



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

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## Implementation Review Group

### Eighth session

Vienna, 19-23 June 2017

## Draft report

### I. Introduction

1. The Implementation Review Group was established by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in its resolution 3/1, entitled “Review mechanism”, as an open-ended intergovernmental group of States parties to operate under its authority and report to it. The Group is to have an overview of the review process in order to identify challenges and good practices and to consider technical assistance requirements in order to ensure effective implementation of the Convention.

### II. Organization of the meeting

#### A. Opening of the meeting

2. The Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption held its eighth session in Vienna from 19 to 23 June 2017.

3. The first, second, fourth and fifth meetings of the Implementation Review Group were chaired by Alexander Konovalov (Russian Federation). The third, sixth to tenth meetings were chaired by Andrés Lamoliatte Vargas (Chile).

4. In the opening statement, the Secretariat of the Conference noted that, with 156 executive summaries finalized, the Group was in a position to draw on broad and comprehensive information on the implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention. In line with the multi-year workplan adopted by the Group at its resumed seventh session, the focus of the Group’s work during its eighth session was on chapter III (Criminalization and law enforcement) of the Convention. To facilitate the Group’s deliberations, various panels in this regard had been organized. With regard to the first review cycle, key issues for the Group’s consideration at its eighth session included information on the substantive outcome of the first cycle reviews in relation to chapter III of the Convention, information shared on good practices, experiences and relevant measures taken after the completion of the country review reports, and information on technical assistance related to the implementation of chapter III of the Convention. With regard to the second review cycle, the Secretariat underscored that many States parties under review in the first year of the second cycle had already held country visits or joint meetings, and drew the Group’s attention to the preliminary outcome of the drawing of lots for the second year of the second cycle.



5. The representative of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine. The speaker emphasized the severe threat posed by corruption to democracy, good governance, fair competition and the rule of law, which was recognized in Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and echoed in the Doha Declaration of 2015. Furthermore, the speaker welcomed the outcomes of the Anti-Corruption Summit held in London in 2016 and the Initiative to Raise Global Awareness of Foreign Bribery. The speaker commended the ongoing work of the second review cycle and stressed the continued need for transparency, inclusiveness and cost-efficiency. She also welcomed the steps taken by UNODC with regard to enhancing synergies with the secretariats of other anti-corruption review mechanisms and reiterated the European Union's call for making optimal use of all available information and expertise. In this regard, the speaker called for more effective involvement of civil society in the second review cycle. Furthermore, the speaker provided information on the measures taken by the European Union to better address identification issues of beneficial ownership and due diligence and protect whistle-blowers. To conclude, the speaker highlighted the contributions made by the European Union and its Member States to the technical assistance and capacity-building work of UNODC.

## **B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

6. On 19 June, the Implementation Review Group adopted the following agenda as amended:

1. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Opening of the session;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
3. Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
4. Technical assistance.
5. Financial and budgetary matters.
6. Other matters.
7. Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Implementation Review Group.
8. Adoption of the report of the Implementation Review Group on its eighth session.

## **C. Attendance**

7. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting of the Implementation Review Group: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania,

Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

8. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, was represented at the meeting.

9. In accordance with Rule 1 of resolution 4/5 entitled “Participation of signatories, non-signatories, entities and intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Implementation Review Group”, the Conference decided that States signatories shall be entitled to participate in the Implementation Review Group.

10. The following State signatory to the Convention was represented: Japan.

11. In accordance with Rule 2 of resolution 4/5, the Conference decided that intergovernmental organizations, Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system may be invited to participate in the sessions of the Implementation Review Group.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: International Anti-Corruption Academy, League of Arab States, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, the World Customs Organization.

13. The following Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented by observers: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

14. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, an entity maintaining a permanent observer office at Headquarters, was represented.