

ULAANBAATAR STATEMENT ON POLITICAL FINANCE TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT

The Need to Strengthen Political Finance Transparency and Oversight

Financial resources are necessary to facilitate democratic political dialogue between political parties, candidates and citizens. They enable political parties, candidates and political actors to communicate their policies, activities and electoral platforms to citizens and voters, while allowing citizens and voters to express their priorities and expectations regarding the governance of their country and communities. However, opaque political financing can create risks of corruption, conflicts of interest and undue influence over decision-making, ultimately undermining democracy and systems of accountability.

Through the unanimous adoption of Resolution 11/7 on *Preventing and Combating Corruption by Enhancing Transparency in the Financing of Political Parties, Candidates for Election and Election Campaigns*, originally co-sponsored by Albania, Ghana, Mongolia and Norway, the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) have provided an important framework for enhancing transparency and accountability in political finance and strengthening democratic governance. The task ahead is to support its effective implementation, taking into account different national circumstances, legal frameworks and institutional arrangements.

As the guardian of UNCAC, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has a central role in supporting the implementation of Resolution 11/7. Strengthening political finance transparency and oversight and promoting cooperation among national and international actors can further the objectives of the Resolution and the efforts undertaken by States in this area.

As part of global efforts to strengthen transparency and integrity in political finance, participants in the Ulaanbaatar Roundtable, convened by the General Election Commission of Mongolia and bringing together representatives of national institutions, international organisations and civil society, affirm the importance of the following shared principles and support their effective implementation in accordance with their respective mandates, national circumstances and legal frameworks.

KEY PRINCIPLES

Transparency

Citizens have the right to know the sources and use of funds by political parties and candidates. States and relevant institutions are encouraged to ensure timely, meaningful and accurate reporting and the accessible public disclosure of relevant political finance information and to promote, for this purpose, the use of digital systems and open data accessible to the public. Timely access to such information, including by civil society, the media and election observers, is essential for effective public scrutiny

Accountability and Effective Enforcement

Effective political finance transparency and oversight require clear laws, rules, appropriate mechanisms and proportionate, timely and effective responses to violations, consistent with international and national legal frameworks and with regard to due process. Transparency requirements are effective only where potential violations are detected, investigated and followed by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, applied consistently and impartially.

Strengthening Political Party Integrity, Internal Democracy and Equal Opportunities

Measures to enhance transparency in political finance should contribute to strengthening internal political democracy, promoting equal opportunities for political participation, including for women and under-represented groups, and reducing risks of conflicts of interest arising from domestic and foreign funding sources.

Level Playing Field and Neutrality of the State

Public authorities should act impartially throughout the electoral process. Clear rules preventing the misuse of state and administrative resources for partisan advantage, together with their effective enforcement, are essential to ensure a level playing field for all electoral contestants.

Cooperation and Inclusive Participation

Effective oversight of political finance and its transparency requires close cooperation, within their respective mandates, among relevant oversight institutions, anti-corruption authorities, law-enforcement and investigative bodies, prosecutorial and judicial authorities, and financial intelligence units. Meaningful engagement by civil society and the media, including non-traditional media outlets, as well as independent election observers, can further strengthen such cooperation. Such engagement is facilitated by timely access to political finance data and by the appropriate follow-up of their findings by competent authorities.

CALL TO ACTION

Building on UNCAC Resolution 11/7 and the discussions of the Ulaanbaatar Roundtable, participants encourage States Parties and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with their respective mandates, national circumstances and legal frameworks, to consider advancing cooperation and action in the following areas:

Transparency and digital disclosure — Proactively promote timely and regularly updated meaningful public access to political finance information, including through accessible digital disclosure systems and, where appropriate, open and machine-readable data formats that the public can easily access, including before elections, thereby enabling the effective use of this information by oversight institutions, civil society, the media and citizens.

Effective and independent oversight — Strengthen the capacity, independence, mandates and resources of political finance oversight institutions, and promote digital technologies and risk-based approaches to audits, monitoring and enforcement, backed by policy measures and parameters. As appropriate, oversight should lead to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions and the timely follow-up of identified violations.

Inter-agency cooperation — Encourage effective and systemic cooperation, joint activities and appropriate information-sharing among election management bodies, anti-corruption authorities, financial intelligence units, law-enforcement bodies and other relevant institutions, as well as the involvement of expertise from outside the public sector.

Integrity and prevention of political finance risks and corruption — Promote measures and oversight approaches to address risks arising from opaque and illicit funding, third-party campaigning, the use of intermediaries to circumvent donation rules, undue influence and the misuse of state resources, and to uphold the neutrality of public authorities during electoral periods.

Inclusive participation and public oversight — Facilitate meaningful participation by civil society, the private sector, media, election observers and citizens in promoting transparency and accountability, including through timely access to political finance data and an enabling environment for independent monitoring, while recognising the importance of inclusive political participation.

Emerging risks in the digital environment — Address political finance risks associated with online political advertising, the use of social media and paid influencers, crypto-assets and other emerging payment methods, and artificial intelligence, including by promoting transparency of the sponsors of, and expenditure on, online campaigning.

International cooperation and implementation of Resolution 11/7 — Encourage continued exchange of experience, peer learning, technical assistance and capacity-building among States Parties, oversight institutions, UNODC, international organisations and other relevant actors to support the effective implementation of Resolution 11/7.

Participants invite States Parties and relevant stakeholders to sustain the momentum generated by the adoption of Resolution 11/7 and to continue sharing good practices and lessons learned as implementation progresses, including by considering a follow-up review of progress and by sharing the outcomes of this Roundtable with the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC and relevant subsidiary bodies.

**Adopted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
24 September 2026**