

Hear Civil Society Voices - Combat Corruption

“ Everyone shall have the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs. ”
Article 25, ICCPR

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?

- ✓ Civil society brings a variety of voices to the table and contributes different perspectives and sets of expertise, including those usually not heard;
- ✓ Civil society helps shed light on local concerns and priorities and suggests solutions tailored to local needs;
- ✓ 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



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.

Civil Society Engagement in other UN Forums

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.

