



Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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Implementation Review Group

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Draft report of the Implementation Review Group on its second resumed ninth session, held in Vienna from 12–14 November 2018

Addendum

III. Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. A representative of the secretariat provided an update on the progress made in the country reviews of the first and second review cycles. She highlighted that, at the time of reporting, 180 States parties under review in the first cycle had submitted their responses to the self-assessment checklist, 172 direct dialogues (158 country visits and 14 joint meetings) had taken place, and 166 executive summaries had been finalized. The finalization of several other executive summaries was imminent.

2. The representative further informed the Group that, under the second review cycle, all 77 States parties under review in the first and second years had nominated their focal points. Also during the first two years of the second cycle, 65 States had submitted responses to the self-assessment checklist and 39 direct dialogues (37 country visits and 2 joint meetings) had taken place, while several other country visits were at various stages of planning. At the time of reporting, 12 executive summaries had been finalized and several additional executive summaries were being completed. Owing to the organization of training events early in the review cycle, the majority of States parties under review in the second and third years of the second cycle had nominated their focal points well before the start of their reviews, and therefore had the opportunity to undertake the early preparation of their self-assessment checklists.

3. Furthermore, the representative of the secretariat drew the attention of the Group to some of the practical challenges encountered by the secretariat in maintaining the list of governmental experts and outlined the proposal of the secretariat on how to best streamline the procedures regarding the nomination of experts, while continuing to ensure the availability of relevant information to States parties, in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Mechanism. Those procedures would include inter alia an invitation to States parties to submit to the secretariat completed, accurate lists of governmental experts in either English or French, which were the working languages of the secretariat. Those lists would then be made available in the form in which they



will have been received. The representative added that a note verbale containing the new detailed guidelines on the submission of nominations would be circulated after the session.

4. One speaker highlighted the key role of the Group in steering the Implementation Review Mechanism and in processing its outcomes. He noted that the meetings of the Group provided an opportunity for collective learning and networking for the anti-corruption community. At the same time, he stressed that the potential of the Group was not fully realized and that the Group could become more focused, interactive and efficient. He referred to a conference room paper on the agenda and the working methods of the Group (CAC/COSP/IRG/2018/CRP.18) that his Government had circulated as a basis for further discussions with the view to building consensus and possibly formulating conclusions. The speaker referred to his Government's proposals to restructure the existing agenda by reordering the items into three clusters, namely procedural, analytical and technical assistance and follow-up measures, while also continuing to provide an opportunity for States to report on measures taken after the completion of country reviews. He also referred to the need to keep the meetings of the Group focused and noted that information on panels and interactive discussions should be provided in advance of the meetings, in order to facilitate the participation of substantive experts. He also called for the development of a new multi-year workplan, which would *inter alia* entail the organization of fewer, yet more focused sessions.

5. Another speaker expressed the view that, since the Group was nearing the end of a decade since its establishment, it was important to examine successes and challenges posed by practices and working methods to date. She noted that the Group should consider preserving those working methods that had proven useful and modify those that were not, while adhering to the Terms of Reference for the Mechanism.

6. A number of speakers expressed the commitment of their Governments to the Mechanism and commended the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its efforts to support the review process, including the organization of training seminars for focal points and governmental experts.

7. One speaker highlighted the complementary of chapters II and V of the Convention, which were under review in the second cycle of the Mechanism and which were crucial to implementing the Convention and to achieving the necessary balance between putting in place effective systems to prevent corruption and recovering the proceeds of Corruption. In this regard, reference was made to the need to use those recovered assets for the purpose of financing sustainable development initiatives. The speaker commended the work and activities of the StAR initiative.

8. Several speakers highlighted the importance of the Convention and of the Mechanism and referred to the positive impact of the fight against corruption at the national, regional and international levels. Several speakers referred to the measures that their Governments had taken to implement the relevant provisions of the Convention. Some speakers stressed the intergovernmental and binding nature of the Mechanism.

9. One speaker acknowledged the efforts made by all States parties and the secretariat in the framework of the Mechanism and encouraged States parties to share lessons learned from the reviews. Referring to the experience of his country's review, he also stressed the value of the diverse mix of reviewing States parties, which enriched the review process, and noted the need to improve the response times by the States parties under review and the reviewing States parties by using, for example, modern information communication technologies. The speaker stressed the importance of promoting synergies between international conventions and mechanisms as well as regional initiatives. He emphasized the need for improving cooperation and coordination, including with other intergovernmental organizations and initiatives, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, reduce costs and improve the mobilization of resources for technical assistance.

10. Some speakers noted the important contribution made by the Convention and its Implementation Review Mechanism to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

11. The Secretary of the Conference expressed his gratitude and welcomed the increased and constant interest of States parties in improving the efficiency and effectiveness as a way to enhance the impact of the Mechanism. He reiterated that in discussions on improving the functioning of the Group there should be no compromise to the quality and depth of the Mechanism, while ensuring strict compliance with the terms of reference for the Mechanism. The Secretary also highlighted that the Mechanism had been exceeding expectations and that it was incumbent on States parties to ensure that it continued to do so. He added that the Conference at its eighth session would begin the discussion of the second phase of the Mechanism, with the final decision expected to be made at the ninth session of the Conference.
