



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, 9–10 July 2020

Draft report on the meeting of the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance held in Vienna on 9 and 10 July 2020

I. Introduction

1. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance was established pursuant to decision 2/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In its decision 4/3, the Conference decided that the Working Group should be a constant element of the Conference. The Working Group held its eleventh session from 28 to 31 May 2018.
2. In its resolution 7/1, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, the Conference decided that the working groups continue to analyse, in a comprehensive manner, the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, making the best use of the information gathered, in full respect of the principle of multilingualism.
3. Furthermore, in its resolution 8/4, entitled “Implementation of the provisions on technical assistance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, the Conference noted that technical assistance was a fundamental part of the work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to assist Member States in the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

II. Future considerations

4. At the meeting of the Working Group held on 10 July 2020 there was no consensus on whether the meeting should issue recommendations. The Working Group agreed to put the recommendations on hold until the States parties have had an opportunity to meet with the President of the Conference of the Parties to UNTOC and reach a consensus on the organization of work of the Working Groups in view of COVID-19 restrictions.
5. Stemming from the meeting, the Chair of the Working Group, in consultation with the Secretariat, prepared discussion points for future consideration, which are annexed to the Chair’s summary.



A. Updating the legislative records of States parties in preparation for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

(a) States, which have not yet done so, should update their legislative records in the SHERLOC knowledge management portal, including for purposes of the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

(b) Subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, UNODC should develop a dissemination plan to raise awareness on the usefulness of the SHERLOC knowledge management portal.

(c) States may wish to consider inviting UNODC to assist, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, in capacity-building activities of national judicial institutions, including providing training on the use of SHERLOC portal as a source of information on domestic legislation and jurisprudence from various jurisdictions.

(d) States may wish to consider developing, publishing and providing to the Secretariat for publication on SHERLOC explanatory material on legislation, such as explanatory memorandums developed during the introduction of the legislation, summarized legislative manuals or briefs, which consolidate relevant provisions of all applicable national legislation on organized crime.

(e) Subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, UNODC should consider expanding the SHERLOC knowledge management portal to include information on informal assistance and opinions of courts.

(f) Subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, UNODC should continue to gather, disseminate and analyse information on the implementation of the Convention, with a focus on successful practices and the difficulties encountered by States, and develop technical assistance tools on the basis of the information gathered.

(g) States may wish to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for the further development and maintenance of the SHERLOC knowledge management portal to promote the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and strengthen the exchange of lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of those instruments.

B. Application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in domestic jurisprudence

C. Other matters

III. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening and duration of the meeting

6. As agreed by the extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties by approval via silence procedure on 19 June 2020, the meeting was held in a “hybrid” format, with a very restricted number of participants (representatives from the Secretariat) present in the meeting room, and all other participants being remotely connected using an interpretation platform contracted with the United Nations.

7. The Working Group met on 9 to 10 July, and held four meetings in total. The first meeting on each day was held from 12:00 to 14:00 hrs. and the second meeting from 16:00 to 18:00 hrs. Central European Summer Time (CEST). Upon consultation with the Chair of the working group, the above-mentioned schedule sought to

accommodate the different time zones of the Chairs and participants of the working group, while also respecting and staying within the time frame usually set for the meetings. The relevant information about the new meeting times was made available on the respective web page of the Working Group.

8. The Working Group session was chaired by Mr. Thomas Burrows (United States of America). Due to the specific format of the meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chair remotely connected into the meeting.

9. The Chair of the Working Group made an opening statement. An introductory statement was made by representatives of the Secretariat on item 2 of the agenda, which was adopted at its first meeting, on 9 July 2020].¹

10. Statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Convention: Brazil and the State of Palestine.

B. Statements

11. For the purposes of the meeting, the Secretariat used the aforementioned interpretation platform to facilitate the interpretation into all six official United Nations languages. The Interpretfy platform allowed 300 participants to be assigned a “speaking&listening role”, while all other participants had only a “listening role”. 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.

12. Representatives of the Secretariat delivered background presentations under agenda item 2.

13. Under agenda item 2, statements were made by representatives from the following States parties to the Convention: Armenia, Colombia, Egypt, India, Italy, Namibia, Paraguay and United States of America.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

14. At its 1st meeting, on 9 July, the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance adopted the following agenda [as orally amended]:

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Updating the legislative records of States parties in preparation for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.
3. Application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in domestic jurisprudence.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.

D. Attendance

15. The following parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting, connected remotely due to the specific format of the meeting in light of the COVID-19 pandemic: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina,

¹ CTOC/COP/WG.2/2020/1.

Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Nepal, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen [...].

16. The following signatory States to the Convention were represented by observers connected remotely due to the specific format of the meeting in light of the COVID-19 pandemic: Iran (Islamic republic of) [...].

17. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers connected remotely due to the specific format of the meeting in light of the COVID-19 pandemic: Council of Europe, European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), International criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), League of Arab States, Organization of the Islamic Cooperation [...].

18. A list of participants is contained in document CTOC/COP/WG.2/2020/INF/1/Rev.1.

E. Documentation

19. The Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agendas (CTOC/COP/WG.2/2020/1);

(b) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on Application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in domestic jurisprudence. (CTOC/COP/WG.2/2020/2).

IV. Summary of the deliberations

A. Updating the legislative records of States parties in preparation for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

20. At its first meeting, on 9 July 2020, the Working Group considered agenda item 2, on Updating the legislative records of States parties in preparation for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. The Chair made an introductory statement. The Secretariat delivered presentations.

B. Application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in domestic jurisprudence

21. At its [first and second] meeting[s], on [9 July 2020], the Working Group considered agenda item 3, on Application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in domestic jurisprudence. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under item 3 was led by the following panellists: Mr Kevin Yong (Singapore), Ms. Gladice Pickering (Namibia) and Mr. Tom Andreopoulos (Canada).

C. Other matters

22. At its [second] meeting, on [10] July 2020, the Working Group considered item 4, other matters. [No issues were raised under the item.]

V. Adoption of the report

23. On 10 July 2020, the Working Group adopted the report (chapters I–III and V) on the meeting.
