TOWARDS A STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

The effective fight against corruption demands efforts from both governments and civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and the general public. Through working with the Civil Society Team (CST) and the Corruption and Economic Crime branch at UNODC, CSOs are given the necessary tools to work with governments and the private sector in implementing UNCAC at the national, regional and global levels.

Anti-corruption efforts play an integral role in achieving the SDGs, specifically Goal 16, on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, strong institutions and access to justice for all. Civil society enables the SDGs to be localized in communities through responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels in order to reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms.

A multi-stakeholder workshop on the UNCAC and its review mechanism was organized in Saly, Senegal, in May 2018.

PARTNER

The UNCAC Coalition is a global network of more than 350 CSOs in over 100 countries, established in 2006 with the aim of promoting the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

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PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION
THE UNODC MANDATE TO FIGHT CORRUPTION

The United Nations Convention against Corruption
The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to the global problem of corruption.

Article 13 of the Convention provides a role for civil society in combating corruption, by calling on governments to increase transparency, promote the active participation of civil society in government decision-making processes and ensure public access to information.

The UNODC Civil Society Team
UNODC is the guardian of the Convention and assists Member States in devising coherent responses to prevent and combat corruption by providing them with the substantive, technical and programme support needed to implement the Convention.

The UNODC Civil Society Team (CST) serves as a bridge between civil society organizations (CSOs), UNODC Field Offices, Substantive Offices and Member States. It supports the participation of CSOs in intergovernmental meetings under UNODC mandates and delivers training to help improve their knowledge of UNCAC and interact constructively with the United Nations and its Member States to promote its implementation.

IN InvolveC IN CIVIL SOCIETY

Multi-stakeholder workshops
The training sessions are jointly organized by UNODC and the UNCAC Coalition and bring together governments, CSOs and the private sector with the aim of strengthening CSO capacity relating to the Convention and its review mechanism. Since early 2011, 15 workshops have taken place involving 353 CSOs from around the world undergoing training.

Participation in intergovernmental meetings
The CST facilitates CSO participation at the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC and organizes briefings on the margins of the Implementation Review Group. CSOs are therefore ensured access to the most important decision-making bodies.

Small grants scheme
Small grants are provided for African CSOs to engage with the private sector, in particular small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to implement anti-corruption programmes and initiatives in their communities.

Campaigns
Each year, in coordination with UNDP, UNODC launches a campaign to coincide with International Anti-Corruption Day, which focuses on how corruption hinders efforts to achieve the SDGs. CSOs use advocacy tools to organize events and raise awareness.

Anti-corruption e-platforms
These online platforms are designed to allow CSOs to increase their impact by sharing experiences and building partnerships.
CIVIL SOCIETY AT THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Civil society participated actively at the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. It was attended by 145 civil society representatives who spoke at the plenary and took part in numerous bilateral events. Among the 11 side events organized by or with civil society, one event presented Member State-CSO pairings from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mauritius, highlighting their successful collaboration on UNCAC and its review process. The Civil Society Network Against Corruption (CSNAC) spoke of how, through the training and sensitization to the Convention, they were able to share with the review team the views, concerns and appreciation of civil society regarding the implementation of the Convention in Mauritius. Subsequently, CSNAC helped draft a civil society self-assessment checklist as part of the second cycle review.

“Without the help of international partners and civil society, we are blind and cannot do anything in our efforts to fight corruption.”
Vladica Babic, Assistant Director of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and the Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption

RIGHTS AWARENESS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a small grant awarded to the Observatory to Fight against Corruption in Central Africa (OLCAC) helped unionize motorcycle taxi drivers. Through the organization of workshops involving drivers, government officials and traffic police representatives, as well as media campaigns in local newspapers, OLCAC managed to raise awareness and inform motorcycle taxi drivers of their rights and the need to reject corrupt practices.

“The project had positive effects. We greatly appreciate the support given and look forward to continuous support to establish the moto-taxi union.”
Mr. Jean Marie Mulumba Tshimbumba, President of OLCAC

FIRST CSO TRAINING SESSIONS ON UNCAC IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

The first multi-stakeholder workshop on the Convention and its review mechanism held in South-East Europe (SEE) took place in September 2017 in Sarajevo. The workshop developed capacities of around 60 participants—from civil society, governments and the private sector—from across the SEE region. The collaborative and open nature of the workshop resulted in Transparency International Bosnia being invited by government counterparts to take a full role in their country’s review.

“A starting point to neutralise and reduce corruption is social empowerment; the possibility of reformulating public policies from open-door citizenship, which allows citizens to use public tools to exercise their rights.”
Mariana Lavozzeta, Head of the Special Unit for Gender Violence of the Public Prosecutor’s Office of the Nation, Argentina

AWAWARENESS-RAISING ON INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

For International Anti-Corruption Day in Argentina, more than 25 experts, including representatives of governments and CSOs, participated in a workshop entitled “Towards the IV International Forum of Women Against Corruption”. Co-organized by the CSO Women in Equality Foundation, the workshop initiated a dialogue between the public and private sectors to break the chain of corruption.

“Where governments are finding it more and more difficult to do their job … Dialogue and cooperation with civil society will, I’m sure, be a central aspect of the activities of the United Nations in the next few years … making sure that partnership becomes a key element in solving global problems.”
António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Anti-corruption platforms are currently hosted on the UNCAC Coalition website and are accessible through the Civil Society Team website at www.unodc.org/cst.

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