

## **Partnership for Transparency's Oral Statement for UNCAC CoSP10**

(December 1, 2023)

Dear Delegates of the States Parties to the UNCAC, dear conference participants, all protocols observed.

Partnership for Transparency and fellow supporters call on you to **increase the role of civil society in combating corruption in development assistance.**

Each year, our countries spend billions of dollars on development assistance. And this amount will take a quantum leap to trillions of dollars to address global issues like climate change, conflict, and pandemics. Like any public spending of such magnitude, it is subject to significant corruption.

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), like the World Bank and Regional Development Banks, are the institutions through which a major part of this development assistance is being financed. To address corruption risks, they rely on the accountability systems of borrowing countries and their own procurement and financial management policies. This is appropriate, but not sufficient. What more can be done by MDBs?

As you know, civil society plays a key role in preventing and combatting corruption. However, the MDBs rarely support or promote partnerships with civil society for this purpose in the development assistance they provide.

Dear Delegates, most of your governments either provide financing to MDBs or receive funding from them. As their stakeholders, your countries direct their policies. We urge you to use this leverage and the UNCAC framework for setting requirements and standards that ensure civil society plays a key role in preventing and combating corruption in development assistance provided by MDBs.

Setting aside a small portion, for example, one percent of the funds for independent monitoring by civil society organizations will help ensure that the remaining 99 percent is less subject to corruption and reach the intended beneficiaries. This is a wise investment that will pay off if even a small part of corruption is prevented or detected.

Our proposal is in line with the spirit of the convention as spelled out in:

- its Preamble and Article 13 to incorporate civil society in the fight against corruption and
- Article 9 to promote transparency and integrity of public procurement and finances.

It further aligns with priorities set for this conference by our hosts of emphasizing a multi-stakeholder approach and championing the role of civil society in the fight against corruption.

Partnership for Transparency is joined in this call by 14 civil society organizations from around the world. For details, please refer to our written statement and contact or approach us at any time.