



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

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Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption

Tenth session

Vienna, 4–6 September 2019

Draft report

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 3/2, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption decided to establish an interim open-ended intergovernmental working group to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption.

2. The Conference decided that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

(a) Assist the Conference in developing and accumulating knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption;

(b) Facilitate the exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices;

(c) Facilitate the collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices in corruption prevention;

(d) Assist the Conference in encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption.

3. The efforts by the Working Group to facilitate the sharing of information between States parties have been welcomed continuously by the Conference, including in its resolution 7/6. In this resolution, the Conference also underlined the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group at its meetings held in Vienna from 22 to 24 August 2016 and from 21 to 23 August 2017. The Conference requested States parties to continue sharing information and requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue its work as an international observatory, including by updating the thematic website of the Working Group with relevant information.

4. In its decision 7/1, the Conference requested the Secretariat to structure the provisional agendas of the subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions, while respecting their mandates.

5. In its resolution 7/5, entitled “Promoting preventive measures against corruption”, the Conference decided that the Working Group should include as the topic for 2019 the lessons learned in the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies (art. 5 of the Convention). The topics for discussion at the



tenth intersessional meeting of the Working Group, to be held in Vienna from 4 to 6 September 2019, will therefore be:

(a) Lessons learned in the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies (art. 5 of the Convention).

II. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

6. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its tenth session in Vienna from 4 to 6 September 2019. The session included two meetings held jointly with the Implementation Review Group, on 4 September.

7. The session was chaired by Maria Consuelo Porras Argueta (Guatemala), the President-designate of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its seventh session.

8. In opening the meeting, the Chair recalled resolution 3/2, in which the Conference had established the Working Group and defined its functions, including among others, to assist the Conference in developing and accumulating knowledge in the area of corruption prevention and facilitate the exchange of information and experiences. She noted resolution 7/5, entitled “Promoting preventive measures against corruption” in which the Conference had decided the topic for discussion during the 2019 session of the Working Group should be lessons learned in the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies (art. 5 of the Convention). Subsequently she underlined that the Conference, in the same resolution, had recognized the recommendation by the Working Group to leave room within its agenda to add or amend topics of discussion to maximize the cross-fertilization of the discussions held by the Working Group and the Implementation Review Group, which had led to the organization of work for this session, including the two meetings held jointly with the Implementation Review Group.

9. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs noted that the work undertaken by the Working Group had resulted in the accumulation of knowledge and expertise, since its first meeting in 2010 and expressed appreciation to States parties for their cooperation in sharing information in various forms, and thus allowing others to benefit from their experiences. He also noted that, as the Convention’s chapter II on preventive measures was being reviewed under the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, this information had proven to be invaluable in allowing national experts to assess their countries’ implementation of the Convention and to serve as reviewing experts for their peers. Similarly, the information generated by the Implementation Review Group through the thematic reports prepared by the secretariat, among others, provides a solid basis for the discussions of the Working Group and assisted the Conference as well as individual States in shaping the corruption prevention agenda at various levels. He underlined the importance of a comprehensive approach to fighting corruption effectively and drew the attention of the Working Group to the preventive measures and the principles of integrity, accountability, objectivity and transparency, which are included, among others, in chapter II of the Convention. The Director also drew the attention of the Working Group to the General Assembly resolution 73/191, entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, in which the Assembly decided to convene in the first half of 2021 a special session on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption. He emphasized that the reduction of corruption and bribery and the development of accountable and transparent institutions were envisioned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that anti-corruption measures and principles could be an enabler for results in all areas of the Agenda.

B. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

10. On 4 September 2019, the Working Group adopted the following agenda:
 1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 2. Implementation of Conference resolutions 7/5, entitled “Promoting preventive measures against corruption”, and 7/6, entitled “Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”:
 - (a) Good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption: lessons learned on the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies (art. 5 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption);
 - (b) Other recommendations.
 3. Future priorities.
 4. Adoption of the report.

C. Attendance

11. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the meeting of the Working Group: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, 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, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

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

13. The following Secretariat units, funds and programmes and specialized agencies were represented by observers: Basel Institute of Governance, International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented: Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf – Criminal Information Centre on Drugs (GCC-CIC), International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), League of Arab States, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), World Customs Organization (WCO).

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