

## **UNCAC CoSP10 – Plenary on UNCAC IRM Statement by UNCAC Coalition**

Mr. President,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I would like to highlight that many non-governmental organizations are eager to contribute to the UNCAC implementation review process and that we would like the UNCAC review to be an engine for reforms.

This year, non-governmental organizations in 15 countries have finalized their own research reports on the implementation of the UNCAC in their respective countries, developing recommendations for actions, and in this way contributing to the UNCAC implementation review mechanism. In several countries, these recommendations have already impacted policy debates and been reflected in national anti-corruption strategies.

So far, the UNCAC Coalition's Transparency Pledge for the 2nd review cycle has been signed by 37 States Parties that have committed to higher levels of transparency and civil society inclusion in the review process. Since we began tracking compliance with this commitment one year ago, the number of signatories who are mostly compliant jumped from 8 to 17. We invite other States to join both the Pledge and the UK's IRM initiative, which was referenced by the United Kingdom, joining 54 States Parties in their commitment to ensuring high levels of transparency and participation in the UNCAC IRM and its follow-up.

On Monday evening, we held a side-event, co-organized by the UK and Germany, where we highlighted the shortcomings of the UNCAC's IRM as well as recommendations to overcome them.

I also invite you to consult the written submission we made to the conference on strengthening the review process, especially the ones highlighting examples of how States are meaningfully involving civil society organizations in their UNCAC reviews and anti-corruption efforts.

Specifically, we see the need to strengthen the inclusion of civil society, transparency of the review mechanism and follow-up to its recommendations.

Details on the updated schedules of individual reviews, the contact details of focal points should be made public, so that civil society can identify entry points to contribute.

Similarly, the key documents of the review process, the self-assessment and the full report, should be made public.

Non-governmental organizations in more than 40 countries have been requesting the release of these documents under national access to information legislation and in

response, so far 17 States Parties have published 27 UNCAC review documents that were previously not public.

We also call for civil society to be allowed to observe the meetings of the IRG, as well as of other CoSP subsidiary bodies.

Follow-up on recommendations made by the review is important. So far, only four States Parties have published information on follow-up to the recommendations it received in the context of the second cycle review. We propose to develop a streamlined template to facilitate the reporting of States Parties on follow-up actions.

More than 10 years after the first reviews were concluded, there is no systematic procedure to report on follow-up actions. We urge States Parties to commit to making swift progress in discussions on the next phase of the UNCAC review, to allow for meaningful input being provided by all stakeholders, including civil society and academia, into this process, and to ensure that follow-up on UNCAC reviews starts as soon as possible, with the next Phase of reviews running in parallel to the current one.

Finally, I would encourage you to contact us at the tables in the hallway if you are interested in learning more about the Transparency Pledge. We are also happy to share with you good practice approaches on how to ensure a transparency and inclusive review process.

Thank you.