

**FEATURED  
IN THIS  
EDITION:**

**Civil society reflections on the beneficial ownership resolution**  
p. 2

**Fighting global corruption requires U.S. to clean its own house**  
p. 2-3

**Fill out our questionnaires on gender & sexual corruption** p. 4

# COSP OBSERVER

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



*The UNCAC Coalition team at CoSP10.*

## CoSP10: What next?

After a week of intense negotiations on resolutions, the 10th UNCAC CoSP is drawing to a close. Mathias Huter, Managing Director of the UNCAC Coalition reflects on the Conference:

*“As the CoSP10 is nearing its conclusion, we are hopeful that States will agree on resolutions that will ensure meaningful progress and move the anti-corruption agenda forward, including on issues such as whistleblower protection, public procurement transparency, beneficial ownership transparency, and efforts to advance the role of civil society in ensuring accountability of those in power.”*

We are hereby launching the **Atlanta Civil Society Declaration** - which more than 110 CSOs participating in UNCAC CoSP10 are endorsing - recognizing progress made at this Conference and outlining priority is-



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 mobilizes civil society action for UNCAC at international, regional and national levels.

sues for the period until the next Conference. Check out the full text of the Declaration on our website.

## Civil society reflections on the BO resolution

*By Open Ownership*

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are, of course, not officially part of the negotiation process of CoSP resolutions. However, a few States Parties who value civil society expertise have kept the UNCAC Coalition and some others informed of progress and challenges on the new beneficial ownership resolution tabled for CoSP10.

Following the first-ever UNCAC resolution (9/7) dedicated to beneficial ownership (BO) at CoSP9, Nigeria is this year again chairing negotiations to keep this important issue on the agenda. The goal is clear: building on resolution 9/7 and on global best practices and standards, to accelerate the implementation of beneficial ownership transparency (BOT) reforms and ensure BO data can be *efficiently accessed* and *effectively used by all relevant actors*, which can help prevent and detect corruption.

Advancing beneficial ownership transparency now requires collecting adequate, accurate, up-to-date data on the beneficial owners of companies and other legal entities or arrangements in a greater number of countries. Illicit financial flows are moved around the world using anonymously-owned companies. This requires a transnational solution - where stakeholders have access to standardized data from across the world. As more national registers are implemented, making this data accessible, structured and interoperable is essential to follow the money and enable both government and civil society actors to expose transnational corruption.

The new BO resolution at CoSP10 is a great opportunity to push world leaders to take

action and advance their commitments to ensure that BO data can easily be used. Thom Townsend, Executive Director of Open Ownership said:

*“...this 10th session of the CoSP was a challenging context for anti-corruption actors, as reflected in the first round of informal consultations for many resolutions, including on BOT. Some States Parties have been pushing back on the very elements that would help accelerate progress in reform implementation, such as ensuring all government and non-government actors can efficiently access historical BO data from central registers, and take actual steps to collect structured and interoperable data that can be more easily connected to combat transnational corruption.”*

Starting with its engagement at the civil society forum that took place before the CoSP, the host government sent a clear message that civil society voices are valued. States Parties should take advantage of the expertise of civil society and build a robust resolution that is based on solid evidence on national progress and addresses challenges and existing tools to accelerate the implementation of the UNCAC commitments.

## Fighting global corruption requires the U.S. to clean its own house

*By Erica Hanichak, FACT Coalition*

The UNCAC CoSP is a crucial venue not only to move the multilateral needle on anti-corruption, but to drive the host nation – here, the United States – to demonstrate leadership and advance its own reforms during CoSP10. Change in the United States will likely have global reverberations. The U.S. is the world’s largest economy, reserve currency, and top supplier of finan-



cial secrecy. Our own Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said, “there is a good case that, right now, the best place to hide and launder ill-gotten gains is actually the United States.” By improving our anti-money laundering practices at home, we can better empower anti-corruption advocates across the world.

The United States announced Monday that it would make progress on several issues in the new year to deny oligarchs safe haven in the U.S. economy. First, the U.S. will launch its first federal directory reflecting the true, “beneficial” owners behind certain U.S. entities. While this directory will not be public, international law enforcement has limited access. Second, the U.S. will require “enablers” like real estate and private investment professionals to adopt anti-money laundering safeguards.

These pledges are promising, but we need to make sure that the U.S. delivers. Civil society from around the world should call on the U.S. to shut the door on kleptocash. By giving corrupt officials the cold shoulder, the U.S. can demonstrate its commitment to fighting corruption both at home and abroad.

## Political finance: a pivotal issue in the fight against corruption

A few days ahead of CoSP10, more than 100 civil society organizations joined Transparency International and IFES calling on States Parties to prioritize and enhance political finance transparency. This is an area of critical concern for the fight against corruption which requires immediate attention. According to a recent UNODC report on the implementation of Chapter II of the UNCAC, public sector integrity represents the greatest challenge among the 82 countries reviewed.

In the joint open letter, civil society organizations urged States Parties to strengthen UNCAC Article 7.3 on public sector integrity, by introducing provisions in new resolutions that effectively address the following areas: 1. Closing loopholes for illicit funds in politics; 2. Introducing digital reporting and disclosure systems; 3. Improving oversight and accountability of political finance regimes; 4. Promoting knowledge, civic engagement, and public participation, and 5. Strengthening international cooperation.

## Contribute to our database on corruption damage reparation & legal standing for victims of corruption

Information on legal avenues to ensure corruption damage reparation, actual cases, and best practices is scarce. While in some countries victims of corruption struggle to claim and ensure reparation, particularly for collective damages, in others, innovative mechanisms are being implemented to seek effective remedies for collective damage. We have created this resource for citizens, NGOs, activists, and lawyers across the world to support their actions and advocacy, their proliferation of cases where collective reparation takes place, and to allow for drawing on examples of other countries. We also hope the database will be a source of inspiration for prosecutors and judges when considering questions of reparation.

**We need the help of everyone at the CoSP with information on legal standing, relevant laws and cases in your country, to grow our International Database on Corruption Damage Reparation and Legal Standing for Victims of Corruption.** You can find more information about and browse the database on our website, under the Victims of Corruption Working Group page.

## Fill out our questionnaires on gender and sexual corruption

The UNCAC Coalition Working Group on Gender, Inclusion and Corruption is gathering data to build two individual, unique, public living databases on sexual corruption and the intersection of gender and corruption. The database findings will be used to advance discussions, inform national and global advocacy efforts and support evidence-based advocacy for the scaling of good practices.

You can find fill out the questionnaires on our website, under the Gender, Inclusion and Corruption Working Group page.

## CoSP10 in pictures

We have been lucky to communicate, collaborate and advocate alongside many of you this week – a big thank you to everyone who has participated in our events and activities, coordinated advocacy through our communities, and amplified civil society voices at CoSP10. Here is a selection of pictures from this week:

*Breakout session during the first-ever civil society forum moderated by the UNCAC Coalition, discussing NGO engagement in multi-lateral bodies.*



*Above: The Europe regional network of the UNCAC Coalition meets in-person at CoSP10.*

*Right: Our stand and activities outside the NGO Lounge.*



**Editorial Team:** Denyse Degiorgio, Isabella Moggs, Corinna Gilfillan, Danella Newman, Ana Revuelta

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

**Web:** [www.uncaccoalition.org](http://www.uncaccoalition.org), **Email:** [info@uncaccoalition.org](mailto:info@uncaccoalition.org), **Twitter:** [@uncaccoalition](https://twitter.com/uncaccoalition)