



CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SUR L'ANTI-CORRUPTION

ECOSOC Quadrennial Report

REPORTING PERIOD

2021-2024

Contributions of the Centre de Recherche sur
l'Anti-Corruption (CERC) to the works of United
Nations

Submitted to the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs on
20 January 2025





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About this report

CERC applied for and was accepted for special consultative status with ECOSOC in 2021. This quadrennial report covers 2021-2024 and was submitted directly to the ECOSOC webpage form on 20 January 2025.



FROM THE ECOSOC WEBSITE

Under ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, NGOs in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council must submit to the Committee on NGOs, a brief report of their activities every 4 years, known as the quadrennial report, which includes information about contributions of the NGO to the work of the United Nations. To emphasize the need to abide strictly by this requirement, ECOSOC resolution 2008/4 stipulates measures that the Council has taken to suspend, and subsequently withdraw consultative status of organizations that fail to submit their reports on time.

The consultative relationship is a reciprocal one. NGOs are granted the privilege of participating in a wide variety of United Nations-sponsored events, meetings and activities.

In return, they are expected to contribute to the development aims of the Economic and Social Council, and the United Nations at large, based on their relevant areas of experience and expertise.

Thus, the quadrennial review presents an opportunity for NGOs to inform Member States about their activities in support of the United Nations, and at the same time, receive feedback from Member States on their programme of work as well as an official acknowledgement of their contribution as partners in development.

The quadrennial review exercise therefore serves as a critical tool in monitoring the relationship between the United Nations and the steadily growing number of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

OUR STATUS

Special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) since 2021.

THIS REPORT

Covers 2021-2024. Submitted on 20 January 2025 to the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs.

The report as submitted

CERC answered all of the questions posed and they are listed on the following pages exactly as they were submitted.

150

Integrity Clubs set up in secondary schools in South Kivu and Kinshasa (2022)

97

policymakers at the consultation workshops in Kinshasa and Bukavu (2023)

2,250

students aged 14-19 trained in integrity-building mechanisms

63

youth leaders from 9 youth-led organisations trained in Kinshasa



BOXES 1 TO 3

Who we are



BOX 1

Introduction

The Centre de Recherche sur l'Anti-Corruption (CERC) is a DRC-registered organisation committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct within communities.

Through various initiatives, CERC seeks to empower individuals to demand integrity in public services, fostering a culture of accountability and combating corruption at the grassroots level. It has emerged as a pioneer in introducing creative approaches to promote social responsibility and anti-corruption efforts in education and health sectors in South Kivu, North Kivu and Kinshasa.

CERC is a NGO with Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) since 2021.

BOX 2

Aims and purposes of the organisation

The mission of CERC is to advance knowledge of the causes and consequences of corruption and support the development of new anti-corruption policies and initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. CERC aims to empower young people with skills and tools to create positive change towards more accountable, open, and inclusive institutions and public services.

The vision of CERC is working towards a Congo in which government, public institutions, politics, businesses, and civil society are free from corruption.

BOX 3

Significant changes in the organisation

There have been no significant changes during the reporting period.

BOX 4

Contribution to the works of the United Nations



BOX 4

Contribution of CERC to the works of the United Nations

These activities contribute significantly to the works of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UNCAC Coalition in several ways:

1. In June 2021, CERC was commissioned by the UNCAC Coalition to produce the Civil Society Parallel Report on the implementation of provisions of Chapter II (Preventive Measures) and Chapter V (Asset Recovery) of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) by the Democratic Republic of the Congo. **The full civil society parallel report in French can be found [here](#), or at the bottom of this page. The translated version of the report in English is available [here](#).**

2. **In 2022, CERC established 150 Integrity Clubs in secondary schools and trained 2250 schoolchildren in integrity-building mechanisms:** By establishing Integrity Clubs and empowering students to learn about integrity while monitoring education services, CERC directly supports UNODC's and the UNCAC Coalition's efforts to promote transparency and combat corruption. These clubs not only educate young people about ethical behaviour but also instil a culture of accountability and civic engagement, aligning with the objectives of CERC and of United Nations (SDGs).
3. **From 19 to October 23, 2021, CERC participated in the Anti-Corruption States General organised by the Ministry of Justice and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).** The purpose of the State-General was to diagnose the root causes of corruption in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and propose recommendations for improvements.
4. **In 2021, CERC launched an Innovative Technology for Reporting Corruption and Mismanagement in Education sector:** The using of the EduCheck Mobile App by students to report school issues and fixes enhanced transparency and efficiency in addressing corruption-related concerns in the education sector. This approach aligns with UNODC's emphasis on leveraging technology for anti-corruption measures and supports the UNCAC Coalition's goals of implementing UNCAC provisions effectively through innovative solutions.
5. **In 2023, CERC developed of CitizenEye Mobile App:** The creation of the CitizenEye Mobile App, which allows citizens to report corruption, monitor projects, and engage in advocacy, directly contributes to UNODC's and the UNCAC Coalition's initiatives to empower citizens in combating corruption. This app promotes transparency, accountability, and citizen participation, critical aspects of both organisations' anti-corruption strategies.
6. **In 2023, CERC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with African Parliamentarians Against Corruption to support integrity reforms in public sectors.** By signing a memorandum of understanding with the African Parliamentarians Against Corruption Network (APNAC) and outlining an agenda to reform the education sector, CERC aligns with UNODC's and the UNCAC Coalition's focus on collaboration with governmental and non-governmental entities to address corruption comprehensively. This partnership demonstrates a concerted effort to enact legislative changes that promote integrity and accountability in public sectors, which are central to the goals of both organisations.
7. **In 2023, two multi-stakeholder Consultation Workshops were held in Kinshasa and Bukavu.** Hosting a multi-stakeholder consultation workshop regrouping 97 policymakers to review policies, programs, and curricula related to integrity and anti-corruption in secondary schools reflects CERC's commitment to inclusive and participatory approaches. This collaborative effort engages various stakeholders, including government officials, educators, and NGOs, in shaping anti-corruption strategies and fostering a culture of integrity within educational institutions.

BOXES 5 AND 6

Working with the United Nations



BOX 5

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

CERC Representatives Mr Musa Nzamu (Programme Manager) and Heri Bitamala (CEO) attended the Tenth Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CoSP) virtually, held in Atlanta, United States, from 11 to 15 December 2023. Their contributions focused on discussions regarding the nexus between corruption, financing crime, fueling conflicts in Eastern Congo, and strategies to mitigate these challenges.

BOX 6

Cooperation with United Nations Bodies

In 2021, CERC, in collaboration with the UNCAC Coalition, produced the Civil Society Parallel Report on the implementation of provisions of Chapter II (Preventive Measures) and Chapter V (Asset Recovery) of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) by the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNCAC Coalition. This report significantly contributed to the UNCAC implementation review process in its second cycle.

In 2022, CERC participated in trainings organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the evaluation mechanisms of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

In October 2021, CERC participated in the Anti-Corruption States General, which was organised conjointly by the DRC Ministry of Justice and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The purpose of the State-General was to diagnose the root causes of corruption in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and propose recommendations for improvements.

BOX 7

Initiatives taken in support of the SDGs



BOX 7

Initiatives taken in support of the SDGs

1. CERC's initiatives, aligned with SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), have included inclusive professional training programs for 63 youth leaders from 9 youth-led organisations in Kinshasa, including organisations led by marginalised groups such as LGBTQI individuals and People Living with Disabilities. This holistic approach to skill development equips youth with practical capabilities and fosters inclusivity and empowerment within marginalised communities, contributing to a more equitable and inclusive society.

- 2. CERC has made significant contributions to SDG4 through its various initiatives.** In 2022, CERC established 150 Integrity Clubs in South Kivu and Kinshasa, empowering 2250 students aged 14-19 to learn about integrity and monitor education services in their schools¹. They used our technology tool, “EduCheck”, to report issues and fixes¹. CERC also developed the CitizenEye Mobile App, which allows citizens to report corruption, monitor projects, and engage in advocacy efforts¹.
- 3. In contribution to SDG 16,** In October 2021, CERC participated in the Anti-Corruption States-General, held by the Ministry of Justice. These meetings were organised as part of the “Projet d’Appui à la lutte contre la corruption en République démocratique du Congo” and aimed to make a complete diagnosis of the state of corruption and anti-corruption initiatives, to create a consensus on the priority actions to be taken and the reforms to be undertaken to achieve a significant and sustainable reduction of corruption in the DRC and to define the modalities of implementation as well as the follow-up mechanisms of recommendations from the States-General. Invited as an expert, CERC addressed corruption prevention, integrity education, and the use of technology to promote transparency and accountability in public service delivery.

This report is a testament to CERC’s commitment to the development aims of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations, based on their relevant areas of experience and expertise. We look forward to continuing our contributions and receiving valuable feedback from Member States on our work programme.

¹ cerc.cd/en/consultation-workshop-on-integrity-education-in-secondary-schools



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CERC is a registered non-governmental organisation (NGO) (Registration number: F.92/42579) and given Legal Personality by the Ministry of Justice: JUST/SG/20/21311/2021.

CERC holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

