

## UNCAC CoSP10 – Plenary on Prevention Statement by UNCAC Coalition

**Thank you chair,**

I would like to outline seven priority pillars that have been identified by our civil society members and in the many civil society parallel reports on national UNCAC implementation as key aspects of a functioning framework to effectively prevent corruption. We hope that several of the resolutions that will be adopted by this Conference will advance several of these prevention topics.

**1. Transparency of beneficial owners: States Parties should advance efforts to ensure that** the ultimate owners and beneficiaries of all companies and legal entities are reported to a centralized public register. This register with up-to-date information should be freely accessible to all stakeholders with a legitimate interest at minimum, but ideally be open to the public. This will help to ensure that corrupt actors can no longer hide behind anonymous shell companies. However, stronger efforts are needed to encourage and facilitate the use of beneficial ownership information by all relevant government bodies and law enforcement.

**2. Effective access to information** is a pre-condition for enabling the public to monitor how decisions are made and how public funds are spent, to identify corruption risks and hold those in power to account. States should **adopt and strengthen access to information laws** that give their citizens the right to access information held by state bodies. These laws should align with international standards. States need to do more to promote their effective implementation, aided by **independent and autonomous oversight bodies**, and put in place comprehensive requirements for a proactive publication of information, documents and data, in particular concerning high-risk areas such as public contracting.

**3. Robust and comprehensive whistleblower protection.** Continued efforts are needed to implement **comprehensive whistleblower reporting and protection laws** aligned with international best practices, establishing **secure internal and external reporting systems** for receiving and investigating corruption and retaliation complaints, and **ensuring that whistleblower disclosures are protected.**

**4. Enhanced transparency and accountability of political finance** through establishing timely public reporting of the funds that go to political campaigns and parties, and strengthening independent oversight bodies with adequate powers to monitor, investigate, and enforce compliance with political finance regulations, as was just stressed by my colleague from Transparency International.

**5. Effective public disclosure of assets and interests of public officials:** States should put in place comprehensive frameworks to address conflicts of interests for decision-makers in the public sector and require the **comprehensive public disclosure of assets and financial interests** and **regulate ‘revolving door’ cases** as well as public official lobbying. It is crucial to ensure that there are independent monitoring mechanisms with adequate mandates and resources to verify the declarations, and put in place proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for non-compliance, and to ensure effective public access to information from these declarations, in line with good practices we see in a number of States Parties.

**6. Independent and adequately resources specialized bodies** for the prevention of corruption with adequate mandates to promote the prevention of corruption and which operate in a transparent manner and in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, for example on the development, implementation and monitoring of anti-corruption strategies, action plans and relevant policies.

Finally, these building blocks for a prevention framework will only be effective, if there is a safe and **safe and enabling environment for civil society participation** at the national level, if non-governmental organizations and independent media can operate freely, report on corruption and hold those in power to account.

Thank you very much.