

12th IACC

The Implementation Puzzle: CSO Guides to Conventions

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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, womens 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 know
 - 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