

Statement by Gillian Dell, Transparency International and UNCAC Coalition

Honourable President, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of Transparency International and the UNCAC Coalition, which I chair, I congratulate the United States, UNODC and UNCAC States Parties on a well-organised CoSP that has discussed many important anti-corruption issues on this 20th anniversary of the UNCAC.

The conference has been extremely hospitable to civil society and has successfully fostered constructive dialogue and collaboration between government and NGO delegates in numerous ways. It has also established a new precedent for overcoming unjustified objections to NGO participation.

We also commend the United States' pre-conference consultation with youth, academia and civil society, as reported in the [US conference room road map paper](#).

However, we are deeply disappointed that ahead of the biggest election year in history, transparency in political finance is again absent from the CoSP Atlanta declaration and other resolutions.

The [political declaration](#) adopted at the first-ever UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) against Corruption in 2021 is a landmark document that brought crucial advances on UNCAC text, whether on the role of supreme audit institutions and parliaments or on subjects including transparency in party funding, transparency in the beneficial ownership of legal entities and recognition of the need to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists and all those who expose, report and fight against corruption.

The UN General Assembly tasked the UNCAC CoSP with organising follow-up to the declaration and we welcome the arrangements for states and other stakeholders to submit information on implementation for inclusion in the TRACK system and for subsidiary bodies to follow up on the declaration commitments.

However, we urge that implementation of the commitments also be subject to a review process, ideally together with the reviews of UNCAC implementation in the next review phase.

We also urge that the next UNCAC review phase be launched as soon as possible – at the latest in 2027. That would be seven years later than the timing foreseen in CoSP resolution 3/1 which referred to two 5-year cycles in each review phase.

Concerning other follow-up, we welcome the proposal that country representatives have been discussing here in Atlanta to hold, in the near future, the asset recovery

intersessional foreseen in the UNGASS political declaration. We recall that the countries that proposed the intersessional were hoping for it to be held promptly.

We urge that the asset recovery session cover the issue of remedies for victims of corruption, including the victims of collective harm. This was the subject of a StAR report issued at this conference.

The asset recovery session should be just one part of a CoSP response to the political declaration's invitation to identify gaps, challenges and solutions in relation to country implementation *as well as in relation to the international anti-corruption framework itself*. The world has changed a great deal since 2003 when UNCAC was adopted and it is essential to review whether frameworks should be adapted.

In that regard, we would like to draw your attention to a [Transparency International written submission](#) to this CoSP session with proposals for tackling impunity for grand corruption and transnational organised corruption, through national and international measures. This builds on the [Oslo Statement](#) on Corruption Involving Vast Quantities of Assets or VQAs produced by a UN expert meeting in 2019, based on a CoSP resolution.

In addition to the asset recovery intersessional, as part of follow-up, we urge that the CoSP also hold further expert and intersessional discussions on corruption involving VQAs. These discussions could be supported by the UN's system-wide integrated work "to address the challenges posed by large scale transnational corruption cases involving vast quantities of assets and often high-level, sophisticated corrupt networks." This was one of two priority areas mentioned in the [United Nation's submission](#) to UNGASS.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to continuing our work with the UNCAC Conference of States Parties.