaccoalition
Consulta nuestra Base de Datos Internacional 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
Post del hilo:
✊ Si la lucha contra la #corrupción no se traduce en el bienestar de los ciudadanos, está condenada al fracaso.

Pedimos a los Estados Partes de la #UNCAC en la #CoSP10 que promulguen medidas y adopten prácticas en interés de los derechos de las #víctimas de la #corrupción, al tiempo que hacen cumplir las leyes vigentes.

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Nuestros Grupos de Trabajo sobre Víctimas de la Corrupción, Recuperación de Activos, Gran Corrupción y Captura del Estado y Género, Inclusión y Corrupción han agrupado las prioridades para los Estados Parte en 4 áreas clave, con recomendaciones para superar los obstáculos prácticos a los derechos de las víctimas...

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Las 4 áreas prioritarias son
1. Prevención y reconocimiento de la corrupción como violación de los derechos humanos
2. Información, capacidad y cooperación
3. Posición, voz y representación
4. Formas de reparación

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Lee la lista completa de recomendaciones en la presentación de nuestro grupo de trabajo conjunto sobre los derechos de las #VictimsofCorruption 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/
Por favor, etiqueta a las personas y organizaciones relevantes según consideres oportuno:

- Enlaza varios mensajes para contar una historia más larga sobre lo que se necesita.
- Hashtags: #VictimsofCorruption #HumanRights #corruption #integrity #UnitedAgainstCorruption #UNCAC20 #CoSP10
- Etiquétanos en tus publicaciones: @uncaccoalition

Enlaces para compartir:

- Lee la presentación de los Grupos de Trabajo Conjuntos en: https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/
- Consulta nuestra Base de Datos Internacional sobre Reparación de Daños por Corrupción y Legitimación de las Víctimas de la Corrupción en: https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
Mettre le bien-être collectif au premier plan : nous appelons les États parties de la #UNCAC à s'attaquer aux dommages collectifs causés par la #corruption. Travaillons ensemble pour favoriser un monde de justice et d'intégrité 💪 #VictimsofCorruption.
Voir notre soumission à la #CoSP10 ➡️ https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/

La corruption viole les droits de l'homme et prive les citoyens de biens et de services publics. Les dommages collectifs qu'elle inflige doivent être réparés. Défendons les droits des victimes, #UnitedAgainstCorruption à #CoSP10,
Regardez le puissant court-métrage, gagnant de notre concours 🎬
https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/film-contest/i-wanted-to-find-a-school/

La corruption nuit directement aux individus, aux institutions, aux communautés et aux sociétés dans leur ensemble. Les États parties ont le devoir de se protéger contre de telles violations des droits de l'homme. Nous nous tenons aux côtés des #VictimesdeCorruption lors de la #CoSP10.
Voir notre lettre ouverte 👉
#CoSP10 est une occasion majeure de s'attaquer aux préjudices directs de la corruption sur les victimes 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/ #VictimsofCorruption #UnitedAgainstCorruption #HumanRights


🤝 Ensemble, nous pouvons construire une communauté mondiale plus responsable et plus résiliente. États parties de la #UNCAC, promouvons la transparence & la justice en partageant des infos sur la réparation dans les affaires de corruption. 🌐 📌 #VictimsofCorruption #CoSP10 Consultez notre base de données internationale 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
Rejoignez la conversation sur #CoSP10 ! Partagez les meilleures pratiques de votre pays en matière de réparation des dommages causés par la corruption. Inspirons-nous et apprenons les uns des autres.💬💡 #VictimsofCorruption #UnitedAgainstCorruption

🔍 Les victimes cherchent-elles à obtenir réparation pour des affaires de corruption dans votre pays ? Amplifions les voix des #VictimsofCorruption et sensibilisons le public à la #CoSP10 ⚡️ @uncaccoalition.
Consultez notre base de données internationale 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
Message du fil :
👊 Si la lutte contre la #corruption ne se traduit pas par le bien-être des citoyens, elle est vouée à l'échec.

Nous appelons les États parties de la #UNCAC à la #CoSP10 à promulguer des mesures & adopter des pratiques dans l'intérêt des droits des #VictimsofCorruption, tout en appliquant les lois existantes.

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Nos groupes de travail sur les victimes de la corruption, le recouvrement des avoirs, la grande corruption et la capture d'État et le genre, l'inclusion et la corruption ont regroupé les priorités pour les États parties dans 4 domaines clés, avec des recommandations pour surmonter les obstacles pratiques aux droits des victimes...

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Les quatre domaines prioritaires sont les suivants
1. Prévention et reconnaissance de la corruption en tant que violation des droits de l'homme
2. Information, capacité et coopération
3. Position, voix et représentation
4. Formes de réparation

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Lire la liste complète des recommandations dans la soumission de notre groupe de travail conjoint sur les droits des #VictimsofCorruption 👉 https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/.
Social media messaging (FRENCH)

Veuillez étiqueter les personnes et organisations concernées comme vous l'entendez.

- Reliez plusieurs messages ensemble pour raconter une histoire plus longue sur ce qui est nécessaire.
- Hashtags : #VictimsofCorruption #HumanRights #corruption #integrity #UnitedAgainstCorruption #UNCAC20 #CoSP10
- Marquez-nous dans vos messages : @uncaccoalition

Liens à partager :

- Lire la soumission des groupes de travail conjoints à l'adresse suivante : https://uncaccoalition.org/joint-working-group-submission-on-victims-reparation/
- Consultez notre base de données internationale sur les dommages causés par la corruption, la réparation et le statut juridique des victimes de la corruption à l'adresse suivante : https://uncaccoalition.org/get-involved/working-groups/victims-of-corruption-working-group/database-on-legal-standing/
For further information

General inquiries and website

https://uncaccoalition.org/