22 and 28 June 2023 – The independent evaluator, Camille Massey, presented the results of the Independent In-depth Cluster Evaluation of UNODC’s work on anti-corruption efforts in Mexico to key stakeholders and Member States at two sessions during the 2nd regular meeting of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (FinGov).

The evaluation covered seven projects, including the Mexican segment of the Global Programme to prevent and combat corruption (GLOZ99) of UNODC’s Corruption and Economic Crime Branch. The evaluation was managed by the Independent Evaluation Section (IES), UNODC, and carried out by a gender-balanced team of four experts, including, Camille Massey as the international lead evaluator; two substantive national experts on anti-corruption, Ernesto Velasco and Benjamin Santa Maria; and, one national evaluator, Renato Busquets.

The evaluation was produced as part of an innovative collaboration between IES and UNODC’s Country Office in Mexico (COMEX) to pilot a decentralized approach to evaluation capacity development, which included, among other efforts, temporarily deploying (from January to April 2022) one IES staff member to Mexico. As a result of this collaboration, two training modules on evaluation were developed and delivered to over 100 staff in Mexico and multiple UNODC Field Offices in Latin America, and COMEX has further completed six additional Independent Project Evaluations since 2022.

During the two FinGov sessions, the lead evaluator, Camille Massey presented the key evaluation findings, lessons learned, good practices and evaluation recommendations, followed by COMEX’s presentation of the Management Response and a Follow-up Plan for implementing the recommendations.

The evaluation results show that, in a complex and rapidly changing environment, UNODC Mexico undertook creative and innovative strategies to carve out space for UNODC’s anti-corruption efforts in Mexico. Two related innovative and successful outcomes are to be applied by Mexican States at the Sub-national level of the Peer Review Mechanism between Member States for the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Moreover, as part of the Global Integrity Education Project, to develop partnerships between UNODC, private institutions, civil society, the public sector, and academia for further prevention of corruption in Mexico.

Evaluation recommendations included to further increase the strategic focus on technical assistance; seize opportunities for up-scaling of anti-corruption support to Mexican States; strengthen Results Based Management (RBM) as well as strategic planning and communication in collaboration with Head Quarters; and, further invest in knowledge management and research.

For full details, please see the Evaluation Report and the 2-page Evaluation Brief on IES website.