

# **UNCAC Coalition**

## **Annual Activity Survey**

**Civic space challenges facing CSOs working on anti-corruption**

**June 2025**

## Responses received 2025:

- **Total Responses: 182**
- **Members:** 133 responses out of 159
- **Affiliated Groups:** 42 responses out of 207
- **Individual Members:** 11 responses out of 29
- **Honorary Members:** 0 responses out of 3

## What we learned from the survey:

- Question asked: what has been the major challenges your organization has faced in carrying out anti-corruption work, including those related to civic space (2024 and what is expected for 2025)
- NGO engagement in the UNCAC's IRM and other review mechanisms
- Success stories and key achievements
- Priorities for the Coalition and CoSP11

## Top challenges

### Funding challenges and constraints:

- Most common challenge across the regions for groups working on anti-corruption
- Has had major impact and expected to get worse in 2025
- Direct and indirect impacts - even those not directly impacted face challenges with increased competition for funding
- Concerns that donors are redirecting funds away from governance and anti-corruption towards other sectors

## Top challenges

- Barriers in access to information
- Restrictions in access to decision makers and decision making processes
- Restrictive laws and legal threats: foreign agent laws, weaponization of laws against NGOs, SLAPP lawsuits
- Physical attacks, threats, intimidation, and harassment, online harassment and surveillance, cyber attacks, attacks on social media

## Other challenges faced:

- Changing geo-political landscape and backsliding on anti-corruption
- Anti-NGO narratives and rhetoric
- Weak whistleblower reporting and protection laws and gaps in implementation
- In some regions, heightened risk of corruption for elections in 2025

## How to support civil society in carrying out anti-corruption work:

- Provide a safe, enabling and inclusive environment for civil society to contribute to anti-corruption
- Ensure conditions are present for civil society to effectively contribute to anti-corruption at national, regional, global levels (UNCAC/multilateral fora), review mechanisms
- Early warning and protection systems to defend & protect those coming under attack

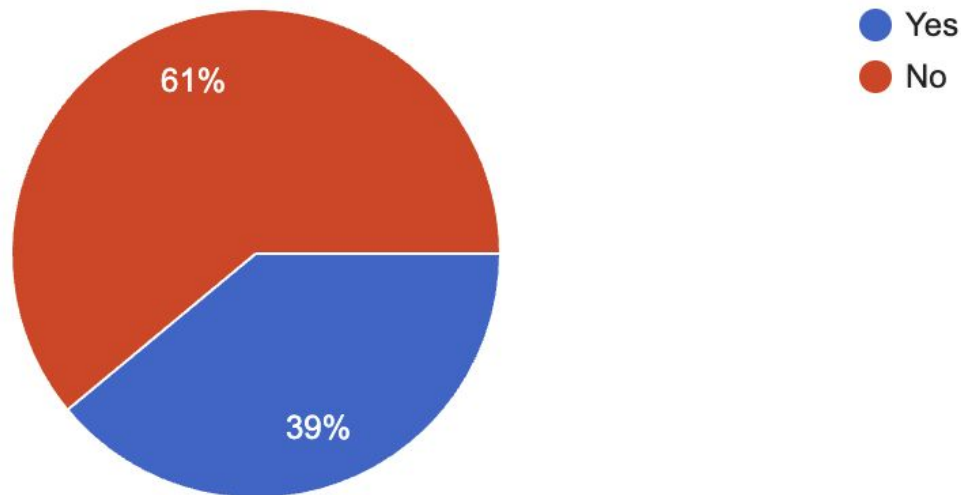
## How to support civil society in carrying out anti-corruption work:

- Addressing funding crisis to help CSOs access sustainable funding
- Ensure effective access to information laws & implementation
- Ensure comprehensive whistleblower laws & effective implementation
- Provide capacity building and training on anti-corruption topics, security and to help strengthen skills in carrying out work
- Support for advocacy at national level and joint global advocacy
- Promote networking opportunities for CSOs to network with other CSOs, with governments, donors and other stakeholders



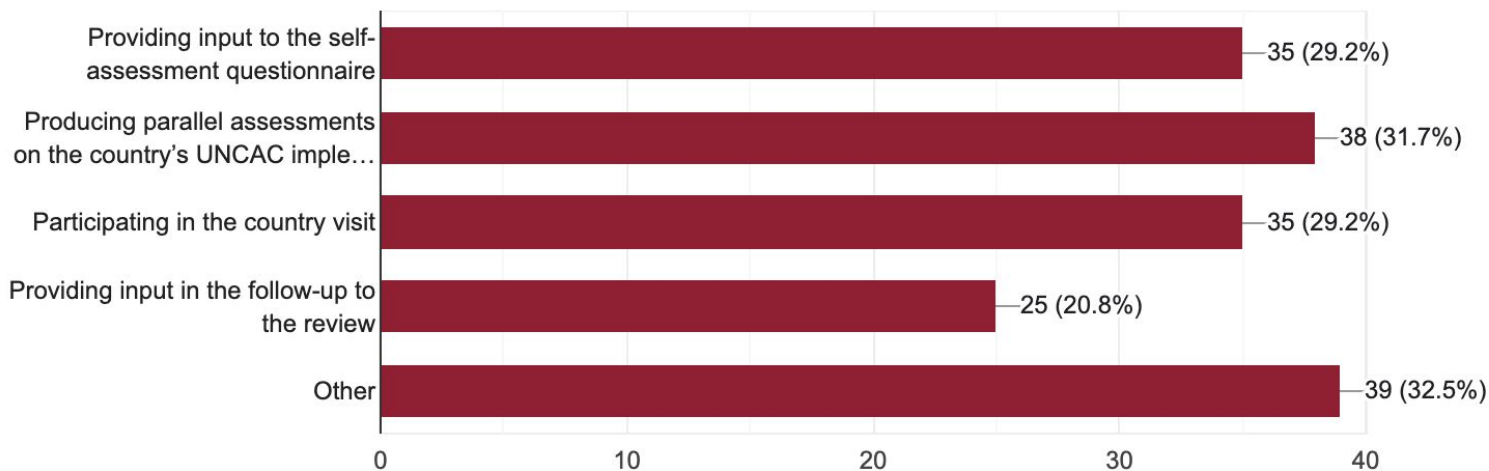
## NGO Engagement in the IRM and other review mechanisms

NGOs engagement in other review mechanism



## NGO Engagement in the IRM and other review mechanisms

### NGOs involvement in the second cycle country review to assess UNCAC implementation



## Enhance transparency & civil society participation in UNCAC review mechanism

- **Strengthen non-governmental stakeholder participation:** ensure the active engagement of stakeholders at key stages of the country review process and follow-up
- **Enhance transparency:** publish all input and output documents, NGO submissions and how stakeholders can engage in the process, publish a regularly updated calendar of upcoming review visits, other information on status of reviews, explanations of delays
- **Develop a follow-up process** to assess and monitor countries' implementation of recommendations from previous country reviews, involve civil society
- **Assess effectiveness** of implementation in practice

## Successes that show resilience and impact:

- Strengthening anti-corruption laws and frameworks and monitoring implementation
- Citizen-led monitoring that exposes corruption and promotes development of oversight mechanisms
- Investigations and research that uncovers corruption and lead to concrete government actions/responses
- Developing open data platforms to increase citizen access to government transparency tools
- Contributing to the development of a anti-SLAPP laws