Civic Space Briefs

Hear Civil Society Voices Combat Corruption

Everyone shall have the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs.

Article 25, ICCPR

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People want to influence their futures - including during intergovernmental negotiations of new resolutions and decisions. Having a say and participating in decisions that impact their lives are fundamental rights protected by international human rights law and recognized by the United **Nations Convention Against Corruption.** Civil society participation also makes for more legitimate and more effective resolutions treaties and outcomes of reviews. A safe environment that enables civil society to participate, access information and express their opinions on corruption-related matters is key, given the risks that come with shedding light on corrupt conduct.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



not heard;

local needs:

Civil society helps shed light on local concerns and priorities and suggests solutions tailored to

Civil society is key to putting people at the centre of the decision-making and ultimately strengthens accountability.



GOOD EXAMPLES

Civil Society Engagement with the UN Human Rights Council



Civil Society Engagement in other UN Forums

ECOSOC accredited civil society have speaking rights (including through virtual video statements) at each session and are allowed to invite partners without ECOSOC status to speak.

Civil society may contribute to informal negotiations on draft resolutions, and engage with the various human rights mechanisms.

Civil society may also make written submissions and organize parallel events on issues and topics considered by the Council.

The Internet Governance Forum invites and encourages all actors to submit inputs relating to the thematic focus of the Forum. ITU's World Summit of Information Society Forum crowdsources the Forum's agenda, themes and programme through an open online consultation process.

Under the Commission on the Status of Women, the NGO CSW Forum provides an engagement platform for thousands of civil society actors, including those without ECOSOC status, which also feeds into the work of the CSW.









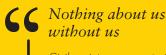
In the adoption
of resolutions
and outcomes of
reviews, ensure
transparency
and allow for
civil society's
interventions and
feedback around

contentious issues;

Design processes so they
are inclusive and safe and maximize
transparency; include civil society in decisionmaking about engagement modalities;
proactively reach out to diverse constituencies
and remove barriers for under-represented
actors; provide funding to those from the
Global South; and provide access
to information;



Create easily accessible channels and use safe and user-friendly digital platforms that respect privacy and accessible for persons with disabilities; use (online) surveys during drafting, negotiations, and adoption; establish feedback channels throughout the process and facilitate the holding of side-events;



Civil society movement



During formal and
informal negotiations, assign
speaking slots to civil society
and enable virtual interventions
and video statements;
provide feedback on how
their contributions
were reflected;

HOW TO BRING CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES TO THE TABLE?

Put in place transparent,
fair, non-discriminatory and
objective accreditation and
registration processes sensitive
to gender, age etc. diversity and
channels for civil society to
contest restrictions
to participation;

Invite civil society
specifically to make
oral and written
contributions on both,
procedural issues and
substantive content
of resolutions and
outcomes of review
mechanisms, as well
as implementation and
follow-up measures to
ensure accountability;

Throughout the process, recognize and give visibility to the positive role of civil society;

Factor in security
when selecting
formats and platforms
for engagement; assess
and mitigate risks of
reprisals offline and
online and be aware
of specific protection
needs of groups;



Link to web-site on engagement with international and regional organizations (A/HRC/44/25)
Link to web-site on intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with the UN