

COMMUNICATING AROUND UNCAC CoSP10

Communications toolkit for civil society organizations pushing for greater action on environmental crime and corruption at CoSP10

Environmental crime and corruption harms the environment, biodiversity, and human rights and is inhibiting global action to tackle the climate crisis and meet Sustainable Development Goals.

We need global action now to fight environmental crime and the corruption that drives it.

Communicating around UNCAC CoSP10: Toolkit for ECC WG Members

The upcoming 10th UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (CoSP10) marks a key moment for Environmental Crime and Corruption (ECC) Working Group members to drive change on this critical issue. To do so, we need a joined-up and coordinated approach to ensure our messages are consistent and well-heard to reach key audiences, including UNCAC State Parties, the media, civil society, the UN, and other international organizations.

This toolkit aims to support members in their communications work around CoSP10 and ensure that our approaches are aligned.

Key information

This toolkit contains information and resources to help align our efforts around CoSP10. It includes:

- Key information about CoSP10
- Our approach
- Our aims from CoSP10
- General messaging
- Social media messaging (including suggested posts and links to graphics)

Key information about CoSP10

As a legally-binding treaty, the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) is among the best tools we have to fight the organised and international networks perpetrating environmental crime. The upcoming UNCAC Conference of the State Parties is therefore a major opportunity to influence policymakers and drive tangible change on this issue.

The Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) is the main decision-making body of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). All states that have ratified the UNCAC are automatically part of the Conference of the State Parties. Other states (signatories and non-signatories), intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organizations can apply for observer status at CoSP sessions.

The CoSP meets every two years and adopts resolutions and decisions aimed at building States parties' capacity and cooperation to achieve the convention's objectives as well as promoting and reviewing its implementation. It operates under Rules of Procedure adopted by the Conference.

The 10th session of the UNCAC Conference of the States Parties (CoSP10) will take place in **Atlanta, Georgia, USA, from 11-15 December 2023.**

CoSP10 resources

There is a useful landing page on the UNCAC Coalition website with more information about CoSP10. The UNCAC Coalition also have a helpful Civil Society toolkit for engaging with CoSPs.

[> View the UNCAC Coalition CoSP10 page here](#)

[> Download the UNCAC Coalition's Civil Society CoSP toolkit](#)

Our approach

Our communications work around CoSP10 focuses on three key elements:

Open letter calling for a greater action on environmental crime and corruption signed by civil society organizations, to be promoted through social and traditional media



Aligned social media campaign to focus attentions on CoSP10, promote the open letter, and raise awareness of why environmental crime and corruption needs to be tackled



Media activities, including a comment piece published in major news outlet. ECC Members encouraged to use messaging in this toolkit for their own media work

Our key aims

We need interventions from States Parties that highlight the need to fight environmental crime and corruption

At the 10th session of the UNCAC CoSP, we need to push for more action on environmental crime and corruption. This includes advocating for States Parties members to make interventions during plenary on this issue, as well as continuing calls for a new resolution to be tabled ahead of the next CoSP in 2025. Such a resolution would **bolster the implementation of the UNCAC to tackle environmental crime and corruption and its impacts.**

We need to push the following aims through our communications work around CoSP10. These aims would be reflected in a future resolution:

1

Strengthen and more effectively implement anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and environmental protection laws across the value chain in the environmental sector and hold those accountable that are responsible for perpetuating environmental crimes and corruption, including companies and their representatives.

2

Strengthen transparency, integrity and accountability for awarding, granting, and managing contracts, concessions, permits and licenses in the natural resource sector. Create public, central beneficial ownership registers which include adequate, accurate and up-to-date data that is freely accessible and can be used by relevant stakeholders, as well as accountability frameworks, including conflicts of interest policies, political financing rules, and lobbying transparency.

3

Ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations and other actors working to expose environmental crime and corruption consistent with Article 13 of the UNCAC, including protection for whistleblowers, proactively engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities and putting measures in place to routinely monitor threats facing civil society.

4

Promote good governance and anti-corruption measures to achieve climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation goals and in the proper management and use of climate finance funds and other finance mechanisms to protect the environment and biological diversity.

5

Promote greater coordination and cooperation with other relevant international fora and implementing agencies, in order to maximize impact in tackling environmental crime and corruption and to enhance understanding of how to address it, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Human Rights Council, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the Financial Action Task Force.

Alongside States Parties, we're asking NGOs to make interventions too

NGOs can also request oral interventions during the CoSP, and we encourage them to do so. These interventions can highlight the need for action on environmental crime and corruption. (See following page for messaging suggestions).

> [View information on submitting NGO statements for CoSP10](#) (especially pp. 6-7).

Messaging

Based on ongoing consultations and the work of the ECC Working Group, we have developed some key messaging that we would like ECC members to use when communicating in advance of and at the CoSP. These include messaging to highlight why ECC needs to be elevated as a priority area within the UNCAC, and messaging in support of our key aims at CoSP10, including potential oral statements. This messaging can be used in media work, in-person discussions, and other communications opportunities.

General messaging

Environmental crime and corruption is inhibiting global action on climate change. Governments must take greater action to protect livelihoods and communities from the climate crisis and combat and prevent organised criminal networks that are growing rich off of the profits of environmental crime from directly undermining these efforts.

These crimes rob some of the world's poorest countries of revenue and resources, devastate communities, destroy biodiversity, and fuel security challenges ranging from threat finance to terrorism.

Corruption is at the heart of environmental crime, enabling the plundering of nature and the laundering of profits. We need global action now to fight environmental crime and the corruption that drives it.

Exposing these crimes carries tremendous risk for the environmental and human rights defenders, whistleblowers, journalists and CSOs working on environmental crime and corruption. Hundreds of environmental and land defenders are killed every year as they work to defend their land, their communities, and their human rights. More needs to be done to protect these actors.

As a legally-binding treaty, the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) is among the best tools we have to fight the organised and international networks perpetrating environmental crime. The upcoming UNCAC Conference of the State Parties is therefore a major opportunity to influence policymakers and drive tangible change on this issue.

Our key asks

We're calling on the States Parties to make interventions during CoSP10 to highlight why it is essential to take greater action on environmental crime and corruption. We also want States Parties to recognize the need for a future resolution to bolster the implementation of UNCAC to increase transparency, better protect environmental defenders, and strengthen and more effectively enforce anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and environmental protection laws across the value chain in the environmental sector.

In addition, we're asking NGOs to request oral interventions too. Please feel free to use the messaging in this toolkit where helpful. [> View guidelines on NGO statement submissions](#)

We need to bolster #UNCAC for #EnvironmentalCrime

Organizations can use the below messaging as the basis of social media posts, tailoring the text as required. These can be shared with designed graphics. > [Access graphics for social media posts here](#)

Relevant hashtags: #COSP10 #UNCAC #UNCACCOSP #EnvironmentalCrime #Corruption

The key phrase we're inviting members to use is: We need to bolster #UNCAC for #EnvironmentalCrime

Messaging on the UNCAC

The UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) is one of the best tools we have to fight environmental crime and corruption. But we need member countries to go further to ensure UNCAC's full potential is unleashed.

As a legally-binding international treaty, the UN Convention Against Corruption can smash the organized networks perpetrating environmental crime and corruption. But UNCAC's measures need to be enforced. We need more transparency, integrity, and accountability.

Messaging on the UNCAC CoSP

The UNCAC Conference of the State Parties, convening 11-15 December, offers a key opportunity to bolster efforts to protect nature, livelihoods, and communities around the world.

Messaging on corruption's link with environmental crime

Corruption is at the heart of environmental crime, enabling the plundering of nature and the laundering of profits. We need global action now to fight environmental crime and the corruption that drives it.

Messaging about transparency and environmental crime

Public, central registries of beneficial ownership information will expose shell companies fueling environmental crime and corruption. Governments should ensure these registries exist, so we can protect nature, livelihoods, and communities around the world.

Messaging about Human Rights and protecting people fighting environmental crime

Three people are killed every week defending the environment from extractive forces. We need stronger action on environmental crime and corruption to protect nature, livelihoods, and communities around the world.*

Frontline defenders in the fight against environmental crime and corruption, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, whistleblowers and CSOs, face extreme risks. UNCAC member countries need to do more to support those protecting our nature, livelihoods, and communities.

Messaging about environmental crime's impact on the climate crisis

While governments and communities are taking action on climate change, criminals are directly undermining these efforts, plundering nature and growing rich off the profits. To fix the climate crisis, we need to end environmental crime and the corruption that enables it.

*This statistic is from the Global Witness report: *Decade of Defiance* (September, 2023). [View the report here](#).

Example posts

For LinkedIn

The UNCAC Coalition's Environmental Crime and Corruption Working Group, of which we are a member, urges UNCAC States Parties to recognize the need to bolster the implementation of the UNCAC to tackle #EnvironmentalCrime and #Corruption. We need greater:

- Accountability: Strengthen and effectively enforce anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and environmental protection laws across the environmental sector.
- Transparency: Strengthen transparency and accountability for awarding, granting & managing contracts in the natural resource sector.
- Protection: Ensure a safe and enabling environment for #CivilSociety actors working to expose environmental crime & corruption consistent with Article 13 of the UNCAC.
- Good governance: Promote good governance and anti-corruption measures in the proper use of funds to protect the #climate, #environment & biological diversity.
- Cooperation: Promote greater cooperation with other relevant international fora and implementing agencies to maximize impact in tackling environmental crime and corruption.

This #UNCACCOSP presents a key opportunity. We need to bolster #UNCAC for #EnvCrime

Concise version

The UNCAC Coalition's Environmental Crime and Corruption Working Group, of which we are a member, urges UNCAC States Parties to ensure effective UNCAC implementation against #EnvironmentalCrime and #Corruption to increase transparency, better protect environmental defenders and effectively enforce anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and environmental protection laws in the environmental sector. We need to bolster #UNCAC for #EnvCrime #UNCACCOSP

For X/Twitter

We urge UNCAC States Parties to do more against #EnvironmentalCrime & #Corruption to increase transparency, protect environmental defenders & enforce anti-corruption laws in the environmental sector. We need to bolster #UNCAC for #EnvCrime

Open letter

We've joined hundreds of organizations calling for more action to strengthen the UN Convention Against Corruption to better tackle #environmental crime. The upcoming #CoSP10 is an opportunity for change. We need to bolster for #UNCAC for #EnvCrime. > [Read the Open Letter](#)