



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

Distr.: General  
15 October 2009

Original: English

---

## Third session

Doha, 9-13 November 2009

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

**Review of the implementation of the United Nations  
Convention against Corruption**

## **Note by the Secretariat on the financial implications of the proposed review mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption\*\***

### **I. Introduction**

1. In its report<sup>1</sup> on the draft terms of reference of the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>2</sup> the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption proposed three options for the funding of the review.

#### **Option 1**

The requirements of the mechanism and its secretariat shall be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations.

#### **Option 2**

The requirements of the mechanism and its secretariat shall be funded by the [States parties] [States signatories] through assessed contributions to be determined on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessment.

---

\* CAC/COSP/2009/1 and Corr.1.

\*\* The footnote required in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 53/208B, in which the General Assembly decided that, if a report was submitted late to conference services, the reason for this should be included in a footnote to the document, was not included in the original submission.

<sup>1</sup> CAC/COSP/WG.1/2008/7/Rev.2.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.



**Option 3**

The requirements of the mechanism and its secretariat shall be funded through voluntary contributions by [States parties] [Member States], which shall be free of conditions and influence.

2. The purpose of the present note is to explain the consequences of each of the three options proposed and to present the cost implications related to the adoption of the review mechanism.

**II. Funding of the Conference of the States Parties and of the review mechanism**

3. In its resolution 58/4, whereby it adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the General Assembly also decided that the Secretary-General of the United Nations would provide the necessary secretariat services to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and that the secretariat would assist the Conference of the States Parties in carrying out the activities set forth in article 63 of the Convention and make arrangements and provide the necessary services for the sessions of the Conference (article 64, para. 2 (a)). In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to designate the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to serve as the secretariat for and under the direction of the Conference of the States Parties. It also requested the Secretary-General to provide UNODC with the resources necessary to enable it to promote in an effective manner the rapid entry into force of the Convention and to discharge the functions of secretariat of the Conference. The Assembly decided that, until the Conference of the States Parties decided otherwise, a specific account would be operated within the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund for the provision to developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the technical assistance that they might require to prepare for ratification and implementation of the Convention.

4. Since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, regular budget resources have been provided under (a) section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the States Parties, and (b) section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice,<sup>3</sup> to carry out functions related to the implementation of the Convention. The provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to prepare for ratification and implementation of the Convention has been funded through voluntary contributions.

5. The programme budget of the United Nations (the regular budget) is funded through assessed contributions and is subject to the approval of the General Assembly. The procedures and methodology related to the approval of regular budget resources are governed by General Assembly resolution 41/213. After review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and

---

<sup>3</sup> Before the biennium 2008-2009, the budget section was entitled "International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice".

endorsement by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly (ideally by consensus), the programme budget for the coming biennium is approved by the Assembly in December of the preceding year. In accordance with regulation 2.10 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations (ST/SGB/2003/7), no council, commission or other competent body shall take a decision involving either a change in the programme budget approved by the Assembly or the possible requirement of expenditure unless it has received and taken account of a report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposal. Where, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, a proposed expenditure cannot be made from existing appropriation, it shall not be incurred until the Assembly has made the necessary appropriation, unless the Secretary-General certifies that the expenditure can be made under the provisions of the Assembly resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The Fifth Committee reviews and approves additional requirements, after review by the Advisory Committee of statements of programme budget implications and/or revised estimates.

6. If the Conference of the States Parties recommends that the requirements of the mechanism and its secretariat be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations (option 1), a draft resolution will be presented to the General Assembly at its current session for it to decide on the appropriateness of resorting to the regular budget for this purpose. In accordance with regulation 2.10 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, a statement of programme budget implications will have to be prepared and reviewed by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee before the General Assembly takes a decision on the funding.

7. If the Conference of the States Parties recommends that the requirements of the mechanism and its secretariat be funded by the [States parties] [States signatories] through assessed contributions to be determined on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessment (option 2), a voluntary indicative scale of contributions, based on the United Nations scale of assessment, pro rated, will need to be put in place. Such a mechanism would broaden the donor base, ensure adequate funding and enhance the predictability of the voluntary financing of the review mechanism. A voluntary indicative scale of contributions could be established as described below, taking into account the United Nations scale of assessment, as well as the following factors:

- (a) A minimum indicative rate of 0.001 per cent;
- (b) A maximum indicative rate of 22 per cent;
- (c) A maximum indicative rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;
- (d) Economic and social circumstances of Member States, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (e) Provisions to allow for any Member State in a position to do so to increase its level of contributions.

8. The voluntary indicative scale of contributions for a biennium could be based on the above principles and all contributions could remain voluntary. The scale would operate on the basis of biennial pledges, with historical levels of contributions being applied as a benchmark. The United Nations scale of assessment

does not prevent countries from increasing their contributions and/or making additional voluntary payments.

9. Should the Conference of the States Parties decide on option 2, an amendment to rule 72 of its rules of procedure would be required.

10. The assessment of Member States' contributions to the review mechanism would be determined on the basis of the estimated budget requirement to fund such a mechanism.

11. If the Conference of the States Parties were to recommend that the requirements of the mechanism and its secretariat be funded through voluntary contributions by [States parties] [Member States], which would be free of conditions and influence (option 3), there would be no guarantee that a sufficient level of voluntary contributions would be received to ensure that the requirements of the mechanism were met. Most voluntary contributions are strictly earmarked for specific activities and leave little operating flexibility to respond to adjustments and challenges. Voluntary contributions are unpredictable, and without a minimum level of funding being provided, it might not be possible to ensure a successful review. One of the results of such a decision could also be a distortion of programme priorities. Should the Conference of the States Parties decide on option 3, an amendment to rule 72 of its rules of procedure would be required.

### **III. Estimated requirements**

12. The preliminary cost estimates presented in the table are based on the following parameters:

(a) The review mechanism follows a four-year cycle;

(b) Forty States parties are to be reviewed per year;

(c) Translation of the responses to the self-assessment checklist and of supporting documentation is required for 15 of the 40 countries;

(d) One annual session of the Implementation Review Group is held, with a duration of 10 days; funding is provided for the participation of least developed countries in the session;

(e) Twenty country visits are made per year; funding is provided for the participation of governmental experts from developing countries in these visits.

13. The estimated staffing requirements have been established as follows:

(a) Forty reviews at 12 staff workweeks each = 480 staff workweeks;

(b) Preparation of 40 reports at 2 weeks each = 80 staff workweeks;

(c) Preparation of aggregate analytical reports = 15 staff workweeks;

(d) Preparation and servicing of the session of the Implementation Review Group = 10 staff workweeks;

(e) Twenty country visits at 2 weeks each (including preparation time) = 40 staff workweeks;

(f) Maintenance of expert database and other miscellaneous activities = 15 staff workweeks.

14. On the basis of these parameters, the total number of staff workweeks per year is 640. Based on an average annual figure of 42 effective workweeks per staff member, the total requirement to support the review mechanism would be 15 staff members at various levels, including Professional and General Service staff.

15. The anticipated new tasks need to be considered in the context of the overall requirements for support for the Conference of the States Parties and the other mandated functions of the secretariat. While this will depend on how much of the current requirements for preparing and servicing the Conference and its established Working Groups would be subsumed under the work of the review mechanism, it is estimated that approximately 30 per cent of the work can be accomplished by the current staff of the secretariat.<sup>4</sup> On this basis, it is estimated that the mechanism will require 10 new posts as follows: 1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 3 P-2 and 2 General Service (Other level). This would represent a requirement of \$1,363,700 per year.

16. It is anticipated that for each of the 20 country visits, a minimum of three days would be required in order to undertake a proper review. On the basis of average travel costs for five participants (including governmental experts from developing countries and Secretariat staff), as well as costs for interpretation in 15 countries, the annual cost of country visits would amount to \$300,000. In addition, it is estimated that the amount of documentation translated for individual reviews, including the responses to the self-assessment checklist and pertinent supporting material, would average 2,000 pages from one language into another per year, costing a total of \$790,900.

17. In order to hold one annual session of the Implementation Review Group for a duration of 10 days (20 meetings) with interpretation in six languages and other conference services, an amount of \$197,700 would be required. In addition, provision would need to be made for the translation into the six official languages of the documentation required for the session of the Implementation Review Group and the Conference of the States Parties. The estimated requirement for 100 pages of documentation translated into all six official languages each year is \$197,700. In order to enable the travel of representatives of least developed countries to the session and payment of daily subsistence allowance, an amount of \$203,100 would be required, calculated on the basis of an average of 31 representatives attending.

18. It is proposed that the governmental experts scheduled to take part in the review process as part of the review teams undergo training. In order to provide for one annual five-day training course in Vienna for 40 experts, and on the basis of funding requirements for 30 governmental experts from developing countries participating in this training, an amount of \$118,500 would be required.

19. An amount of \$58,000 would also be required for general operating expenses as follows: (a) computer maintenance and communication costs (\$2,800 per year per staff member) and (b) conference calls and videoconferences, at an average rate of 2.5 telephone videoconferences for each of the 40 reviews (\$30,000 in total).

---

<sup>4</sup> Currently, the Corruption and Economic Crime Section comprises five regular budget posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service (Other level) and six temporary posts funded through voluntary contributions.

20. If the Conference of the States Parties recommends that option 2 or 3 be followed, an additional 13 per cent (\$419,800), representing programme support costs, should be included in the cost estimate. Programme support costs are not required in the case of option 1.

### Additional annual budgetary requirements

(United States dollars)

<b>Posts</b>	
1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 3 P-2 and 2 General Service (Other level)	1 363 700
<b>Subtotal, posts</b>	<b>1 363 700</b>
<b>Individual reviews</b>	
Country visits (5 participants per country visit for 20 countries at an average cost of \$15,000 per country)	300 000
Translation of documents for individual reviews in 2 languages (2,000 pages per year)	790 700
<b>Subtotal, individual reviews</b>	<b>1 090 900</b>
<b>Implementation Review Group (10-day meeting)</b>	
Interpretation in six languages and other conference services	197 700
Translation of 100 pages of documentation in 6 languages	197 700
Travel and daily subsistence allowance for representatives of least developed countries (31 representatives, 14 days)	203 100
<b>Subtotal, Implementation Review Group</b>	<b>598 500</b>
<b>Training</b>	
5-day training course for 30 experts from developing countries	118 500
<b>Subtotal, training</b>	<b>118 500</b>
<b>General operating expenses</b>	
Computer maintenance	13 000
Communications costs	15 000
Videoconference costs	30 000
<b>Subtotal, general operating expenses</b>	<b>58 000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 229 600</b>
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	419 800
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>3 649 400</b>