



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

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Intergovernmental expert group established in accordance with Conference resolution 9/1

Vienna, 13–15 July 2020

Draft report

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 9/1, entitled “Establishment of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to convene, within existing resources, at least one meeting of an open-ended intergovernmental expert group for the purpose of finalizing and harmonizing, as necessary, the self-assessment questionnaires and preparing the guidelines for conducting the country reviews and a blueprint for the lists of observations and the summaries, referred to in the annex to resolution 9/1. The outcome of the work of the intergovernmental expert group is to be submitted to the Conference for its consideration at its tenth session.

2. In the same resolution, the Conference invited the President of the Conference, with the support of the Bureau, to facilitate the work of the intergovernmental expert group through informal consultations. On 4 December 2018, the President of the Conference invited regional groups to submit nominations for the Chair of the meeting of the intergovernmental expert group established in accordance with Conference resolution 9/1. At its meeting on 13 December 2018, the extended Bureau of the Conference endorsed the nomination of Renaud Sorieul (France) as Chair of the intergovernmental expert group.

3. After the first open-ended intergovernmental meeting, held in Vienna from 9 to 11 October 2019, the extended Bureau agreed, through silence procedure on 28 November 2019, that the second meeting of the intergovernmental expert group would be held in Vienna from 13 to 15 July 2020. On 21 February 2020, the extended Bureau of the Conference approved, also through the silence procedure, the provisional agenda for the second meeting.

II. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

4. The extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties had, in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, approved via silence procedure on 9 July 2020,



that the meeting could be held in a so-called “hybrid/in-person” format with the Chair, a limited number of delegates and the secretariat physically present in the meeting room and all other delegates being connected remotely using an interpretation platform contracted by the United Nations.

5. The meeting was opened on 13 July 2020 by the Chair of the open-ended intergovernmental meeting, Renaud Sorieul (France).

B. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its first meeting, on 13 July 2020, the meeting adopted the following agenda and organization of work, as orally amended. The amendment was due to the hybrid/in-person format and contained reduced meeting times from three to two hours, with the morning meetings scheduled from 12:00 to 14:00 and the afternoon meetings from 16:00 to 18:00.

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Finalization and harmonization of the self-assessment questionnaires for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.
3. Other matters.
4. Adoption of the report.

C. Statements

7. For the purposes of the meeting connecting delegates remotely, the Secretariat used an interpretation platform to facilitate the interpretation into all six official United Nations languages. The platform allowed the assignment of a “speaking & listening role/connection” to 300 participants, while all other participants had only a “listening role/connection”. Delegations had been requested to notify the Secretariat about the distribution of roles (speaking role/listening role) in each delegation when requesting the registration of their delegates through a Note Verbale. In addition, a limited number of delegates were physically present at the meeting, which was accommodated and agreed upon by the extended Bureau in the week before the meeting, based on requests of many Member States.

8. Under agenda item 1, a statement was made by the representative of the State of Palestine, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Inter alia, she commended UNODC for adopting measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic in compliance with the measures of the Austrian Government and welcomed the adoption of the hybrid/in-person meeting format. She called for the expansion of the number of participants from Permanent Missions of States parties beyond the indicated limit of 80, should this be required, subject to the limitations in terms of time for preparation, as well as health, safety and space constraints in the venue and affirmed that any limitation on the number of delegations allowed to participate in-person in a meeting should not set a precedent for any future meetings. Moreover, she underlined the necessity of holding timely and inclusive consultations with Member States regarding the format of any future meetings and to inform Permanent Missions of the format and working methods of such meetings no less than two weeks in advance of every meeting.

9. The representative of Switzerland, a party to the Convention, also made a statement on agenda item 1.

10. Under agenda item 2, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Convention: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Italy, India,

Japan, Russian Federation, Spain, State of Palestine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

11. Also under agenda item 2, a statement was made by the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran, a signatory State.

D. Organization of work

12. At its 1st meeting held on 13 July 2020, the open-ended intergovernmental meeting discussed item 1 of the agenda, entitled “organizational matters” and item 2 of the agenda, entitled “Finalization and harmonization of the self-assessment questionnaires for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.” Under that agenda item, the open-ended intergovernmental meeting discussed the draft self-assessment questionnaires for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto – Clusters I to IV, with a focus on those questions on which there were still pending issues to be agreed upon and marked in brackets.

13. At its 2nd, 3rd and [4th] meetings on 13 and 14 July 2020, the open-ended intergovernmental meeting continued its discussion of agenda item 2.

E. Attendance

14. The following parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen [...].

15. The Islamic Republic of Iran, a signatory State, was represented by observers.

16. A list of participants is contained in document CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/INF.1/Rev.1.

F. Documentation

17. The meeting had before it the following:

- (a) Annotated provisional agenda ([CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/1](#));
- (b) Self-assessment questionnaire for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto – Cluster I. ([CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/2](#));
- (c) Self-assessment questionnaire for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto – Cluster II ([CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/3](#));
- (d) Self-assessment questionnaire for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto – Cluster III ([CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/4](#));

(e) Self-assessment questionnaire for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto – Cluster IV (CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/5);

(f) Methodology for the harmonization of the self-assessment questionnaires for the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/CRP.1);

(g) Draft harmonized self-assessment questionnaire for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/CRP.2);

(h) Draft harmonized self-assessment questionnaire for the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/CRP.3);

(i) Draft harmonized self-assessment questionnaire for the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/CRP.4);

(j) Draft harmonized self-assessment questionnaire for the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/WG.10/2020/CRP.5).

III. Adoption of the report

18. On 15 July 2020, the meeting adopted the present report.
