

UNCAC CoSP 10 - General Discussion

Statement by the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) Delivered by Lola Adekanye

December 11, 2023

Mr. President (or Honorable Mr./ Madam Chairman),
Distinguished Delegates,
Fellow Anti-Corruption Advocates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

On behalf of the Center for International Private Enterprise, in short “CIPE” — a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting a rule-based system that emphasizes principles of democratic governance, entrepreneurship, open trade, and the fight against corruption — allow me to express our gratitude to the United States Government for hosting this year’s conference, and to UNODC and the Secretariat for the excellent organization.

We appreciate the dedicated space given to academia, non-profit organizations, and the private sector here at CoSP 10 to contribute their expertise, insights, and networks to advance the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

There is little need to stress the many dangers and harms corruption confers upon people and nations around the world — this is what brings us together at this occasion.

However, there is a need to stress two aspects of our joint work that deserve more attention despite some progress achieved over the past 20 years.

First, **Mr/Madam Chairman**, we urge State Parties to embrace the benefit of working collaboratively — and early-on — across sectors and stakeholders to advance standards, policies, regulation, and the implementation of concrete projects to make tangible progress in the fight against corruption.



In our work, we regularly hear from business associations, chambers of commerce, individual companies but also non-profit organizations, governments, and academia. They all stress that additional spaces for deliberation and information-sharing would be useful to advance the anti-corruption goals we jointly seek to achieve — especially at the national and regional level.

In many cases we also hear that results could have been achieved more efficiently and effectively, had governments offered to involve civil society actors, including the private sector, at an earlier stage of setting out and implementing anti-corruption reforms.

Second, **Mr/Madam Chairman**, we urge State Parties to increase their efforts to meaningfully implement the commitments made under the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Irrespective of the many important issue areas in need of further advances, including transparency in company ownership, open contracting, access to information, environmental crimes, whistleblowing protections, asset recovery, the enabling environment to protect civic space and journalism — among others — there continues to be a need to focus our joint attention on the contributions the private sector can make.

Working with business associations and chambers of commerce, international organizations, civil society actors and competent authorities across jurisdictions, there is great potential to achieve additional progress by better understanding the incentives the private sector has to engage in anti-corruption work, including in the areas of ethics and compliance.

We cordially invite you to engage with us and fellow anti-corruption advocates — over the course of this conference and beyond — to advance our joint anti-corruption goals.

Thank you!