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**Statement submitted by Women Against Violent  
Exploitation Foundation (WAVE), a non-governmental  
organization in consultative status with the Economic and  
Social Council\***

The following document is being circulated in accordance with paragraph 1 (i) of resolution 4/6 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and rule 17, paragraph 3 (b), of the rules of procedure for the Conference.

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## **Statement by Women Against Violent Exploitation Foundation (WAVE) at the UNCAC CoSP10: Plenary on Asset Recovery**

Women Against Violent Exploitation Foundation (WAVE) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to combating violent exploitation, including corruption. We are committed to promoting asset recovery as a critical tool in the fight against corruption and its detrimental impact on women and girls.

### **The Impact of Corruption on Women and Girls**

Corruption disproportionately affects women and girls, exacerbating existing inequalities and perpetuating gender-based violence. When public funds are diverted through corrupt practices, essential services for women and girls, such as education, healthcare, and social protection, are undermined. Moreover, corrupt practices often fuel violence against women and girls, as they create an environment of impunity and enable perpetrators to escape justice.

### **The Role of Asset Recovery in Empowering Women and Girls**

Asset recovery plays a crucial role in empowering women and girls by restoring stolen resources and redirecting them towards programs and initiatives that address their specific needs. When recovered assets are invested in women's empowerment programs, they can provide women with access to education, training, and economic opportunities, enabling them to break the cycle of poverty and violence. Additionally, asset recovery can strengthen institutions responsible for upholding the rule of law and protecting women's rights.

### **Recommendations for Enhancing Asset Recovery**

WAVE urges the Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to take the following steps to enhance asset recovery efforts:

**Strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery:** Foster greater collaboration among states parties to facilitate the identification, tracing, freezing, and return of stolen assets.

**Promote the use of non-conviction-based asset recovery mechanisms:** Expand the use of civil and administrative procedures to recover stolen assets, particularly in cases where criminal convictions are difficult to obtain.

**Enhance transparency and accountability in asset recovery processes:** Ensure that asset recovery processes are transparent and accountable, with clear guidelines and mechanisms for public participation.

**Protect the rights of victims of corruption:** Recognize and protect the rights of victims of corruption, including their right to restitution, compensation, and participation in asset recovery proceedings.

Support the participation of civil society in asset recovery efforts: Encourage and support the meaningful participation of civil society organizations in all aspects of asset recovery, including policy development, implementation, and monitoring.

## Conclusion

Asset recovery is an essential tool in the fight against corruption and its impact on women and girls. By strengthening asset recovery efforts, we can empower women and girls, promote gender equality, and build more just and equitable societies. WAVE stands ready to collaborate with states parties, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to advance effective asset recovery practices that benefit women and girls around the world.

Thank you for your attention.