

UNGASS 2021 – The UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption

Briefing for civil society – 25 May 2021

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About the UNCAC Coalition

- A global network of over 110 CSOs and individual members and an additional 200+ groups in its wider network in more than 100 countries
- Committed to advancing the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) to combat corruption
- Founded in 2006 as an informal network
- Coalition opened its permanent office in Vienna in 2019, now 5 team members

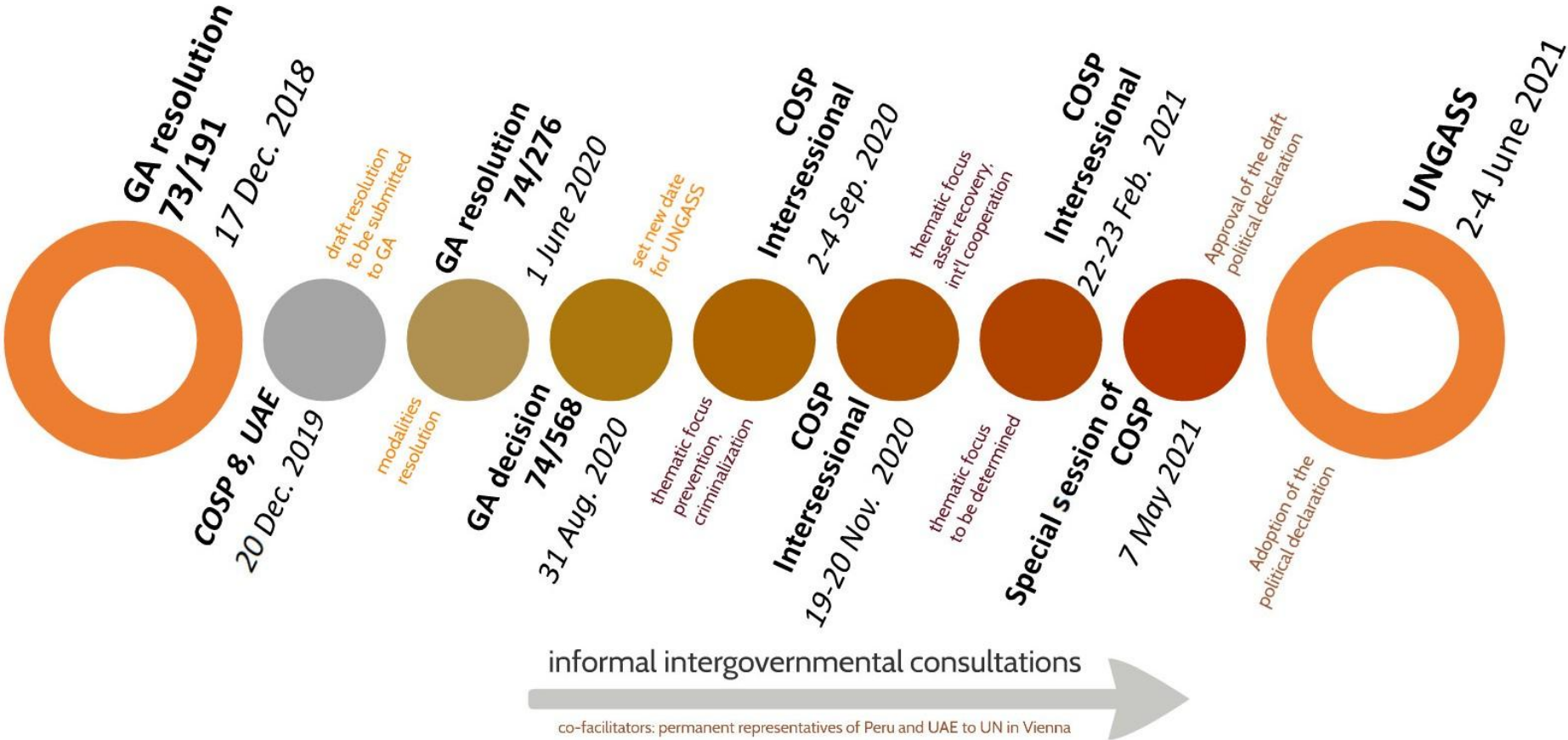
About the UNCAC Coalition

- Ensure that the voice of civil society is heard in UNCAC fora
- Advocacy for policy priorities and civic space
- Facilitation of joint advocacy, networking and coordination among civil society groups
- Support to civil society groups engaging in the UNCAC review process
 - Support and funding for parallel reports
 - Transparency Pledge signed by 27 governments
- Regular engagement with delegations in Vienna
 - Briefing sessions, sharing of good practices and civil society asks

UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) against Corruption

- First-ever UNGASS against Corruption
 - Others on Covid-19 (2020), Drugs (2016),...
- “on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”
- “...shall adopt a **concise and action-oriented** political declaration, agreed upon in advance **by consensus** through intergovernmental negotiations...”
- Colombia as one of the key initiators, idea of an International Anti-Corruption Court.
- High-level meeting (hopefully heads of State/government & ministers)

UNGASS2021: timeline



<https://ungass2021.unodc.org/ungass2021/en/preparatory-process.html>

Format of the UNGASS

Hybrid participation: In-Person: mostly Member States. Almost all others: virtually

- NGOs with ECOSOC status can still apply for participation: contact NGO branch of UN DESA via web form: <http://csonet.org/?menu=89> and ngobranch@un.org
- All ECOSOC-NGOs should be approved
- [List of NGOs](#) (non-ECOSOC) approved for the session
- Still waiting for instructions on registration of delegations (2-5 participants/organisation)
- **General Debate** in the Plenary: 10 am-1 pm, 3-6 pm NY time. Broadcast on UN WebTV: <http://webtv.un.org/>
- We will also embed the stream on a dedicated page on the **UNCAC Coalition website** together with commentary, relevant tweets and context – <https://uncaccoalition.org/ungass2021/>

Format of the UNGASS

Statements will be made by:

- Member States
- Regional economic integration organizations parties to the UNCAC (EU)
- Observers to the General Assembly
- Other stakeholders, including NGOs (time permitting)

Political Declaration

- Was adopted by a special session of the UNCAC Conference of States Parties on 7 May. Edited version has yet to be published
- We will share the unedited approved political declaration
- **Pre-UNGASS civil society-led side event analysing the commitments in the political declaration: 31 May, 15:00 CET**
- Link for registration for the side event:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEudeyqpzjojE9QNgIhsH7plc4HXhondDyw4>.

Agenda of the UNGASS

- The UNGASS will take place 2-4 June (hybrid)
- **Plenary meetings** will be held from **10am-1pm and 3pm-6pm (New York time)**
- Around the plenaries, **side events** will be held
- See the preliminary agenda here:
<https://www.un.org/pga/75/special-session-against-corruption/>
- List of speakers [is published](#), including sequence of countries, level of representation and list of NGOs.
 - <https://www.un.org/pga/75/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2021/05/PGA-letter-UNGASS-32-List-of-Speakers-and-Representatives-from-Organizations.pdf>

UNGASS Side Events

- **42 side events** in total (16 by MS, 17 by IOs, 9 by NGOs)
- **Starting 1 June: 9-10am, 1-2pm, 2-3pm, 5-6pm (New York time)**
- Organizers of **approved side events** were informed about the schedule on Monday
- Side events will be hosted and organized by applicants online (Zoom, MS Teams, etc.) and **will be in English** without translation
- It appears that organizers will effectively be able to decide whether events will be open to anybody or only to registered participants of the UNGASS

UNGASS Side Events

- If you applied for a side event, but have not heard back from UNODC, please contact Constantine Palicarsky constantine.palicarsky@un.org and Anna Pashkova anna.pashkova@un.org
- **Schedule and links to register for side events** is being added at https://ungass2021.unodc.org/ungass2021/side-events_4-june.html.

Statements of Member States

- Each country's delegation has the opportunity to make a statement at the UNGASS
 - Approx 12+ countries will be represented by Heads of State / Heads of Government (they will speak first)
 - Approx 40+ countries will be represented by a minister or deputy minister
 - Other countries will likely be represented by ambassadors, some have yet to state who will represent them
- **List of countries and sequence:**
 - <https://www.un.org/pga/75/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2021/05/PGA-letter-UNGASS-32-List-of-Speakers-and-Representatives-from-Organizations.pdf>

Statements of Observers

- Only the NGO that have been selected to make a statement can pre-record a video message that will be introduced by the President of the General Assembly
 - 7 min for group statements; 5 min for individual statements
 - CSOs will speak last, probably on the afternoon of 4 June

Putting Speeches of Leaders Into Context

- Speeches will be **publicly live-streamed on UN Web TV**
- UNCAC Coalition will try to **save them to YouTube** to ensure there is a record of those statements
- UNCAC Coalition will follow speeches and document them
 - on twitter under the hashtag #UNGASS2021
 - and on our website – <https://uncaccoalition.org/ungass2021/>

Putting Speeches of Leaders Into Context

Fact-checking and contextualizing your country's statement:

- Use twitter (as well as other social media) to highlight and contextualize your country's statement
 - Were any new efforts or commitments announced?
 - Was important context left out?
 - Were there any factual inaccuracies in the statement?
- **Comment on the speeches on twitter, #UNGASS2021**
#countryname
 - Tweet in English for international audience (as well as in local language)

Using country statements for advocacy

- You could now also reach out to your government and provide input and suggestions for the statement
- You could alert journalists and your audiences to pay close attention to the Statement of your country – and your comments to it
- You could do a press release days before, highlighting your expectations
- You could do a press release afterward, commenting on the Statement

Questions?

Thank you very much for your attention!

In case you have questions or require further information, please contact us:

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