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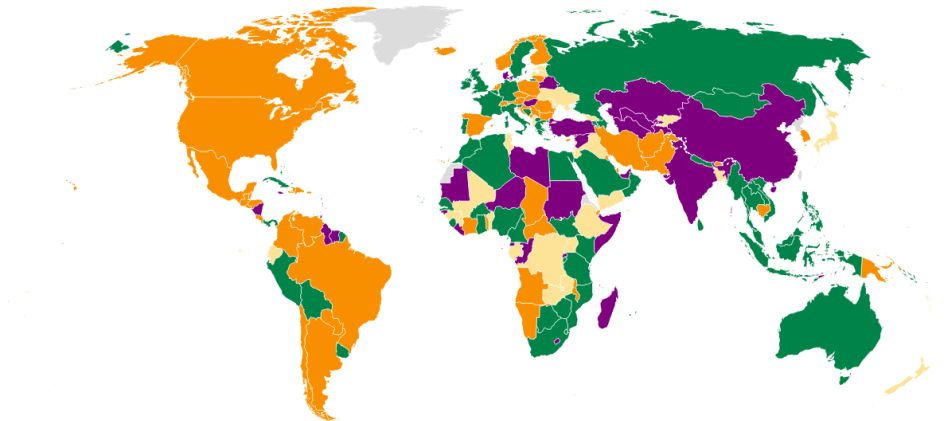
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COSP OBSERVER

**NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
OBSERVING THE 10TH COSP**

UNCAC Review Status Tracker

■ Completed ■ Post Country Visit ■ Pre Country Visit ■ Unknown



Data accurate as of 8 December 2023.

Source: <https://uncaccoalition.org/uncacreviewstatustracker/> • Created with Datawrapper



The Observer is a publication by the UNCAC Coalition, a global network of almost 400 civil society organizations in over 100 countries, committed to promoting the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Established in August 2006, the Coalition mobilises civil society action for UNCAC at international, regional and national levels.

Welcome to the CoSP Observer!

By Mathias Huter, Managing Director of the UNCAC Coalition

As the global anti-corruption community convenes in Atlanta this week, the UNCAC Coalition is calling on governments to agree on measures to advance the protection of whistleblowers, promote transparency in public procurement, and the disclosure of beneficial owners of companies around the world.

Civil society participation in anti-corruption efforts is a key principle of the UNCAC. However, States can anonymously object against the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) without providing any reasons. From this week's CoSP, five leading NGOs have been excluded. This may seem like a procedural technicality to some, but it is more than that. **It has a chilling effect beyond the walls of this convention center. It is a reminder of the pressure and persecution many brave reporters, whistleblowers, and civil society representatives face when they speak up against corruption.**

What are your anti- Corruption wishes for the next 20 years?

Visit our stand and write your wish on the UNCAC Coalition light net outside the NGO lounge. We will share the wishes at the end of the week!

To the government delegates - I encourage you to:

- **Take advantage of the civil society experts present** – we stand ready to support relevant and meaningful resolutions;
- **Attend the informals and actively support strong language on the role of civil society** – and back proposals that help advance the anti-corruption agenda.
- In your CoSP plenary interventions, **highlight your collaboration with civil society**;
- Join our efforts to **allow civil society to have a seat at the table and the right to participate** in national UNCAC review processes as well as in meetings of CoSP subsidiary bodies;
- **And on Monday, actively support the removal of unjustified objections against the participation of five leading NGOs – to help make this a truly inclusive Conference** – and this CoSP a step forward in our joint effort to promote transparency and integrity around the globe.

Be sure to visit our stand outside the NGO Lounge (A313) to learn more about our work, our priorities, and how you can engage with UNCAC implementation in your country.

Global mapping of anti-corruption progress - tools for success

In a year of anniversaries, this year's International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) commemorates 20 years of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), just before the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 10th UNCAC CoSP. Here in Atlanta, we are ready to embark on intense days of action and advocacy to raise the global bar on key

Written submissions and resources for civil society at CoSP10

The UNCAC Coalition has made over **40 written submissions** to the Conference - ranging from thematic submissions on expanding civic space and strengthening the Implementation Review Mechanism, to our network's regional anti-corruption priorities and the executive summaries of parallel reports on UNCAC implementation in over 20 countries!

Be sure to check out all of our CoSP10 resources including our written submissions and more information about the Coalition online:



Or come pick up a hard copy of our submissions and materials at our stand just outside the NGO lounge!

anti-corruption issues and ensure that civil society has a seat at the table.

Today, we are mapping progress made since launching our world maps on UNCAC implementation exactly one year ago. Thanks to your engagement, in 2023, we supported the production and publication of 14 new parallel reports, bringing a civil society perspective to the UNCAC review process. Our Transparency Pledge has 37

signatories, our Access to Information campaign has encouraged 17 governments to publish information. Our network has grown to almost 400 members and affiliates, with 5 (soon to be 6) working groups focusing on critical issues. These are only a few of our Coalition's achievements.

These tools are designed to help civil society organizations (CSOs) and government officials be better informed in their fight against corruption. With a 'how to guide' included with every step, there is no excuse to not get involved:

- Our **UNCAC Review Status Tracker** map (see image on page 1) brings together all available information on countries' reviews in one place to see how countries are implementing commitments under the UNCAC;
- Our **Transparency Pledge** compliance map shows the level of compliance of States Parties that have signed the Pledge;
- Our **Civil Society Parallel Reports** map shows where we have supported CSOs in assessing the legal and practical implementation of the UNCAC at the national level;
- Our **Access to Information Campaign** map reflects where CSOs have sent requests for access to information related to UNCAC implementation country reviews.

Check out the full blog post on our website!

Resolutions: What are we hoping for at CoSP10?

We are excited that the first-ever dedicated resolutions will be tabled at CoSP to address strengthening **transparency of public contracting and procurement**; ensuring the **protection of whistleblowers** who face threats and intimidation for uncovering corruption, and advancing **gender equality and inclusion** in anti-corruption efforts.

Upcoming Special Events

Monday 11 December:

- **13.00-13.50: Dallas Room, A314**
Making Cents of It: Perspectives on Political Finance
- **14.00-14.50:**
 - **Chicago Room, A305**
Combating Corruption to Protect the Environment
 - **Dallas Room, A314**
Cultural Racketeering & Corruption: Recommendations for UNCAC
- **17.00-17.50: Chicago Room, A305**
Advancing Anti-Corruption Outcomes across Multilateral Fora
- **19.00-20.00: Chicago Room, A305**
UNCAC IRM Initiatives for More Transparency and Impact

Tuesday 12 December:

- **09.00-09.50: Dallas Room, A314**
Strategic Litigation: Advocacy Tool for Policy Change
- **18.00-18.50: Seattle Room, A302**
A Victim-Centred Approach to Corruption

Our hope is that States Parties will also adopt a strong resolution that builds on CoSP9 Resolution 9/7 on beneficial ownership, to **enhance transparency and use of beneficial ownership information**, ensuring that a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, have access to this data to fight corruption. We strongly support efforts to strengthen accountability measures in the UNCAC, particularly by **promoting and protecting the role of civil society actors in combating corruption**, in line with Article 13. **Political finance transparency**, an issue that has not yet

been addressed in prior CoSP resolutions, should also be prioritized through the UNCAC framework, to promote the integrity of democratic processes and prevent the misuse of public resources. At CoSP10, States Parties should equally accelerate efforts to **address the consequences of corruption and ensure remedies for the damages caused to the victims of corruption**, particularly at the collective level.

We also hope that the Conference will adopt a decision that will **set a timeline for finalizing the current review cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM)**, and advance discussions about the next phase that should discuss countries' efforts to implement their country review recommendations. States Parties should agree on the modalities of the next phase by the next CoSP, and not further down the road.

We are disappointed that resolutions to address other key corruption challenges will not be tabled but hope they are given attention in other resolutions adopted at CoSP10. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, **governments should bolster implementation of the UNCAC to prevent and combat corruption that facilitates crimes that harm the environment.**

The UNCAC Coalition calls for States Parties to make meaningful progress at CoSP10 by strengthening their commitments to advance key anti-corruption issues.

We support the recommendations put forth in several open letters from our network and beyond, striving for higher standards and calling states to act on these key issues.

Take a look at the open letters on our website, under the CoSP10 page.

Calling on States Parties to urgently address harms caused to victims of corruption

Reparation of the harm caused to victims of corruption is a key subject that should be addressed by States Parties CoSP10. The UNCAC provides for such reparation, but weaknesses in the legal frameworks and practices of states mean that corruption's harm to individuals, entities and communities remains largely without remedy.

Members of our UNCAC Coalition working groups, in our network of more than 300 civil society organizations, academics and experts from all over the world, **are deeply concerned about the impunity of corruption perpetrators towards those harmed by their crimes**, including in cross-border cases involving high-level officials, multinational companies, major financial institutions and professional enablers.

We urge States Parties to agree on concrete steps at the 10th UNCAC CoSP to accelerate efforts to address the consequences of corruption and ensure remedies for the damages caused, particularly at the collective level. States have a duty to protect against and ensure repair of the human rights violations caused by corruption. Only if anti-corruption efforts address the harm to victims, will justice be served.

Read our full open letter to States Parties available in English, Spanish and French on our website, under the CoSP10 page.

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You can find the UNCAC Coalition team at the NGO Lounge during CoSP10.

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