



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

Distr.: Limited  
23 June 2017

Original: English

---

## Implementation Review Group

### Eighth session

Vienna, 19-23 June 2017

## Draft report

### Addendum

## V. Technical assistance

1. The secretariat provided a general overview of how the Mechanism had impacted the provision of technical assistance by defining needs and creating new opportunities for technical cooperation. The continued importance of the provision of technical assistance to support the efforts of States parties to implement the recommendations of the reviews was stressed.

2. The secretariat provided an oral update on the technical assistance needs identified in the country reviews that had been finalized since the resumed seventh session of the Group. Technical assistance needs had been identified in 15 of the 19 recently completed executive summaries. The secretariat also provided an analysis of the overall technical assistance needs identified in the first cycle of reviews. A total of 105 out of the 156 States parties that had concluded their reviews identified technical assistance needs, which were categorized by article of the Convention and type of technical assistance required. The secretariat noted a continuing need for resources to meet this rising demand for technical assistance globally and to address the growing technical assistance gap.

3. The secretariat also provided an overview of the technical assistance provided by UNODC at the global, regional and national levels, including through its network of regional and country-based anti-corruption advisers. The role of UNODC was underlined as both a provider of technical assistance to address the outcome of the review process and a facilitator to match the needs identified in the reviews with technical assistance providers other than UNODC, in order to maximize both the sustainability and impact of the technical assistance provided. The secretariat reported that the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative had developed tools to support efforts to recover stolen assets and provided country-level assistance for legislative drafting, case support, the establishment of asset recovery units and training and capacity-building on financial investigations, asset tracing and asset disclosures.

4. In order to facilitate deliberations on the matter, a discussion panel brought together panellists from States parties that had received technical assistance in support of the implementation of the Convention.



5. A panellist from El Salvador informed the Group that technical assistance addressed the priorities identified through the review process, and had been provided by UNODC and other assistance providers. Progress made included the revision and adoption of relevant legislation, strengthened cooperation between investigative and judicial bodies and increased capacity of law enforcement to detect and investigate corruption. Progress had also been achieved through more active oversight and review of declarations of assets by public officials, public awareness and outreach campaigns, and the adoption of measures to protect whistle-blowers, clarify extradition procedures, activate mutual legal assistance and enhance the seizure, confiscation and forfeiture of proceeds of crime. It was reported that the impact of the technical assistance provided and measures taken included a significant increase in the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences and other serious criminal activity. Additional technical assistance needs still outstanding included the conduct of financial investigations and the use of special investigative techniques in corruption cases.

6. A panellist from Viet Nam highlighted how technical assistance had been provided by UNODC and other assistance providers to strengthen implementation of the Convention in line with the needs identified through the review process. It was reported that technical assistance focused on revisions to the Penal Code and the Law on Anti-Corruption, strengthening policies and measures to prevent corruption, oversight and inspection of asset declarations, and building capacities to investigate and prosecute corruption cases. In addition, it was reported that measures were taken to encourage the participation of civil society in the prevention and detection of corruption. Other measures were taken with the support of assistance providers to better monitor and report on the instances of corruption, establish internal coordination mechanisms, and strengthen the role of non-state actors in countering corruption. It was reported that additional measures to strengthen international cooperation and mutual legal assistance were planned for future implementation.

7. Speakers highlighted the importance of the Convention as the basis for anti-corruption efforts and noted that technical assistance was a vital component of the Convention and the Review Mechanism. Several speakers underlined their preparations for the second review cycle, requesting training to prepare for the upcoming reviews and technical assistance in relation to prevention and asset recovery. One speaker stated that it would be beneficial for States parties under review and reviewing States parties if UNODC could provide assistance to help governmental experts to familiarize themselves with the self-assessment checklist and associated guidance notes.

8. Speakers confirmed the need for country-led and country-based technical assistance to address the outcomes of the review process, and thanked UNODC and other assistance providers, including the StAR Initiative, for their support to the delivery of technical assistance. Several speakers highlighted current technical assistance needs in forensic accounting, financial investigations, the use of special investigative techniques, international cooperation and asset recovery, and further expressed the hope that sufficient resources would be made available to UNODC to bridge the technical assistance gap that continued to increase. Some speakers raised concerns regarding the number of instances of technical assistance remaining to be met from the first review cycle, and the likelihood that many new requests for technical assistance would emanate from the second review cycle.

9. Speakers recognized the importance of individual country review reports to develop prioritized and strategic national reform processes. Some speakers suggested adopting detailed implementation plans that would serve as a reference point to technical assistance providers and would help coordinate efforts, promote synergies and avoid overlap and duplication. Such implementation plans also served to support the monitoring and evaluation of the progress and effectiveness of technical assistance, which in turn ensured that measures taken both reduced the instances of corruption and also supported broader national strategies regarding sustainable development.

10. Speakers gave examples of their countries' reform efforts in response to the recommendations from the completed reviews. Those included the development of anti-corruption strategies, action plans, legislative drafting and implementation, capacity-building for investigators and prosecutors, public awareness campaigns, the use of special investigative techniques and strengthened mechanisms for asset confiscation and recovery. Several speakers noted the importance of participating in and hosting study tours of corruption experts and practitioners as a means for sharing good practices at the regional and international levels.

11. It was reported that several States parties were providing technical assistance on a bilateral and regional basis. Speakers noted the importance of sharing technical assistance needs and planned activities among all assistance providers to strengthen cooperation and encourage peer-to-peer learning, South-South cooperation and the sharing of good practices. The need for discussions on technical assistance to address a number of practical issues including assistance programming cycles and processes, whether decisions on funding were made at the local or central level, and whether thematic and geographic priorities for the provision of technical assistance were based on needs of recipient countries was highlighted. Speakers also underlined the importance of the evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of technical assistance delivered.

12. A representative of the International Anti-Corruption Academy reported on its educational programmes and activities to provide technical assistance to States parties in the implementation of the Convention.

---