



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

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**Working Group on
International Cooperation**
Vienna, 25 and 26 March 2021

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Finalization and adoption of the recommendations resulting from the eleventh meeting of the Working Group (held on 7 and 8 July 2020) on the following issues:
 - (a) The use and role of joint investigative bodies in combating transnational organized crime;
 - (b) International cooperation involving special investigative techniques.
3. Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on international cooperation in criminal matters: a one-year overview.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the meeting

The twelfth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation will be opened on Thursday, 25 March 2021, at 10 a.m.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The proposal for the schedule of meetings of the working groups of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2021, including the dates of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, was shared with the extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties on 7 September and approved by the extended Bureau by means of a silence procedure on 11 September 2020. The substantive topics and proposal for the provisional agenda of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation were shared with the extended Bureau on 6 November 2020 and



approved by the extended Bureau by means of a silence procedure on 19 November 2020.

2. **Finalization and adoption of the recommendations resulting from the eleventh meeting of the Working Group (held on 7 and 8 July 2020) on the following issues:**
 - (a) **The use and role of joint investigative bodies in combating transnational organized crime;**
 - (b) **International cooperation involving special investigative techniques**

The eleventh meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation was held on 7 and 8 July 2020. At that meeting, the two substantive agenda items were entitled “The use and role of joint investigative bodies in combating transnational organized crime” and “International cooperation involving special investigative techniques”.

The meeting was held in a hybrid format in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. All delegates, as well as the Chair, connected to the meeting by means of an online interpretation platform and only a very restricted number of participants (representatives of the secretariat) were present in the meeting room. Owing to the restrictions on attending the meeting in person and the limited meeting times required by the hybrid format, it was not possible to follow the established practice of negotiating the draft recommendations during the meeting of the Working Group and adopting them as part of the final report. Representatives of some States also experienced difficulties in attending the meeting of the Working Group as a result of technical issues.

Instead, the draft recommendations were entitled “Discussion points for future consideration” and became a part of the (non-negotiated) Chair’s summary of the deliberations in the Working Group. They were included in the final report on the meeting (CTOC/COP/WG.3/2020/4). In line with established practice, the report was submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session.

Prior to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, the extended Bureau approved, by means of a silence procedure on 31 July 2020, a process that had been negotiated by Member States in informal consultations. The process involved a so-called “reflection period”, during which the secretariat, on behalf of the Chair of the Working Group, circulated the draft recommendations in the form of a non-paper (prior to the publication of the final report) to the permanent missions of the Member States that had registered to participate in the meeting of the Working Group, as well as to all the registered delegates, and set a deadline (16 September 2020) for the submission of comments on the discussion points for future consideration.

A number of States parties provided comments by the aforementioned deadline. Those comments were made available to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session in a conference room paper (CTOC/COP/2020/CRP.4).

Owing to the circumstances described above and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the format of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, it was not possible to follow the established practice of the Conference at previous sessions, namely to pursue the endorsement by the Conference of the negotiated recommendations by the Working Group through the adoption of a resolution, with those recommendations annexed thereto.

Against that background, the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group at its eleventh meeting, proposed that the discussion to finalize and adopt recommendations – based on the discussion points for future consideration resulting from the eleventh meeting of the Working Group – should continue at the Group’s twelfth meeting, with a view to bringing those recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session for endorsement.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the use and role of joint investigative bodies in combating transnational organized crime (CTOC/COP/WG.3/2020/2)

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on international cooperation involving special investigative techniques (CTOC/COP/WG.3/2020/3)

Report on the meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation held in Vienna on 7 and 8 July 2020 (CTOC/COP/WG.3/2020/4)

Comments of States parties on the outcome of the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation (Vienna, 7–8 July 2020) (CTOC/COP/2020/CRP.4)

3. Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on international cooperation in criminal matters: a one-year overview

At the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, under the agenda item entitled “Other matters”, the discussion revolved around the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the effectiveness of international cooperation in criminal matters. Some of the discussion points for future consideration were also focused on that topic.

Under agenda item 3, the Working Group will have an opportunity to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international cooperation in criminal matters, a year after its outbreak and spread. The Working Group will also have an opportunity to revisit and enrich the aforementioned discussion points and adopt them as recommendations with a view to bringing them to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session for endorsement.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on international cooperation in criminal matters (CTOC/COP/WG.3/2021/2)

4. Other matters

As no issues to be raised under agenda item 4 have come to the attention of the secretariat, no documentation regarding the item is currently foreseen.

5. Adoption of the report

The Working Group will adopt a report on its meeting, the draft of which will be prepared by the secretariat.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Thursday, 25 March		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Finalization and adoption of the recommendations resulting from the eleventh meeting of the Working Group (held on 7 and 8 July 2020) on the following issues: (a) The use and role of joint investigative bodies in combating transnational organized crime; (b) International cooperation involving special investigative techniques
3–6 p.m.	2	Finalization and adoption of the recommendations resulting from the eleventh meeting of the Working Group (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 26 March		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3	Impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on international cooperation in criminal matters: a one-year overview
3–6 p.m.	4	Other matters
	5	Adoption of the report