Implementation Review Group
Third session
Vienna, 18-22 June 2012

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Organizational matters:
   (a) Opening of the session;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.


3. Technical assistance.


5. Other matters.

6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Implementation Review Group.

7. Adoption of the report of the Implementation Review Group on its third session.
Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the session

The third session of the Implementation Review Group will be convened on Monday, 18 June 2012, at 10 a.m. in M Building, Boardroom B.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the session was prepared in accordance with resolution 3/1, entitled “Review mechanism”, adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its third session, held in Doha from 9 to 13 November 2009.

The proposed organization of work (see annex) was prepared in line with the guidance provided by the extended Bureau of the Conference at its meeting held in Vienna on 20 February 2012.

The resources available will permit the holding of two plenary meetings each day with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations.

2. Review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The Conference adopted resolution 4/1, entitled “Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, at its fourth session, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 24 to 28 October 2011. In that resolution, the Conference endorsed the guidelines for governmental experts and the secretariat in the conduct of country reviews and the blueprint for country review reports.

Drawing of lots

Pursuant to paragraphs 14 and 19 of the terms of reference of the Review Mechanism, lots are to be drawn to determine which States parties will participate in the reviews. One of the two reviewing States parties should be from the same geographical region as the State party under review and, if possible, have a legal system similar to that of the State party under review. The State party under review may request, a maximum of two times, that the drawing of lots be repeated. In line with paragraph 20 of the terms of reference, a State party under review may defer serving as a reviewing State party that same year.

At its first session, the Implementation Review Group drew lots for the States parties to be reviewed in the first review cycle. On the first day of the third session, lots will be drawn for the States parties reviewing the States parties under review in the third year of the current review cycle. Lots may be redrawn on the last day of the first part of the third session for States parties wishing to do so.

In its resolution 4/1, the Conference endorsed the practice followed by the Implementation Review Group with regard to the procedural issues arising from the drawing of lots, called upon States parties that had not yet done so to submit their lists of governmental experts well ahead of the drawing of lots, and reminded States
The extended Bureau of the Conference recommended that the Implementation Review Group consider leaving out of the drawing of lots at its third session States parties that had already performed two reviews in order to comply with the requirement, stated in paragraph 20 of the terms of reference, that each State party must have performed at least one and a maximum of three reviews.

**Progress report**

Pursuant to paragraph 25 of the terms of reference of the Review Mechanism, the schedule and requirements of each country review should be established by the secretariat in consultation with the reviewing States parties and the State party under review and should address all issues relevant to the review. The guidelines for governmental experts and the secretariat in the conduct of country reviews set out indicative timelines for the conduct of reviews.

In its resolution 4/1, the Conference urged States parties participating in the country review process in a given year to make every possible effort to adhere to the indicative timelines for review as contained in the guidelines. It also urged States parties under review in a given year to ensure the timely nomination of their focal points in accordance with the guidelines.

In order to provide the Implementation Review Group with an overview of issues identified during individual country reviews and to seek guidance on addressing challenges encountered during the conduct of reviews, the secretariat has compiled statistics and general information on the conduct of the reviews of the first and second years of the current cycle, as well as lessons learned and information on activities undertaken to assist States parties participating in the review process.

**Outcome of reviews**

Pursuant to paragraph 35 of the terms of reference of the Review Mechanism, the secretariat is to compile the most common and relevant information on successes, good practices, challenges, observations and technical assistance needs contained in the country review reports and include them, organized by theme, in a thematic implementation report and regional supplementary addenda, for submission to the Implementation Review Group.

Paragraph 44 of the terms of reference states that the functions of the Implementation Review Group are 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. The thematic implementation report should serve as the basis for the analytical work of the Group. On the basis of its deliberations, the Group should submit recommendations and conclusions to the Conference for its consideration and approval.

Thematic reports on chapters III (Criminalization and law enforcement) and IV (International cooperation) of the Convention should contain the relevant information reflected in the country review reports. The thematic reports reflect the
additional information from country review processes, as they are finalized on a rolling basis.

Current updates will be submitted to the Implementation Review Group at its third session in the form of conference room papers, with a view to producing reports in all the official languages of the United Nations for the resumed third session.

The Conference requested the secretariat, in order to ensure consistency in reporting for all States parties under review, to prepare, for consideration by the Implementation Review Group at its third session, an executive summary template, which is to be divided into the four sections of the executive summary identified in the blueprint and should include sections summarizing the legal system of the State party under review. The draft template has been utilized during reviews in the first and second years of the current review cycle and is submitted to the Group for its consideration.

Pursuant to paragraph 36 of the terms of reference, the executive summaries of the country review reports finalized by the third session should be translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and be made available as documents of the Implementation Review Group for information purposes only. Technical assistance needs identified in the responses to the comprehensive self-assessment checklist will be compiled and issued in a note by the Secretariat.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat: executive summary template (CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/2)

Note by the Secretariat: progress report on the implementation of the mandates of the Implementation Review Group (CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/4)

Executive summaries of country review reports (CAC/COSP/IRG/I.1/1/Add.3-6)

Implementation of chapter III (Criminalization and law enforcement) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: thematic report prepared by the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/CRP.1)

Implementation of chapter IV (International cooperation) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: thematic report prepared by the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/CRP.2)

3. **Technical assistance**

In its resolution 3/1, the Conference decided that the Implementation Review Group should be in charge of following up and continuing the work undertaken previously by the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Technical Assistance. Pursuant to paragraph 44 of the terms of reference, the Implementation Review Group is to consider technical assistance requirements in order to ensure effective implementation of the Convention.

At its second session, the Implementation Review Group took into account that, pursuant to paragraph 11 of the terms of reference, one of the goals of the Review Mechanism was to help States parties to identify and substantiate specific needs for technical assistance and to promote and facilitate the provision of technical assistance. The Group adopted recommendations in furtherance of that mandate,
which were endorsed by the Conference at its fourth session, in its resolution 4/1. In paragraph 13 of the resolution, the Conference recognized the continuing and valuable role of technical assistance within the Review Mechanism, as well as the importance of country-led and country-based, integrated and coordinated programming and delivery of technical assistance as an effective means of addressing technical assistance needs of States parties. In paragraph 21 of the resolution, the Conference requested the secretariat to continue to develop a three-tiered approach — global, regional and national — to the delivery of technical assistance in the light of the priority areas identified as a result of the review process for chapters III and IV of the Convention. The note by the Secretariat (CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/3) contains consolidated information on such priority areas in technical assistance, identified by States under review.

The Implementation Review Group may wish to consider the way forward in addressing the technical assistance needs that have been identified through the review process and how best to respond to those needs.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on technical assistance in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/3)

4. **Financial and budgetary matters**

In its resolution 3/1, the Conference underlined that the Review Mechanism required a budget that ensured its efficient, continued and impartial functioning. Pursuant to that resolution, the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/237, requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Review Mechanism was adequately funded.

In its resolution 4/1, the Conference decided that the Implementation Review Group should assist it in the fulfilment of its responsibility to consider the budget biennially by engaging with the Secretariat during the intersessional period with regard to expenditures and projected costs related to the Review Mechanism. It also requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in furtherance of the budget consideration function and consistent with the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations, to support the Group by: (a) providing the Group with financial information on expenditures and projected costs related to the Review Mechanism, in a format and at intervals to be agreed by the Secretariat and the Group; and (b) engaging in a dialogue, as appropriate, with the Group prior to finalizing its submissions relating to the finances of the Review Mechanism for each biennial regular budget.

The final expenditures for the first year of operation of the Review Mechanism will be presented at the resumed third session of the Implementation Review Group, to be held in Vienna in November 2012.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat: financial resources (CAC/COSP/IRG/2012/5)
5. **Other matters**

The Implementation Review Group is invited to consider allowing States parties under review and reviewing States parties in the ongoing country review processes to hold trilateral meetings in parallel to the session.

In its resolution 4/6, entitled “Non-governmental organizations and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, the Conference decided that briefings for non-governmental organizations should be convened on the margins of the sessions of the Implementation Review Group and conducted by the secretariat in cooperation with a member of the Bureau.

At its meeting held in Vienna on 20 February 2012, the extended Bureau of the Conference agreed with the secretariat’s proposal to organize such a briefing on Wednesday, 20 June 2012, on the understanding that no plenary meetings would be held on that day, which would make full use of the interpretation resources available and facilitate the participation of States parties and signatories, and also allow for trilateral meetings in the ongoing country reviews to take place in parallel. The summary of the briefing would be submitted to the Implementation Review Group under the item “Other matters”, which would remain open until the last day of the session.

6. **Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Implementation Review Group**

The Implementation Review Group is to consider and approve, at its resumed third session, a provisional agenda for its fourth session, which will be drafted by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair.

7. **Adoption of the report of the Implementation Review Group on its third session**

The Implementation Review Group is to adopt a report on its third session, the draft of which will be prepared by the Secretariat.
Annex

**Proposed organization of work**

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