

UNODC: Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (COSP UNCAC)

8th Session

16th – 20th December 2019, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Report



Opening Remarks rendered by the President of the Conference H.E. Dr. Harib Al Amimi

The Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific (OFAP) has the honor to attend the 8th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (COSP UNCAC). Mr. Nuno Maria Roque Jorge, the OFAP President, Mr. Tobias Krachler, Vice President and Consultant Ms. Eva Scheicher attended the Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE on the 16th – 20th December of 2019.

During the 8th Session of the COSP in Abu Dhabi, there are over 45 on-site special events that were held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), organized by Governments, Departments and Agencies of the United Nations, Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and UNODC.

❖ **Civil Society Preparatory Meeting – UNCAC Coalition**

The UNCAC Coalition:

- A global civil society network for the implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention against Corruption

Priority Topics during the Session:

- On-site advocacy
- Access to information
- Beneficial ownership transparency
- Grand corruption
- Asset recovery
- Civic space & improved UNCAC review mechanism
- UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on corruption 2021

*Pre-Meeting Discussion***Public procurement requires public information**

- To provide the citizens' needs, and therefore must be accountable to the public
- **Access to information is key to this accountability**

Context

- UNCAC Articles 10 & 13
- SDG 16.10
- CoSP Res 6/7, 6/8
- Marrakesh Follow-up
- Access to information on public procurement allows civil society to act as an effective watchdog on government systems, making recommendations for change and bringing this crucial area where public and private sectors meet under better public scrutiny

How to improve procurement through information and engagement:

1. **E-procurement** – uses information and communications technologies to facilitate the procurement process, making publicly available information on tenders, documentation, decisions and contracts.
2. **Beneficial ownership registers** – enables authorities and civil society to exercise better control and to prevent and deter corruption through the use of shell companies
3. **Integrity pacts** – agreements between a government body issuing a tender and the companies bidding for it that they will abstain from corrupt practices for the extent of the contract. It includes specific commitments to maintain transparency and prevent corruption.
4. **Open contracting** – a new means to transform public procurement through better data, analysis and engagement with businesses and civil society
5. **Social monitoring** – it involves civil society monitoring from the very early stages of a public procurement process through to implementation of a

contract. This increases effectiveness and accountability of procurement, and therefore strengthens trust in government institutions.



Meeting on progress – OFAP Representatives

UNCAC Review Transparency Pledge:

Six (6) Principles:

1. We will publish updated review schedules for our country review
2. We will share information about the review institution or coordinator (focal point)
3. We will announce the completion of the country review indicating where the report can be found
4. We will promptly post online the self-assessment and the country report in a UN language, together with the executive summary in local languages
5. We will organize civil society briefings and public debates about the findings of the report
6. We will publicly support participation of civil society observers in the UNCAC subsidiary bodies

STAR – Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative



During the meeting

- **Opening & High-Level Conversation on Assets Recovery**
 - Achievements, challenges and the road ahead for effective cooperation beyond borders.
- **Perspectives on Asset Return**
 - Mechanisms and monitoring
- **Getting the Facts Straight**
 - Why we need better data on international asset recovery and how we can get there
- **Going for Broke**
 - Insolvency tools to support cross border asset recovery in corruption cases
- **Getting Serious About Beneficial Ownership Transparency**

StAr Resources:

- StAR publications and knowledge products are practical guides (star.worldbank.org)
- They offer tools, best practices, and case studies for policymakers and practitioners doing the actual work of asset recovery across the globe

❖ **StAR Data Collection**

- A new study that aims to collect data on global efforts to recover



and return proceeds of corruption in a systematic and internationally comparable way.

❖ **Beneficial Ownership Guides and Asset Recovery Guides**

- StAR published developed by the authorities in different countries, to explain how an entity is incorporated under their respective laws and how other countries can seek their assistance for asset recovery.

❖ **Asset Recovery Watch (ARW)**

- First launched in 2011, StAR's ARW database remains the only systematic effort to track actions by prosecution authorities worldwide to go after proceeds of corruption hidden abroad. By making this information public in an easily searchable format, the ARW aims to raise awareness and spur counties to work at both national and international levels to remove barriers to asset recovery.

AGU – Attorney General's Office

LABRA – Asset Recovery Laboratory

Consists of:

- Defendant
- Family members and other relationships
- Registered property
- Companies and other information

Main ideas emerging from the side-event:



On-going presentation

- Discuss the value of using an HR approach to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts

- Debate possible concrete to integrate HR considerations into the UN anti-corruption agenda
- Upgrade participants on the work of the UNHRC, its subsidiary bodies in the area of HR and the fight against corruption
- Exchange views and ideas aimed at promoting policy coherence in the implementation of HR and anti-corruption conventions and treaties
- Share examples, case studies and best practices in implementing anti-corruption activities, programmes and strategies fully in line with international HR standards

Steps undertaken by Morocco for introducing corruption on the agenda of the HRC:

(a) The cross regional statement on Corruption and Human Rights (June 2012)

▪ **Process:**

During the 20th session of the Human Right Council, held in June 2012, a cross regional statement on “Corruption and Human Rights” was pronounced by Morocco, on behalf of 134 States which highlighted the following points:

- Negative impact of widespread corruption on the enjoyment of HR
- Corruption as one of the biggest obstacles to the promotion of HR, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- The ability of civil society and media to use HR principles in fighting against corruption
- The importance of coordination between Member States in Geneva and Vienna, as well as close collaboration between the OHCHR and UNODC

(b) Panel discussion on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of Human Rights (September 2012)

- Morocco and 4 other countries (Austria, Poland, Indonesia, Brazil) submitted to the HRC on its 21st session, a draft resolution entitled “Panel discussion on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of Human Rights”
- Following adoption of this resolution, without a vote, the Council decided to convene this Panel discussion, on the 13 March 2013

