UNCAC CoSP9, Agenda Item 1d)

Oral statement by Mathias Huter on behalf of the UNCAC Coalition on the participation of civil society observers in the UNCAC CoSP

15 December 2021

Mr President,

thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Any denial of NGO participation in CoSP sessions should be subject to high standards of transparency and the principles of adequate notice, justification and procedural fairness.

We heard from States Parties from many different regions voicing a request for clarity of the procedures. We also heard a number of States Parties on the information provided on the objected NGOs to them, which indicates that the threshold standard for “sufficient information has not been provided.

The current process for objections does not provide for minimum standards regarding transparency and due process, and does not comply with relevant applicable standards, including those provided by the UN Human Rights Council and UN Special Rapporteurs.

We urge the Conference to develop guidelines for objections under which:

* 1) There are published criteria for objections that are in line with Article 13 of the UNCAC and other relevant standards for upholding freedom of expression and participation.
* 2) States Parties be required to provide substantiated reasons for any objections they make to an NGO’s participation.
* 3) Affected NGOs must be provided with information, including on the State Party that made the objection, the reasons given, and the timely opportunity to be heard, the method of review and the timeline.
* 4) A transparent, timely, fair, effective and accountable review process is made available

Thank you.