12th IACC
The Implementation Puzzle: CSO Guides to Conventions

Presented by
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Civil society and anti-corruption

• The public has a key role to play in anti-corruption
  – This is recognised in UNCAC Article 13
  – Active well-informed public can stimulate political will and help deter malfeasance
  – The more engaged, informed NGOs the more effective

• Wide range of CSOs in many spheres potential partners
  – Human rights, women’s rights, environmental, labour unions, development organisations, access to information organisations, professional associations, organisations addressing trafficking
Civil society and anti-corruption conventions

• Conventions offer powerful backup for civil society anti-corruption work. CSOs can
  – Refer to binding commitments
  – Monitor compliance and point out divergence between commitments

• Civil society can offer powerful influence in ensuring conventions make a difference, are implemented
  – Help keep pressure up on governments
  – Ensure commitments are widely known

• However, the public and CSOs often
  – Unaware of anti-corruption conventions existence and potential
  – Intimidated by legal document
  – Sceptical about possible impact of the document

THUS, need to make the conventions more accessible
Guides to anti-corruption conventions

RANGE OF APPROACHES depending on target audience & aims

- **Audience**: Broad or targeted; generalist or specialist
- **Aims**: Awareness-raising, education, support to advocacy, mobilisation

EXAMPLES

- **Broad and general** educational guide: explanations in plain language, giving background, overview and uses in order to raise interest and explain benefits.
- Guides with focus on **specific provisions**: more depth and explanation to assist different categories of stakeholders in making link to their work
- **Specialist/ expert guides**: very **detailed explanations** for legislative drafting, follow-up by government officials, academic study, law firms
TI Guides to Conventions

- Guides for broad audience from TI-S, TI-Guatemala, TI-Morocco guides for broad audience. Now moving to more specialist guides eg. TI-S, TI-Russia
- TI-S three regional Advocacy Guides for Africa (Eng. & Fr.), Americas (Span & Eng.), MENA (Arabic). Also Guide to AU Convention.
- Aimed at broad generalist audience to promote interest and understanding of how to use conventions, “make them work”
- Inputs from experts & activists in the regions
- Distributed free of charge by mail and at meetings to TI NCs and wide range of groups
- Funded by UNDP, OSI, UK FCO
TI Regional CSO Advocacy Guides

• Structure
  – Why anti-corruption
  – Why anti-corruption conventions
  – How do anti-corruption conventions come to life: ratification, implementation & monitoring
  – Which anti-corruption conventions in the region
  – How to promote, how to use, steps to take
  – How to monitor

• Tools/examples: Cross-border cases, letters, press releases, monitoring questionnaires

• Presentation: Cartoons, quotes from leading figures, attractive design

• Impact: Positive feedback; survey planned