



# Transparency International India

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*The coalition against corruption*

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## CALL FOR RATIFICATION OF UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC)

**New Delhi, November 4 :** Transparency International India (TII) has appealed to the Government, once again, to ratify United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in order to demonstrate its commitment to effectively fight corruption, a global phenomenon today.

Speaking to the Press this afternoon, Chairman of TII, Admiral (retired) R H Tahiliani said, "ratification would signify India's commitment to transparency and good governance which is important in view of the leadership role that she plays in Asia."

*Advisory Council*

*Fali S. Nariman*

*B. G. Verghese*

*Anna Hazare*

*Narayana N. R. Murthy*

*Mrs. Aruna Roy*

Transparency International and its national chapters have played an important role in promoting conventions from the negotiation phase through to monitoring their transformation into law, and their application in practice. In 2007 TII conducted a gap analysis in order to assess India's anti corruption system as it compares to the provisions of the UN convention, informed Admiral (Retd) Tahiliani. We found that our systems, institutions and laws are very robust. We have also written several letters to the Government, but to no avail he said.

The UNCAC, which currently has 141 States Parties, is key to the success of global anti-corruption efforts. Adopted in 2003, it is the most comprehensive instrument adopted and the only one with global reach. It requires States Parties to introduce robust legislative and institutional frameworks for preventing and combating corruption and for cooperating across borders.

It includes provisions calling for transparency and civil society participation and public access to information on government finances, open procurement and whistleblower protection. It also includes ground - breaking provisions on the recovery of stolen assets.

Out of the 140 countries that have signed UNCAC, 120 countries have ratified it. Countries of South Asia that have signed and ratified includes Pakistan, Bangladesh has accepted the Convention but not signed. India signed the convention in December 2005. Four years down the line, Government has not ratified it. This has the potential to create doubts among the international community. India has done reasonably well in the recent past to prevent opportunities for corruption, particularly through legislations like RTI act and e-governance solutions. By not ratifying India is losing out the opportunities to play a prominent role at the global stage and show-case its good practices.

In the second week of November all the state parties are meeting in Doha, Qatar for review of implementation, where this issue is likely to prominently figure in the discussions.

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