

18 January 2012

English only

**Open-ended intergovernmental working group
on the review of the implementation of the
United Nations Convention against
Transnational Organized Crime and the
Protocols thereto**

Vienna, 23-27 January 2012

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the comprehensive self-assessment
software (“omnibus survey software”)**

Status of the Omnibus survey software

Introduction

1. At its fifth session, held in 2010, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided that the omnibus tool shall be used to facilitate the gathering of information on implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and requested the Secretariat to further improve it, including by making it available in the six official languages of the United Nations. During the period under review, the Secretariat, in close coordination with Member States, has sought to finalize the software and make it available in all the official languages.
2. H.E. Ambassador Ulises Canchola Gutierrez (Mexico), the Chair of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, conducted informal consultations to advance mutual understanding and to promote the resolution of outstanding issues on the review mechanism(s) for the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. The informal consultations were held from July to December 2011. The structure and contents of the software were discussed during some of the consultations as well as during the expert group meeting on the UNTOC Omnibus survey software held from 9 to 10 November 2011.
3. The Secretariat has undertaken to review and amend the Omnibus questionnaires, based on the deliberations held during the informal consultations and the expert group meeting. Furthermore, consultations were undertaken with the



Secretariat to the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in order to ensure that any changes that were suggested to the UNTOC questionnaire would not affect the cross-references.

4. One of the overarching recommendations that emerged during the informal consultations and the expert group meeting was to move all the technical assistance questions to the article level. For example, questions such as the one of challenges faced by countries in implementing a certain provision of the Convention, and what technical assistance needs they would require in order to satisfy the requirements of that particular provision, have now been moved to the article level. The impetus for this amendment was to eliminate unnecessary data requests, to sharpen the focus, and more importantly, to reduce the size of the questionnaires.
5. Similarly, all re-occurring and identical statistical and case law questions have now been brought to the article level. A few questions, through which information on a particular provision is solicited, have remained at the provision level but are not repeated in other parts of the questionnaire.
6. Furthermore, as requested, the Secretariat has enabled the filtering of Convention provisions by their level of legal obligation. Thus, users are now able to filter and view provisions at three levels of legal obligation: (i) mandatory; (ii) obligation to consider; and (iii) optional.
7. All editorial comments which were brought to the attention of the Secretariat have now been duly noted and the necessary amendments have been made in the questionnaires. Furthermore, as specifically requested by States Parties and signatories, some provisions have been merged, or deleted, in a further attempt to reduce the size of the questionnaires, and in a few instances, new provisions have been added. For the Convention, these new provisions include Article 18 paragraph 7, Article 31 paragraph 1, and Article 34 paragraph 2.
8. Furthermore, as requested, the Secretariat has inserted a question into the software prompting Member States to furnish the contact details of the relevant authorities dealing with the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, and trafficking in persons in the respective questionnaires.