

# Key Findings of the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC's 2026 Annual Community Survey

June 2026 | A Summary for the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC's Members, Affiliated Groups and Individual Members

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*Over the past months, we have been listening closely to our community. We would like to sincerely thank those in our network for taking the time to share their thoughts, reflections, and feedback with us through our Annual Community Survey.*

In March 2026, the Global Civil Society Coalition for the UNCAC conducted its 2026 Annual Community Survey of its network (members, affiliates, and individuals) to gather feedback on how the Coalition has added value to its members' work, as well as ideas for how to further strengthen these efforts and share valuable insights to inform the development of the new strategy.<sup>1</sup> The Coalition received a total of **140 responses** from civil society organizations (CSOs) across six regions: the Americas, Asia -Pacific, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), and South West Asia and North Africa (SWANA).

Several key takeaways emerge from the responses. A significant number of CSOs report that the Coalition has added value to their anti-corruption work, with many members citing specific examples, such as giving international visibility to national work, helping to identify entry points for participating in and influencing UNCAC reviews and helping to make CSOs feel more connected, as many CSOs face increasingly restricted environments. The survey also reveals areas for improvement. Two key areas to focus on going forward are ensuring that international

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<sup>1</sup> The 2026 Annual Community Survey was conducted in March 2026 and focused on the Coalition's activities in 2025. 140 responses were received from six regions — 87 member organizations, 44 affiliated groups, and 9 individual members.

impact is relevant to national-level work and being more responsive to members' needs at the regional level.

The summary below provides an overview and analysis of the responses.

## Has the Coalition Added Value?

A significant number responded positively to the first question, asking whether the **Coalition has added value to their anti-corruption work in 2025: 82% of respondents said yes.** Support was highest in Asia-Pacific (88%) and the Americas (87% combined), followed by Europe (80%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (77%). Sixteen per cent said they were "not sure", a proportion that rises to around 20% in SWANA and Europe.

When asked to describe how the Coalition added value, three themes emerge across the regions:

**Promoting connection and solidarity:** the Coalition provides a global platform for finding peers, sharing strategies, feeling part of a global movement, and jointly advocating for action;

**Promoting access to and participation in UNCAC fora and processes:** the Coalition plays a key role in helping civil society leverage and participate in UNCAC fora, particularly country reviews, the UNCAC Conference of States Parties (CoSP), and its Working Groups; and

**Providing practical and technical support:** for example, the Coalition develops tools and guidance to help CSOs engage in UNCAC reviews and UNCAC fora, and providing evidence-based policy recommendations on specific issues to inform advocacy efforts. The monthly funding resource compilation, started in 2025, is a resource that some CSOs identify as important in a year of significant funding cuts.

*"The added value of our membership can be categorized into four key areas: global amplification of local evidence, collective advocacy and protection of civic space, strategic monitoring of the Implementation Review Mechanism, and regional peer-to-peer learning and focus on the victims of corruption."*

- **Americas Member**

*Through the Coalition, we have been able to participate in various online trainings on topics of interest, such as the Anti-SLAPP Suit Training, which helped improve our understanding of legal protections for civil society."*

- **Asia-Pacific Member**

## What Is the Coalition's Impact?

To better understand how the Coalition added value, the survey asked respondents to rate five statements about its impact in 2025. The responses show the Coalition's strength as a global convener and advocate, while also showing a challenge across almost every region: translating that international impact into national action.

91% agreed it amplified civil society voices globally, 87% said it fostered solidarity, and 78% recognised its value at the international level. "The Coalition was responsive to its networks' needs" scored around 75% globally, with notable variation across regions. European respondents gave particularly strong scores on solidarity and responsiveness — 84% of those responding agreed or strongly agreed that the Coalition fostered solidarity within the network and 80% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Coalition was responsive. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of respondents selected "neither agree nor disagree" on responsiveness, the highest neutral rate for any statement in any region, showing a gap in supporting and promoting regional efforts.

The survey responses show that a key area for improvement is translating global impact into national-level action: 65% agreed that the Coalition added value at the national level, falling to 46% among LAC respondents and only slightly above half in Europe.

*"By connecting our organization with international CSOs, reviewing our CoSP11 side event proposal, and acting as liaison with our national anti-corruption commission, this contributed to Jordan signing the Transparency Pledge and to a formal MoU being signed between our organizations."*

— SWANA Member

*"By speaking with a unified voice, the Coalition bolstered the credibility and weight of our recommendations among public decision-makers."*

— SSA Affiliated Group

## Which Coalition Activities and Resources Are Most Useful?

All of the Coalition activities were rated positively, with the findings suggesting that the Coalition is most valued when helping civil society shape outcomes. Globally, **Briefings, guidance and tools for UNCAC reviews, efforts to strengthen the UNCAC review mechanism, Briefings/tools for CoSP fora, Working Groups and Discussions events ranked the highest.** In Europe, Discussion Events, Working Groups, and UNCAC review briefings came at the top, with members valuing activities that combine technical depth with joint action. In SSA, Working Groups and Regional Groups were most useful; in Asia-Pacific, the Access to Information Campaign ranked highly alongside CoSP briefings.<sup>23</sup>

On resources, the **Global Mailing List and Website were tied for the top-rated globally** (70.8% useful/very useful), followed closely by the **Newsletter** (68.8%) and the **IRM Recommendations and Open Letter** (68.4%). In SWANA, every respondent rated the mailing list as useful or very useful. In SSA, Website, Global/Regional Mailing Lists, and the Transparency Pledge and Guide led the rankings (82–83%), with Funding Resources Messages close behind. In LAC, Funding Resources Messages, the Newsletter, and the IRM Recommendations were among the top-rated resources.

*"Holding webinars on beneficial ownership transparency from CoSP11 facilitated our connection with an organisation working on Chile's procurement reform — leading to collaboration with ChileCompra and recommendations to improve their whole-of-government approach."*

— **Europe Member**

*"Since there have been funding cuts by donors, the Coalition was supportive in circulating monthly funding opportunities."*

— **SWANA Member**

## What are the Network's priorities in 2026?

**Access to information, transparency, and civic space** were identified as priority areas across the globe, in the context of shrinking civic space and severe funding cuts. **Whistleblower protection** is another important issue frequently raised across regions, with Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) and other legal attacks identified as challenges. **Asset recovery, political finance transparency, and the human rights–anti-corruption nexus** also were prominent across regions.

The responses show that each region also has its own distinct areas of focus: many groups in Europe are focused on defending democratic institutions; in the Americas on linking anti-corruption to broader concerns in the region such as access to information and political accountability, Asia-Pacific on the climate-environment-corruption nexus; in SSA on gender, extractives, and public finance, and in SWANA on digital corruption and post-conflict civic space are two prominent areas of focus.

## How the Coalition can support civil society

An analysis of the responses identifies five key ways in which the Coalition can support CSOs in its network in 2026:

**Promoting connections and collaboration:** Actively broker connections between members working on the same issues across borders for peer learning, joint advocacy, and funding partnerships. In Europe, 21 respondents specifically cited networking as a core expectation.

**Building capacity:** Provide more practical training, guidance on UNCAC processes, and tools to translate international standards into national advocacy. In the Americas, tools and practical guidance were the single most-requested form of support.

**Fundraising support:** Continue and expand the funding resources compilation. For many members, particularly in Europe, the Americas, and SSA, this is the Coalition's most immediate service of value during a time of historic funding reductions for civil society.

**Amplifying members' work.** Use the Coalition's platform to raise the visibility of members' national-level research and advocacy to contribute to legitimacy, help raise funding, and press governments to act.

**Greater regional focus.** Across all regions, members call for projects and other efforts to tie to local contexts. In SSA, greater language accessibility for Francophone members.

## Questions to help inform the Coalition's next strategy

The 2026 survey included a dedicated section of questions to help inform the development of the Coalition's new strategy. The responses offer important insights on how members understand the Coalition's purpose, areas for further improvement, and what members would like to see reflected in the next strategy.

### How relevant is the UNCAC to your work?

The responses show that the UNCAC remains relevant across the network: **69% of respondents rated it as highly or centrally relevant** to their work, with a further 29% rating it as moderately relevant. Relevance is strongest in SSA (93% highly or centrally relevant), Asia-Pacific (73%) and SWANA (71%) regions, while it is lower in Europe (56%) and Latin America (45%). Members describe the UNCAC in five broad ways: as a primary normative framework; as a national legitimation tool; as a resource for article-level specialists; as an untapped framework with much greater potential; and as secondary to national law in some contexts. The variation across regions reinforces the need for the Coalition to help members connect UNCAC standards to their specific national and regional contexts.

### Why are members part of the Coalition?

The most common primary motivations for membership are **knowledge, information, and learning** (51%) and **networking, peer exchange, and connections** (49%). Collaboration and working together (32%) and UNCAC implementation and monitoring (27%) are the next most important reasons. Other motivations include collective and joint advocacy, amplifying national voices internationally, community and solidarity, and connecting local work to global standards. Taken together, these findings show that a primary reason for CSOs to join the Coalition is to learn, connect, and collaborate and that they see the Coalition's playing a key role to facilitate and promote those experiences actively.

### What should the Coalition do differently to support members at the national level?

Members identified five main areas where the Coalition could improve its national-level support: providing more **capacity building, tools, and technical assistance** to help organizations engage effectively with UNCAC processes in the country/countries they operate in; helping to **share funding leads and enable joint proposals** as a direct response to the funding crisis; offering stronger **civic space protection, solidarity, and rapid response** for members working in restricted or high-risk environments; delivering more targeted **advocacy support, visibility, and amplification** for national campaigns; and providing more **contextual and tailored**

**support** that responds to specific country circumstances rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

*“Providing training and resources on areas such as public expenditure tracking, procurement monitoring, data analysis, and evidence-based advocacy; connecting members with funding opportunities, research collaborations, and strategic partners to scale up impact; and creating regular opportunities for members to exchange experiences, tools, and lessons on anti-corruption monitoring, social accountability, and citizen engagement.”*

- **SSA Member**

## What should the Coalition do more of, do differently, or stop doing at the international level?

Responses around what the Coalition should **do more** of centered around the following areas: amplifying civil society voices globally; strengthening member coordination and networks; expanding practical support and capacity-building; and increasing regional collaboration. They want the Coalition to **do differently**: shift toward more targeted and strategic advocacy rather than broad-based engagement; improve the timing and planning of engagement so members can participate more effectively; focus on clearer priorities and measurable outcomes; and strengthen the translation of evidence into policy messages. Respondents identified the following activities that the Coalition should **stop or reduce**: one-size-fits-all approaches that do not reflect different regional contexts; overly process-heavy engagement that takes up member time without clear results; cautious or diluted messaging that softens advocacy positions; and overly centralized decision-making structures that limit member ownership.

## What does meaningful collaboration with the Coalition look like?

The dominant theme in responses to this question was that members view meaningful collaboration as a two-way, trust-based partnership, not top-down information delivery. Meaningful collaboration should involve co-creating outputs, campaigns, and positions together rather than consulting after the fact; enabling members to shape the Coalition's agenda rather than simply respond to it; and building trust and recognition. Members also put forward that the Coalition should act as a force multiplier for local evidence, amplifying what members produce nationally rather than primarily generating its own outputs, and to establish regular, structured feedback loops to ensure member priorities are genuinely reflected in Coalition decision-making.

"Meaningful collaboration means moving beyond a top-down information flow toward a strategic, bi-directional partnership where the Coalition acts as a force multiplier for local evidence."

— Americas Member

"It is a two-way street where the Coalition provides diplomatic access to policymakers while members build a shared evidence base and provide actionable solutions."

- European Member

## How can members better support each other?

Responses converge around five ways the network can deepen mutual support:

*Stronger knowledge-sharing and peer learning:* sharing best practices, tools, research, and lessons learned more systematically, with demand for mentorship and peer-to-peer support between organizations;

*More joint action and collaboration:* coordinated advocacy campaigns, cross-border collaboration on issues like asset recovery and corruption trends, and joint fundraising;

*Better communication and networking:* more regular, direct, and accessible communication between members, including both online and in-person networking and stronger working group and regional exchanges;

*Greater solidarity and mutual support:* especially for members in difficult or high-risk contexts, amplifying each other's work, and building a stronger sense of collective action; and

*More structured and inclusive collaboration:* shifting from passive networking to active, organized collaboration, with clearer structures, shared priorities, and greater inclusiveness across regions, languages, and resource levels.

## What priorities do members want reflected in the next strategy?

Members identified eight priority areas they want to see integrated into the Coalition's next strategy:

### ***Strengthening UNCAC implementation and monitoring:***

keeping effective civil society engagement in the review mechanism at the heart of the Coalition's mission;

### ***Strengthening Global South voice and regional hubs:***

ensuring that the Coalition's governance, agenda-setting, and resources genuinely reflect the priorities of members in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and SWANA;

***Protecting civic space and investing in member resilience:***

supporting members in high-risk contexts and building the Coalition's capacity to respond rapidly to threats;

***Member ownership and co-creation of strategy:***

ensuring that members shape the Coalition's direction rather than receiving it;

***Evidence, measurement, and research:***

strengthening the Coalition's capacity to generate and use evidence to drive advocacy;

***Digitalisation, AI, and technology:***

addressing corruption risks in the digital sphere and using technology to strengthen civil society's own capabilities;

***Inclusive, intersectional, and youth-led approaches:***

embedding gender, diversity, and intergenerational perspectives across the Coalition's work; and

***Coalition sustainability:***

ensuring the Coalition itself has the resources and organizational model to deliver on its ambitions over the long term.

## Reflecting on the Coalition's values

The survey asked respondents to rate the extent to which they agree with five proposed Coalition values. All five received strong endorsement: **Transparency and Accountability** and **Participation and Collaboration** were each agreed or strongly agreed with by **94%** of respondents; **Rule of Law and Human Rights** by **93%**; **Transformative Impact** by **89%**; and **Diversity and Inclusion** by **88%**. The high ratings reflect broad alignment on the Coalition's foundational principles — though one respondent captured a tension that others echoed more subtly: the gap between stated values and their practical realization, particularly around meaningful participation and inclusion of Global South perspectives in decision-making.

## How the Coalition is using the survey results

The Coalition is using the survey results to help shape its new strategy, evaluate and strengthen its day-to-day work, and inform its planning for the year ahead. More broadly, the feedback will guide how we prioritise our efforts, improve how we support our members, and ensure that our work remains relevant, responsive, and impactful.