



# Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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## Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance

Vienna, 3 and 4 June 2024

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters pertaining to the review of the  
implementation of the Organized Crime  
Convention**

## Working Group on International Cooperation

Vienna, 5 and 6 June 2024

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*\*

**Legal and practical considerations regarding  
indicative extradition issues in light of the  
anticipated work under the Mechanism for the  
Review of the Implementation of the United  
Nations Convention against Transnational  
Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto**

## Status of the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat

### I. Introduction

1. In October 2018, in its resolution 9/1, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime established the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. The procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism are annexed to that resolution. Following a two-year preparatory phase, the Conference, in its resolution 10/1, launched the review process of the Mechanism. The guidelines for conducting the country reviews are contained in annex I to that resolution.

2. In accordance with paragraph 12 of the procedures and rules, in which it is stated that the Conference of the Parties and its working groups are to add the review process to their agendas as an item consistent with their areas of expertise and without prejudice to their respective existing mandates, an item relating to the review process was added to the agendas of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation at their fifteenth meetings.

3. The present background paper contains an overview of matters relating to the first years of operation of the Mechanism, from October 2020 to February 2024.

\* CTOC/COP/WG.2/2024/1.

\*\* CTOC/COP/WG.3/2024/1.



4. Pursuant to paragraph 12 of the procedures and rules, the review process is to be composed of a general review that will be undertaken in the plenary of the Conference of the Parties and of country reviews that will be conducted through desk reviews. The present update, provided by the secretariat to the Working Groups, is focused on the progress of the country reviews.

## II. Preparatory work and pairing of participating parties

5. A total of 189 parties are taking part in the Mechanism: 188 States and one regional organization. Their engagement in the country reviews has been gradual, with one third of the reviews starting each year over a period of three years, from 2020 to 2022.

### A. Drawing of lots

6. Pursuant to paragraphs 17 and 28 of the procedures and rules, the parties were divided into three groups to start their reviews in a staggered manner over three consecutive years. The selection of parties participating in the country reviews and their reviewing peers was carried out by a drawing of lots at relevant joint intersessional meetings of the working groups of the Conference of the Parties, held without interpretation services, at the beginning of the review process. The pairing of States parties is valid for the entire duration of the review process, unless a party requests a redraw. States parties may request that the drawing of lots be repeated up to four times.

7. As a result of the drawing of lots, 130 parties were selected to participate in 62 reviews as part of the first group, 131 parties were selected to participate in 63 reviews as part of the second group and 134 parties were selected to participate in 64 reviews as part of the third group. Following a request by some States parties to repeat the drawing of lots in accordance with subparagraphs 28 (d) and (f) of the procedures and rules, the secretariat organized five joint intersessional meetings of the working groups for the purpose of repeating the drawing of lots.

8. The updated results of the drawing of lots have been circulated to States parties and can be found on the website of the Mechanism.<sup>1</sup>

9. Since the launch of the review process, two States have become parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>2</sup> and eight States parties to the Convention have become parties to the Protocols thereto.<sup>3</sup>

10. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of the procedures and rules, the Mechanism is applicable to all States parties to the Convention and to each of the Protocols. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the approach to be taken for the inclusion of new parties in the Mechanism, such as the timeline for the completion of country reviews by new parties and matters relating to country pairings.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/home.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/home.html).

<sup>2</sup> Bhutan and South Sudan acceded to the Convention on 20 February 2023 and 20 October 2023, respectively.

<sup>3</sup> Andorra acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, on 21 September 2022; Bhutan acceded to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol on 20 February 2023; Chad acceded to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air on 23 September 2022; China ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition on 19 December 2023; Comoros acceded to the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol on 15 December 2020 and acceded to the Firearms Protocol on 4 June 2021; Germany ratified the Firearms Protocol on 14 October 2021; Luxembourg ratified the Firearms Protocol on 9 May 2022; and Pakistan acceded to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol on 4 November 2022.

## B. Status of nominations

11. Pursuant to paragraph 18 of the procedures and rules and paragraph 5 of the guidelines for conducting the country reviews, the nomination of focal points and governmental experts represents the first essential step towards allowing a country review to commence. Each State party is to appoint, within two weeks of the start of the review, a focal point to coordinate its participation in the review.

12. As at 29 February 2024, the secretariat had received the nominations of 172 focal points from 162 States parties; 53 focal points (30.8 per cent) were women. The majority of the focal points were affiliated with the respective country's ministry of foreign affairs (48 per cent), while 36 per cent were affiliated with the ministry of justice and 16 per cent with the ministry of the interior.

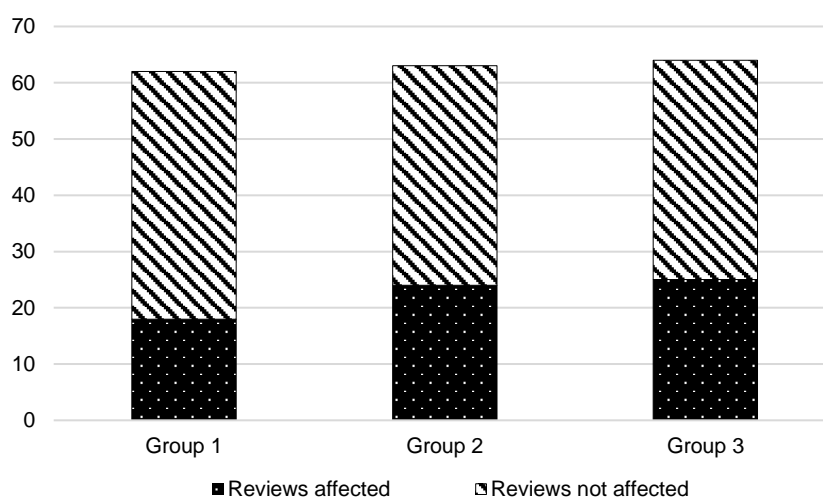
13. Among the parties that nominated focal points, most nominated only one focal point to coordinate their participation in all country reviews, while 5 per cent (eight States parties) nominated more than one focal point, generally one for their own country review and another for their role as a reviewer in other reviews.

14. A total of 41.3 per cent (67 out of 162) of the States parties that had already nominated a focal point have changed their focal points at least once since their engagement in the review process. In some cases, such substitutions delayed the progress of the reviews, while in other cases they helped to advance reviews that were not progressing because of unresponsive previous focal points. In cases of substitution, the internal handover of responsibilities among focal points and timely communication through permanent missions are key to preventing further delays in the progress of the country reviews affected by such changes.

15. As at 29 February 2024, of the 189 parties participating in the Mechanism, 14.2 per cent (27 States parties) had not yet nominated their focal points. The pending nominations by those 27 States parties have affected the commencement of 67 country reviews. Despite the decreasing number of pending nominations, at the time of reporting, a total of 116 country reviews had not yet commenced, including 49 country reviews that were still awaiting the holding of the preliminary consultation meeting owing to unresponsive focal points. In that regard, the secretariat has continued to follow up and send out reminders through all available channels.

16. Figure I shows the number of reviews within each group that are affected by pending nominations.

Figure I  
**Reviews affected by the pending nominations of focal points**



17. Special efforts have been made by the secretariat to follow up with States parties on the pending nominations by contacting and holding briefings for permanent missions and reaching out to relevant national counterparts through the field offices

of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as needed. Additional efforts have been undertaken by the President of the Conference of the Parties to remind States parties to adhere to their obligation to nominate focal points and governmental experts for the review process in a timely manner.

18. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the guidelines for conducting the country reviews, States parties should also designate, within four weeks of the start of their participation in the review process, governmental experts to carry out the country review. As at 29 February 2024, 1,006 governmental experts (of which 391, or 33.9 per cent, were women) had been nominated by States parties to take part in the review process.

19. In addition, 15 States parties had nominated observers as at 29 February 2024. Observers are individuals designated by States parties in the context of their own country reviews who are granted read-only access to the online platform “RevMod”, the secure module of the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal, that is, access without the possibility of performing any actions or modifying any content.

20. General information on the appointed focal points is available in the country profiles section<sup>4</sup> of the website of the Mechanism, and the contact details of focal points and governmental experts are available to registered users on the “RevMod” platform.

### **III. Progress of the review of the first thematic cluster**

21. In its resolution 9/1, the Conference of the Parties decided that the Mechanism would progressively address all the articles of the Convention and the Protocols thereto. To facilitate that approach, the articles have been structured into four thematic clusters. The review of the implementation of each cluster was set to last for two years, which is regarded as a review phase. The first thematic cluster under review includes the provisions pertaining to criminalization and jurisdiction of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

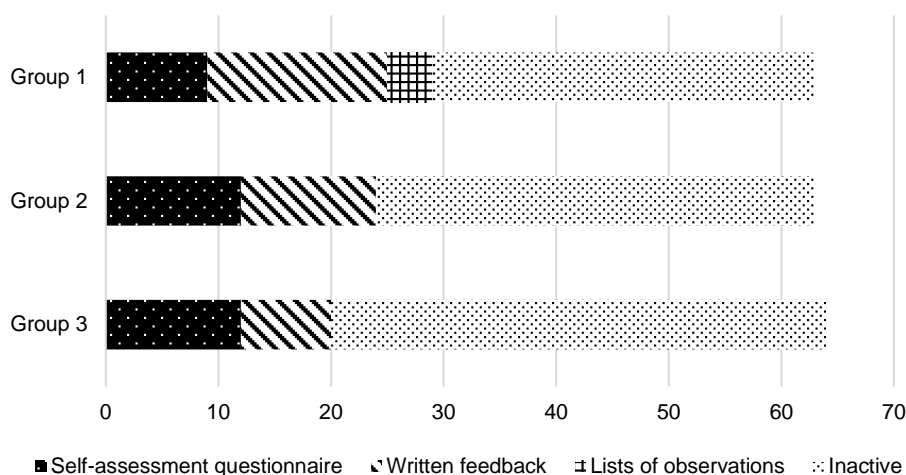
22. In accordance with the multi-year workplan for the functioning of the Mechanism and the guidelines for conducting the country reviews, all three groups of participating parties had started, by November 2022, their country reviews of the implementation of the articles included in the first thematic cluster: the first group started on 1 December 2020, the second group on 1 November 2021 and the third group on 1 November 2022.

23. As at 29 February 2024, only 73 out of 189 reviews were advancing. Thirty-three reviews had reached the stage of preparation of answers to the self-assessment questionnaire, 36 reviews were at the stage of written feedback and 4 reviews had reached the stage of drafting lists of observations, as illustrated in figure II.

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<sup>4</sup> Available at [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/country-profile.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/country-profile.html).

Figure II  
Status of country reviews, by group



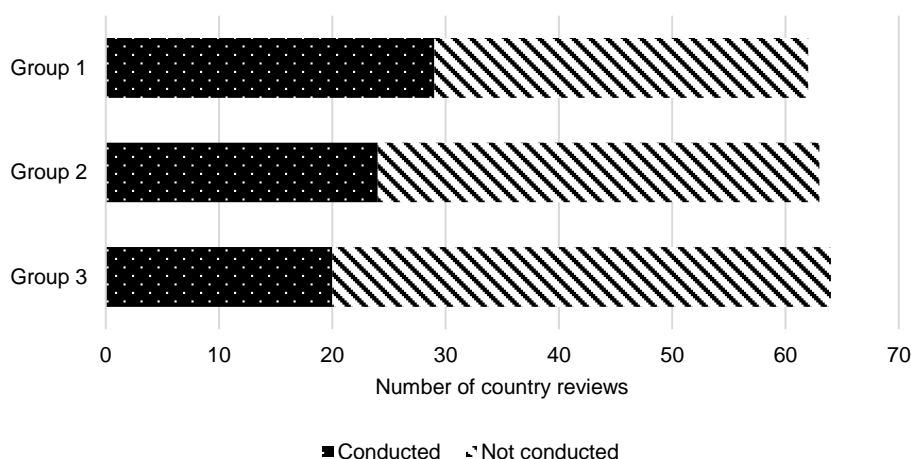
24. According to the timeline for each review phase contained in the procedures and rules, the first group of States parties under review was due to have concluded its first review phase within two years, namely, by December 2022. However, at the time of reporting, none of the States parties had concluded their country reviews under the first thematic cluster.

25. In order to start the review of the next thematic cluster, which will be focused on international cooperation, mutual legal assistance and confiscation (fourth thematic cluster), 70 per cent of the reviews in the first group must be completed, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

### A. Initial and preparatory steps of a country review

26. Once the three focal points involved in a country review, one for the State party under review and the other two for the two reviewing States parties, are nominated, the State party under review is to undertake consultations with the reviewing States on the establishment of time frames and the requirements of the country review. In this regard, as at 29 February 2024, only 38.6 per cent of all country reviews (73 in total, mostly in the first group) had been initiated through a preliminary consultation among the parties involved, as shown in figure III, despite multiple attempts by the secretariat to facilitate the organization of such meetings.

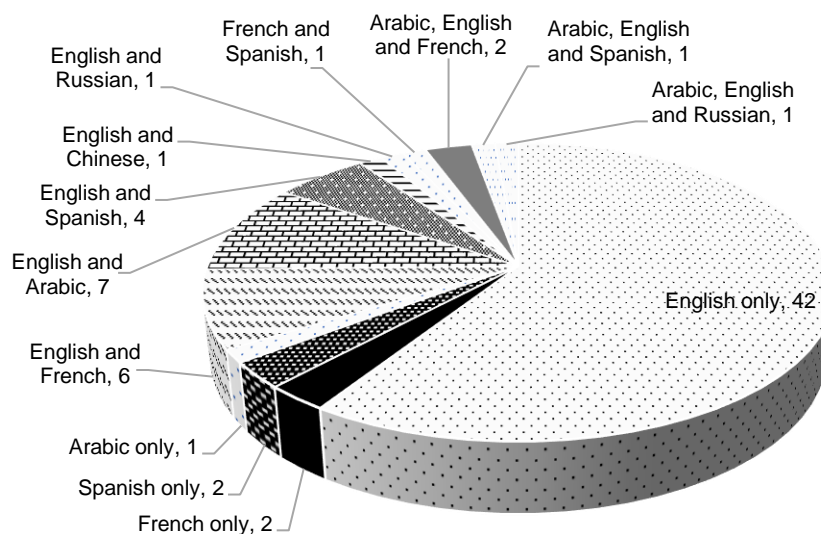
Figure III  
Number of country reviews for which preliminary consultations have been conducted



27. At the start of each country review, the parties concerned agree during the above-mentioned preliminary consultations on the languages of the review, considering that, pursuant to paragraph 50 of the procedures and rules, one, two or, in exceptional circumstances, three of the six working languages of the Mechanism may be used.

28. As at 29 February 2024, States parties had agreed on the use of only one language in the majority of the preliminary consultation meetings that were held (47 reviews, or 64.3 per cent of the total). Forty-two reviews were to be conducted in English, two in French, two in Spanish and one in Arabic. In four cases, parties agreed to conduct the review in three languages (from among Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish) and, in the remaining preliminary consultation meetings, States parties agreed on the use of two languages. Six of those reviews were to be conducted in English and French, seven in Arabic and English, four in English and Spanish, one in English and Russian, one in Chinese and English and one in French and Spanish. In two cases, States were unable to reach an agreement on the languages to be used in the review and a decision in this regard is still pending. Figure IV illustrates the languages selected for the reviews.

Figure IV  
**Languages selected for the reviews**



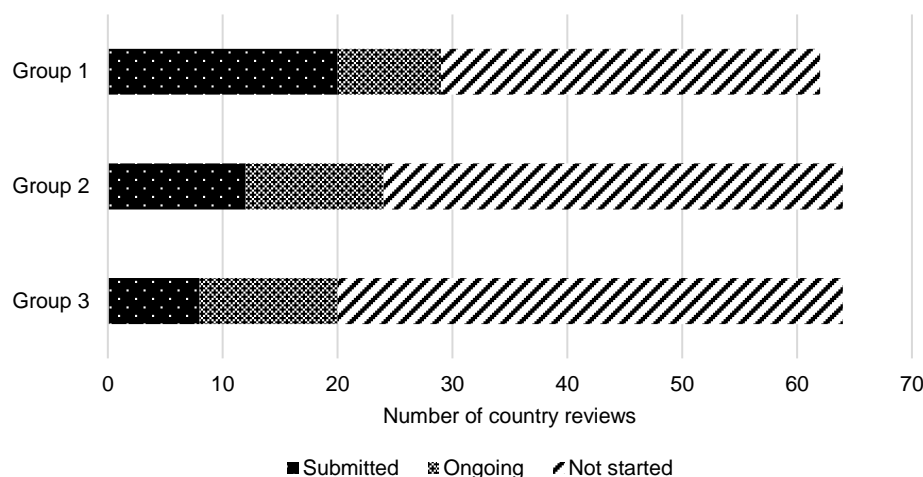
29. In a few other country reviews, parties were either still discussing the working language or languages to adopt or failed to do so owing to a lack of resources available to facilitate the translation of written input.

## B. Self-assessment questionnaires

30. In accordance with paragraph 34 of the procedures and rules, each State party under review is to provide to its reviewers its responses to the self-assessment questionnaire within a reasonable time frame, not exceeding six months.

31. According to the indicative timeline contained in the guidelines for conducting the country reviews, by the time of reporting, all self-assessment questionnaires for the reviews of the implementation of the first cluster should have been completed. However, only 40 parties under review had completed and submitted their questionnaires. In addition, 33 parties are currently in the process of preparing their responses to the self-assessment questionnaires. Coordination and information-gathering challenges, clearance processes and the “digital gap” were cited by focal points as common reasons for delay. Figure V reflects the progress of country reviews in each group with regard to the self-assessment questionnaires.

Figure V  
State of progress of the self-assessment questionnaires, by group



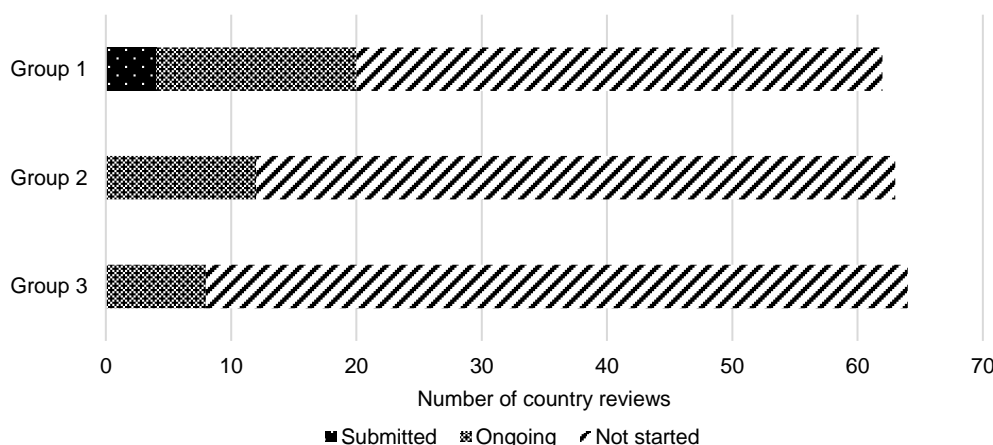
32. To address those challenges, strengthen cooperation and provide learning opportunities for and among States parties, the secretariat made the responses to the self-assessment questionnaires available to participating parties through the “RevMod” platform, in accordance with paragraph 40 of the procedures and rules. In addition, at the participating parties’ request, the responses may be shared publicly in the country profiles section of the website of the Mechanism.

### C. Written feedback

33. Pursuant to paragraph 35 of the procedures and rules, the two reviewing States parties are to submit to the State party under review their written feedback on the measures taken to implement the provisions under review, including successes and challenges in implementation, within a reasonable time frame not exceeding six months from receipt of the responses to the self-assessment questionnaires. The reviewing States parties are to work jointly to conduct this stage of the review. To facilitate their smooth collaboration, the secretariat routinely suggests that they discuss the possible distribution of tasks at the inception of the review and that they inform all parties if foreseen delays require an extension of the timelines.

34. As at 29 February 2024, out of the 73 active reviews, 36 had reached the stage of written feedback, and only 4 reviews had concluded that stage, as shown in figure VI.

Figure VI  
State of progress of written feedback, by group



#### **D. Lists of observations and summaries of lists of observations**

35. Each country review concludes with the preparation and publication of a list of observations on the implementation of the articles included in the thematic cluster under review and a summary of the list of observations. The reviewing States, in close cooperation and coordination with the State party under review, and with the assistance of the secretariat, are to prepare such lists indicating any gaps and challenges in the implementation of the provisions under review, best practices, suggestions and any technical assistance needs identified with a view to improving the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

36. As at 29 February 2024, no lists of observations had been finalized, despite the presumption under the indicative timeline contained in the guidelines for conducting the country reviews that the first group would have concluded the lists of observations and their summaries by the end of May 2022 and the second group by the end of April 2023. At the time of reporting, only 4 out of 62 country reviews in the first group had reached the stage of finalizing the lists of observations.

37. As a result, it has not been possible to hold the thematic discussions envisaged for the working groups of the Conference of the Parties or to refer to the lists of observations in preparing recommendations for the Conference, as indicated in the procedures and rules. In addition, at the time of reporting, no technical assistance needs had been identified.

#### **IV. Support provided by the secretariat**

38. In accordance with paragraph 54 of the procedures and rules, the Mechanism is funded under a mixed funding model combining the existing resources of the regular budget allocated to the Conference of the Parties with voluntary contributions. UNODC, as requested by the Conference in the procedures and rules, established the Global Programme to Support the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto to manage voluntary contributions to the Mechanism that ensure its effective operation, including through the provision of secretariat services and support that are not covered by the existing regular budget.

39. The secretariat has continued to provide support for the country reviews at each stage, including by systematically following up with permanent missions and focal points, providing technical guidance on the review process and its requirements, facilitating communication and meetings among parties, monitoring the progress of the reviews according to the agreed timelines and languages and advising on the effective use of the “RevMod” platform. Upon request, the secretariat has also provided general guidance on the completion of the written feedback to several reviewing States.

40. The secretariat has continued exploring synergies with other UNODC functions to facilitate the in-person exchange of information and capacity-building. As at 29 February 2024, the secretariat had participated in a total of seven activities at the national and regional levels, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia (January 2022), Mexico (May 2022), Côte d’Ivoire (September 2022), Pakistan (September 2022), Kenya (August 2023) and North Macedonia (January 2024).

41. The secretariat has also continued to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices acquired by focal points from conducting the country reviews. In that regard, high-level side events were held on the margins of relevant intergovernmental meetings, involving the participation of government representatives, intergovernmental organizations, criminal justice practitioners and civil society stakeholders.

42. In February 2024, the secretariat organized a briefing on the functioning of the Mechanism that was attended by 193 representatives from permanent missions to the



United Nations (Vienna) and focal points and governmental experts from a total of 89 States Members of the United Nations. At the event, the secretariat provided information on the status of the review process, giving both a global overview and five regional snapshots, and highlighted the achievements and challenges encountered so far in the process. Examples of collaboration with other UNODC global programmes and with UNODC field and liaison offices were also presented, to underline the synergies that the secretariat has been developing to further strengthen its capacity to support States parties in the context of the Mechanism. During the briefing, Member State representatives participated in a voluntary feedback survey on their assistance needs with regard to their participation in the Mechanism. The secretariat received a total of 69 requests by 16 Member States, as follows: 15 requests for general training on the aspects and stages of the Mechanism to facilitate a better understanding and involvement in the process; 15 requests for training on the use of the “RevMod” platform; 10 requests for regular briefings on the status of the Mechanism; 9 requests for focused training on the self-assessment questionnaires on the Convention and the Protocols thereto; 9 requests for facilitation of coordination and communication with counterparts; 8 requests for support in filling out the self-assessment questionnaires; and 3 requests for assistance on other aspects.

## **A. Training and capacity-building**

43. Since 2020, UNODC has provided briefings and training to 3,236 government officials from 153 States parties, in the six official languages of the United Nations and in Portuguese, through the Global Programme to Support the Mechanism. Focal points and governmental experts of States parties under review and reviewing States parties have thus had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the methodology of the review process and the use of the “RevMod” platform.

44. Focal points and governmental experts have been provided with assistance in setting up their accounts to access the “RevMod” platform and have been advised on substantive and procedural aspects of the review process.

## **B. Tools, resources and new features of the “RevMod” platform**

45. To support focal points and governmental experts in the review process, many resources<sup>5</sup> have been developed and made available by UNODC, in particular:

(a) An e-learning module on the Mechanism and the use of the “RevMod” platform, in all official languages of the United Nations;

(b) Manuals on the use of the “RevMod” platform for focal points and governmental experts;

(c) A guide for focal points on preparing for the preliminary consultation meeting;

(d) A compendium of basic documents that provides comprehensive information on the functioning of the Mechanism, available in all official languages of the United Nations;

(e) A collection of recommendations on the Mechanism made by the working groups of the Conference of the Parties and a collection of observations by the Chairs of the constructive dialogues on the review process.

46. In addition, UNODC provided focal points and governmental experts with access to a range of tools and materials developed by the Office relating to the interpretation and implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the

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<sup>5</sup> Available at [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/resources.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/resources.html).

Protocols thereto, including model legislative provisions, model laws and legislative guides for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

47. In response to relevant requests by and comments from focal points, a new email notification system was deployed in “RevMod” through which regular emails, containing information on new developments in the various review stages, and monthly emails, containing summaries of recent developments, are sent to facilitate the work of focal points and governmental experts.

48. In response to relevant requests and comments made during meetings of the working groups of the Conference of the Parties, a new function entitled “Submissions” was introduced in “RevMod”, enabling users to download completed self-assessment questionnaires that have already been submitted and lists of observations and their summaries once they have been submitted and are available.

49. To enhance its capacity to analyse information and to produce statistics for the preparation of mandated reports, the secretariat added a new statistics function to “RevMod”. The function, only available to the secretariat, enables the production of basic quantitative data analysis on the responses to the self-assessment questionnaires provided by States parties under review.

50. To uphold multilingualism in the framework of the Mechanism’s working languages, support from the secretariat in the form of automated machine translation was made available to focal points who requested it, as an interim solution to address the need of some States parties for working translations of documents generated in the country review process, mainly the responses to the self-assessment questionnaires, the written feedback and the lists of observations. The solution allows for unofficial translation into all official languages of the United Nations. To date, the secretariat has responded to one such request, facilitating the translation of a self-assessment questionnaire from English into French.

## **V. Constructive dialogues and engagement with relevant stakeholders**

### **A. Constructive dialogues**

51. To promote fruitful engagement with relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, constructive dialogues on the review process were held with relevant stakeholders after the conclusion of the meetings of the working groups of the Conference of the Parties. The first series of constructive dialogues on the review process, held in a hybrid format without interpretation in 2022, was attended by more than 200 non-governmental stakeholders, representing non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector, States parties, signatories, non-signatories and intergovernmental organizations. The summaries by the Chairs of the constructive dialogues were made available to the Conference of the Parties as a conference room paper.<sup>6</sup> The second series of constructive dialogues, held in 2023, was attended by 328 non-governmental stakeholders, representing 299 non-governmental organizations, 15 academic institutions and 14 private sector entities, as well as representatives of 72 Member States and one intergovernmental organization.

52. In 2023, the Chair (or Co-Chairs, as applicable) of the constructive dialogues started recording observations deriving from the discussions held in their summaries of the meetings.

53. In the 22 observations recorded in 2023, the Chair (or Co-Chairs) highlighted several important aspects related to multi-stakeholder collaboration in the responses to organized crime, including: improving data collection and analysis related to the impact of organized crime into societies; leveraging emerging technologies such as

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<sup>6</sup> CTOC/COP/2022/CRP.3.

artificial intelligence in mapping and identifying victims of crime; prioritizing human rights and victim protection in combating organized crime; and increasing efforts to provide education, foster entrepreneurship opportunities and create employment for youth, thus contributing to the reduction of crime.

## **B. Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders**

54. UNODC supports the building of capacity of non-governmental stakeholders for their constructive engagement in the review process through its stakeholder engagement project for the Convention, the Mechanism and related activities, known as “SE4U”, in line with paragraph 53 of the procedures and rules.

55. At the time of reporting, more than 2,500 non-governmental stakeholders from 134 countries had been trained on the review process and avenues for cooperation with Member States through workshops, self-paced online courses and additional materials.<sup>7</sup> To facilitate cooperation and networking among relevant non-governmental stakeholders working on combating organized crime and corruption, the multi-stakeholder knowledge hub “WhatsOn” was developed as part of the SE4U project, and currently has 533 members working in 136 countries.

56. As at 29 February 2024, UNODC had facilitated the launch of three government-led multi-stakeholder engagement processes, known as “voluntary pilot initiatives”, in three countries (Kenya, Mexico and Pakistan), with the agreement of the parties under review, to encourage the participation of non-governmental stakeholders in the country reviews, in accordance with paragraph 23 of the procedures and rules.

## **VI. Topics for consideration**

57. Building on relevant discussions as reflected in the reports on the meetings of the working groups of the Conference of the Parties held to date, the Working Groups may wish to focus their deliberations on the following topics:

(a) Sharing, in accordance with paragraph 42 of the procedures and rules, good practices and experiences related to the completion of the self-assessment questionnaires;

(b) Identifying practices to promote the in-person participation of focal points and governmental experts at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its working groups to share information on good practices and challenges related to the review process, in accordance with the guiding principles of the Mechanism;

(c) Identifying challenges and possible responses to enable the timely completion of each step of the country reviews and for progressing from the first thematic cluster to the following ones;

(d) Identifying practices to ensure the timely participation of all States parties involved in the review process;

(e) Identifying and responding to technical assistance and capacity-building needs in relation to the functioning of the Mechanism;

(f) Ensuring or facilitating multilingualism in the work relating to the review process, including the constructive dialogues;

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<sup>7</sup> See, for example, UNODC, *Toolkit on Stakeholder Engagement: Implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)* (Vienna, 2020); and UNODC, *Guide for Civil Society Community Engagement with the UNTOC Review Mechanism* (Vienna, 2020).

(g) Sharing national experiences, including challenges and lessons learned, on the review of the implementation of the articles included in the first thematic cluster on criminalization and jurisdiction;

(h) Considering the modality of participation in the review process by parties to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto that acceded after the establishment of the Mechanism;

(i) Collaborating with non-governmental stakeholders, in particular as related to their engagement in the preparation of the responses to the self-assessment questionnaires;

(j) Ensuring the continued operation of the Mechanism, including to facilitate the implementation of the observations emanating from the completed country reviews.

## VII. Follow-up and possible recommendations

58. As of 2023, under the standing agenda item on the Mechanism, States parties had adopted 16 recommendations at the meetings of the working groups.

59. In the recommendations adopted to date, States parties highlighted, among other things: the urgent need to promptly nominate focal points and governmental experts; the need to adhere to the agreed timeline for the review process; the possibility of sharing States parties' technical assistance needs related to the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the progress made in their country reviews; and the need to address challenges related to the use of multiple languages and to the translation of documentation. In addition, States parties encouraged the provision of voluntary contributions to UNODC in order to ensure the availability of adequate financial, technical and human resources to effectively support the participation of all parties in the Mechanism. Moreover, States parties invited the secretariat to organize regular briefings on the status of the Mechanism.

60. The Working Group may wish to make the following recommendations:

(a) States parties should strengthen their efforts to observe the timetable for the review process, including by ensuring the responsiveness of focal points and their continued engagement;

(b) States parties are encouraged to consider appointing focal points and governmental experts with knowledge of the working languages of the Mechanism to facilitate communication with counterparts, with a view to ensuring the timely conduct of the review process;

(c) States parties should ensure that the nominated focal points and governmental experts perform their duties in a timely manner and should provide for the necessary handover of functions in cases of substitution to facilitate the advancement of the process without delays;

(d) States parties should consider publishing their responses to the self-assessment questionnaire, the ensuing dialogue and additional documentation, or parts thereof, in the country profiles section of the website of the Mechanism, in accordance with paragraph 41 of the procedures and rules;

(e) States parties should be encouraged to share good practices and experiences with regard to the exercise of completing the questionnaires, in accordance with paragraph 42 of the procedures and rules;

(f) To support the States parties under review and promote consistency across country reviews, UNODC should develop guidance to support the completion of the self-assessment questionnaires;

(g) UNODC should support the collection of relevant information on good practices, experiences and methodology adopted by reviewing States in preparing the

written feedback, to develop guidance to ensure the efficient progress of country reviews;

(h) States parties should be encouraged to facilitate the in-person participation of focal points and governmental experts in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its working groups to exchange good practices and challenges related to the review process, in accordance with the guiding principles of the Mechanism;

(i) UNODC should facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among States parties through their participation in the review process, including through continued efforts to deliver training and capacity-building sessions at the regional and national levels, subject to the availability of resources;

(j) States parties should consider setting up modalities for the participation of new parties to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto;

(k) States parties should consider enhancing collaboration with non-governmental stakeholders, in particular grass-roots organizations, in collecting and analysing relevant data and in designing responses to organized crime that place the rights of victims at their core;

(l) States parties should consider making voluntary contributions to UNODC to ensure adequate, predictable and stable resources for the operation of the Mechanism and its secretariat, as envisioned in the procedures and rules, and address additional requests for assistance and support in the process;

(m) UNODC should continue enhancing the functionalities of the “RevMod” platform to improve its accessibility by focal points and governmental experts and to unlock its full capacity in data collection and analysis and strengthening information-sharing and international cooperation against organized crime, subject to the availability of resources.

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