



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

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Tenth session

Vienna, 12–16 October 2020

Draft report

Rapporteur: Jan Rinzema (Netherlands)

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening of the session

1. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held its tenth session in Vienna from 12 to 16 October 2020. During the session, 10 meetings were held, including [3] meetings of the Committee of the Whole.
2. In response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties agreed, by silence procedure on 7 September 2020, that the session would be held in a hybrid format, whereby the Chair, a limited number of delegates and representatives of the secretariat would be physically present in the meeting room and all other delegates would be connected remotely using an interpretation platform procured by the United Nations.
3. The interpretation platform allowed for the assignment of a speaking role-enabled connection to 300 participants; all other participants had a listening role-enabled connection. The delegations had been requested to notify the secretariat, through a note verbale, of the distribution of roles (speaking roles and listening roles) in their delegations when requesting the registration of delegates.
4. Owing to the hybrid format of the session, the length of each morning and afternoon meeting was reduced, from three to two hours. The total meeting time of the session was 20 hours, with interpretation.
5. At the 1st meeting of the session, on 12 October 2020, opening statements were made by the Presidents of the Conference at its ninth and tenth sessions. The Conference viewed a video message from the Secretary-General and opening statements were also made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the representatives of the Philippines (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Tunisia (on behalf of the African Group) and the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its member States; Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine aligned themselves with the statement).



B. Election of officers

6. At its first session, the Conference had decided that the offices of President and Rapporteur should rotate among the regional groups and that that rotation should take place in alphabetical order. Accordingly, at the present session, the President of the Conference was nominated by the African States, while the Rapporteur was nominated by the Western European and other States.

7. At its 1st meeting, on 12 October 2020, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the Conference elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Mohamed Hamdy Elmolla (Egypt)

Vice-Presidents: Muhammad Abdul Muhith (Bangladesh)

Jesse Alonso Chacón Escamillo (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Alessandro Cortese (Italy)

Jasminka Dinic (Croatia)

Lorena Maria Feruta (Romania)

Emmanuel Ikechukwu Nweke (Nigeria)

Hikihara Takeshi (Japan)

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8. The representatives of the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made statements. The President informed the Conference that those statements would be reflected in conference room paper CTOC/COP/2020/CRP.7.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. At its 1st meeting, on 12 October 2020, the Conference adopted the provisional agenda contained in document [CTOC/COP/2020/1/Rev.1](#).

10. In its decision 5/2, the Conference had decided to establish the Committee of the Whole, the membership of which would be open to all States parties and signatories to the Organized Crime Convention and which would meet during the sessions of the Conference when the President of the Conference so decided, to perform such functions as may be requested by the Conference in order to assist the Conference in dealing with its agenda and to facilitate its work and to consider specific items of the agenda and submit its comments and recommendations, including draft resolutions and draft decisions, to the Conference for consideration.

11. On 7 September 2020, the extended Bureau approved the organization of work of the tenth session by silence procedure and noted that, in accordance with past practice, the plenary meeting would be suspended for the purpose of convening the Committee of the Whole (see CTOC/COP/2020/CRP.6).

12. In order to make the best use of the time available, introductory statements by the secretariat on the agenda items were not delivered orally; instead, they were made available on the Conference website. Delegations that did not have sufficient time to make their full statements on the agenda items and those that were not able to make statements as a result of technical difficulties had the option of sending their statements in writing. The texts of those statements are available on the website of the tenth session of the Conference.

D. Participation

13. The tenth session of the Conference was attended by representatives of 119 States parties to the Convention and a regional economic integration organization party to the Convention. Also attending the session were observers for one State

signatory to the Convention and one non-signatory observer State, an entity maintaining a permanent observer mission to the United Nations, Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and relevant non-governmental organizations not having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that had applied for observer status.

14. The representatives of Turkey, Japan, Canada, Chile, Germany and Norway made statements, which are reflected in conference room paper CTOC/COP/2020/CRP.7.

15. The list of participants is contained in document CTOC/COP/2020/INF/2/Rev.2.

16. Rules 14 to 17 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, concerning the participation of observers, were brought to the attention of participants in the session.

III. General discussion

17. At its 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 12 and 13 October 2020, the Conference considered agenda item 1 (f), entitled “Organizational matters: general discussion”.

18. Owing to the exceptional circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the reduced interpretation time available, a time limit was imposed for discussions under the item to allow enough time for meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

19. The Conference heard statements by the representatives of Italy, Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Kyrgyzstan, the Sudan, Egypt, China, France, Turkey, the United States, Kuwait, Germany, El Salvador, Burkina Faso, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Qatar, Iraq, Poland, Morocco, Mexico, Belgium, India, the State of Palestine, Indonesia, Norway, Lebanon, Namibia, the Philippines, Slovenia, Canada, Pakistan, Tunisia, Colombia, Malta, Argentina, Peru, Chile, South Africa, Japan, Guatemala, Afghanistan, Paraguay, Bangladesh, Cuba, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Nigeria, Libya, Algeria, Yemen, Australia, Ecuador, Thailand, Romania, Angola and Saudi Arabia.

20. A statement was made by the observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran, a signatory State.

21. The Conference also heard a statement by the observers for the European Public Law Association, the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, the Global Alliance Office on Drugs and Crime, Fondazione Falcone, Salesian Missions Inc., the Pio La Torre Centre of Studies and Cultural Initiatives, the Women, Infants and Children Care Initiative and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, non-governmental organizations.