



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

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Working Group on International Cooperation

Vienna, 5 and 6 June 2024

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. The role and impact of technology with regard to international cooperation in criminal matters: opportunities, challenges and capacity-building needs.
3. Legal and practical considerations regarding indicative extradition issues in light of the anticipated work under the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the meeting

The fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation will be opened on Wednesday, 5 June 2024, at 10 a.m.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

On 2 June 2023, the extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime approved the schedule of meetings of the working groups for 2024, including the dates for the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, to be held in Vienna on 5 and 6 June 2024.

On 21 December 2023, the extended Bureau approved by means of a silence procedure the substantive topics for the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation.



On 22 December 2023, the secretariat informed the extended Bureau of the organizational arrangements for the meetings of the working groups scheduled for 2024, stating that the meetings, including the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, would be held in an in-person format only. However, it will continue to be possible for delegations to submit pre-recorded video statements, which will be translated into all six official languages of the United Nations.

The proposed organization of work contained in the annex to the present document was prepared in order to enable the Working Group to perform its mandated functions within the allotted time and according to the conference services available to it. The resources available to the Working Group will permit the holding of four plenary meetings over two days, with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations.

2. The role and impact of technology with regard to international cooperation in criminal matters: opportunities, challenges and capacity-building needs

The fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation will provide an opportunity to address the role and impact of technology with regard to international cooperation in criminal matters, an issue that has been gaining prominence, as well as related opportunities, challenges and capacity-building needs.

Agenda item 2 incorporates, for further discussion, the following three subtopics that were suggested by the Working Group at its fourteenth meeting, in September 2023:¹

- (a) The electronic transmission of international cooperation requests;
- (b) The use of videoconferences, especially with regard to extradition;
- (c) The development of curricula for training practitioners on extradition and mutual legal assistance.

Bearing in mind that already in 2016 the Conference of the Parties had encouraged States parties to make the fullest and most effective use of available technology to facilitate cooperation between central authorities,² the inclusion of this topic on the agenda of the Working Group will provide participants the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue on the increasing need for technological resources, such as networks and communication platforms for securely transmitting information, equipment for facilitating communication, including teleconferences and videoconferences, and case management systems for tracking incoming and outgoing requests, to achieve enhanced and more efficient international cooperation. The increasing need for such resources may also be linked to efforts to increase efficiency in handling mutual legal assistance requests involving electronic evidence by, for example, establishing specialized units within central authorities.

The inclusion of this topic on the agenda of the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group will generate further contributions to related discussions in various intergovernmental forums.

Moreover, the discussion of the topic will provide the Working Group with an opportunity to take stock of related issues that will be addressed in a research paper currently being developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on international cooperation in criminal matters, which will touch upon, inter alia, lessons learned from the experience of the pandemic on how to utilize technology to foster international cooperation.

¹ See [CTOC/COP/WG.3/2023/4](#), para. 44.

² See Conference resolution 8/1.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the role and impact of technology with regard to international cooperation in criminal matters: opportunities, challenges and capacity-building needs (CTOC/COP/WG.3/2024/2)

3. Legal and practical considerations regarding indicative extradition issues in light of the anticipated work under the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

Pursuant to paragraph 12 of the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Conference of the Parties and its working groups are to add the matter of the review process to their agendas as an item consistent with their areas of expertise and without prejudice to their respective existing mandates. Taking into consideration the progressive nature of the review, the content of the agendas and scheduling of the meetings of the working groups will be decided by the Conference or the extended Bureau in a timely manner. In order to ensure that the working groups may contribute to the Mechanism while also carrying out their respective existing mandates, each working group should dedicate no more than one agenda item per session to matters pertaining to the functioning of the review process.

Although the fourth thematic cluster of the Mechanism, on international cooperation, mutual legal assistance and confiscation, was originally intended to start in November 2022, the advancement to the next review phase is conditional upon the completion of 70 per cent of the reviews foreseen at the beginning of the previous phase, unless the Conference decides otherwise, pursuant to paragraph 10 of the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism. Under the current circumstances and given the state of advancement of the ongoing country reviews, it is not expected that a sufficient number of country reviews will have been completed by June 2024 to enable work under the cluster on international cooperation to commence.

Nevertheless, under agenda item 3, the Working Group may wish to devote attention to legal and practical considerations regarding indicative extradition issues in light of the anticipated work under the Mechanism. Such indicative extradition issues include the following:

- (a) The handling of multiple extradition requests for the same person;³
- (b) The sharing of experiences regarding the issue of dual nationality of individuals who are under a request for extradition;⁴
- (c) Detention conditions in the requesting State and their impact on extradition.⁵

Moreover, pursuant to paragraph 53 (h) of the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism, a written summary of the discussions during the constructive dialogue, which had been held on Wednesday, 13 September 2023, following the conclusion of the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, held on 11 and 12 September 2023, was prepared by the Chair of the

³ Suggested at the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group, in September 2023, as a topic for consideration at future meetings of the Working Group (CTOC/COP/WG.3/2023/4, para. 44).

⁴ Suggested at the eighth meeting of the Working Group, in October 2017, as a topic for consideration at future meetings of the Working Group (CTOC/COP/WG.2/2017/4-CTOC/COP/WG.3/2017/4, para. 38).

⁵ This issue has attracted the attention of practitioners in a growing number of extradition cases and has also gained importance in recent jurisprudence of regional judicial bodies.

Working Group and has been made available on the web page of the Mechanism,⁶ and the web page of the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group.⁷

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on legal and practical considerations regarding indicative extradition issues in light of the anticipated work under the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto ([CTOC/COP/WG.3/2024/3](#))

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the status of the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto ([CTOC/COP/WG.2/2024/4-CTOC/COP/WG.3/2024/4](#))

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.

⁶ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/constructive_dialogues/ic_2023.html.

⁷ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-group-on-international-cooperation-2024.html.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Wednesday, 5 June		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3–6 p.m.	2	The role and impact of technology with regard to international cooperation in criminal matters: opportunities, challenges and capacity-building needs
	2	The role and impact of technology with regard to international cooperation in criminal matters: opportunities, challenges and capacity-building needs (<i>continued</i>)
	3	Legal and practical considerations regarding indicative extradition issues in light of the anticipated work under the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto
Thursday, 6 June		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3	Legal and practical considerations regarding indicative extradition issues in light of the anticipated work under the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (<i>continued</i>)
3–6 p.m.	4	Other matters
	5	Adoption of the report