



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

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## Implementation Review Group

### Tenth session

Vienna, 27–29 May 2019

## 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 session

#### A. Opening of the session

2. The Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption held its tenth session in Vienna from 27 to 29 May 2019.

3. The Group held six meetings, which were chaired by Maria Consuelo Porras Argueta (Guatemala), President-designate of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its seventh session. The session included two meetings held jointly with the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery on 29 May.

4. A minute of silence to honour the memory of Dimitri Vlassis was observed at the opening of the session.

5. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs made an introductory statement.

6. The representative of the European Union made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States, in which he noted, inter alia, that corruption was a threat to democracy, good governance and fair competition, that it undermined the rule of law and the fundamental values on which societies were based and created a climate in which crimes and impunity prosper. In this regard, he also noted that political will was essential for the success of anti-corruption policies and referred to the importance of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Goal 16. The representative outlined the wide range of actions undertaken by the European Union and its Member States in the areas of prevention, criminalization, freezing, confiscation and recovery of assets, as well as international cooperation. He referred to the measures taken by the European Union to protect



whistle-blowers, which would contribute to the prevention and deterrence of fraud and other illegal activities and to the effective application of its rules in a wide range of policy areas, including public procurement, financial services and anti-money-laundering. Moreover, the representative stressed the important role played by the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the global fight against corruption and welcomes its focus on preventive measures and on asset recovery. At the same time, he underlined the need to keep the work transparent, inclusive and cost-efficient, while avoiding unnecessary administrative burdens and duplication of work. The representative confirmed the European Union's commitment to the review process and discussions had started with UNODC on how the future review of the European Union could be organized.

7. The Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh noted that his Government pursued a policy of zero-tolerance to corruption and outlined the legislative and administrative measures taken by his Government to fight corruption, which were consistent with many of the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. He provided information on Bangladesh's participation in the Implementation Review Mechanism and, in this regard, referred to the positive impact this participation has had on national anti-corruption efforts and expressed appreciation to UNODC for the support provided during the process. The Minister highlighted his Government's efforts to address the issue of asset recovery and noted that his country's legal regime was consistent with the relevant provisions of the Convention. The Minister also reiterated his Government's commitment to the fight against corruption.

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

8. On 27 May, the Implementation Review Group adopted the following agenda:
  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 eleventh session of the Implementation Review Group.
  8. Adoption of the report of the Implementation Review Group on its tenth session.
9. Prior to the adoption of the agenda, one speaker proposed that the scheduling of meetings of Vienna-based bodies in a consecutive manner, should be avoided, in order to facilitate the work of delegations. In response, another speaker, speaking under item 3 of the agenda, expressed appreciation for holding meetings of such bodies back-to-back, as it facilitated the participation of experts from capitals in those meetings.

## **C. Attendance**

10. The following States parties to the Convention were represented: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan,

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, 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, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, 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 and Zimbabwe.

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

12. 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.

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: World Bank, [...].

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), World Customs Organization (WCO).

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