



# Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

### Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

## Activities of the Implementation Review Group

### Note by the Secretariat

#### *Summary*

The present note contains an overview of the activities carried out by the Implementation Review Group, a subsidiary body of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, during the period 2022–2023. It is aimed at assisting the Conference in its deliberations and in providing guidance on future work of the Group.

## I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to article 63, paragraph 5, of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Conference of the States Parties is to acquire the necessary knowledge of the measures taken by States parties in implementing the Convention, and the difficulties encountered by them in doing so, through information provided by them and through such supplemental review mechanisms as may be established by the Conference.
2. In its resolution 1/1, adopted at its first session, the Conference agreed that it was necessary to establish an appropriate mechanism to assist it in reviewing the implementation of the Convention and decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group to make recommendations to the Conference. In the same resolution, the Conference underlined the characteristics that the review mechanism should have.
3. In its resolution 2/1, the Conference set out additional principles that the review mechanism should reflect and tasked the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption with preparing terms of reference for a review mechanism for consideration, action and possible adoption by the Conference at its third session.

\* [CAC/COSP/2023/1](#).



4. At its third session, the Conference adopted resolution 3/1, establishing the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, in accordance with article 63, paragraph 7, of the Convention. The annex to resolution 3/1 contains the terms of reference of the Mechanism, as well as the draft guidelines for governmental experts and the secretariat in the conduct of country reviews and the draft blueprint for country review reports.
5. In the same resolution, the Conference established the Implementation Review Group, the functions of which 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 the effective implementation of the Convention. The Conference also decided that the Implementation Review Group would be in charge of following up on and continuing the work undertaken previously by the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Technical Assistance. The thematic implementation reports serve as the basis for the analytical work of the Group. On the basis of its deliberations, the Group submits recommendations and conclusions to the Conference for its consideration and approval.
6. The Conference decided that each implementation review phase would be composed of two review cycles of five years each. It also decided to review the implementation of chapters III (Criminalization and law enforcement) and IV (International cooperation) of the Convention during the first cycle and the implementation of chapters II (Preventive measures) and V (Asset recovery) of the Convention during the second cycle.
7. In its resolution 4/1, the Conference took into account that, pursuant to paragraph 11 of the terms of reference, one of the goals of the Implementation 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.
8. In its decision 5/1, entitled “Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, the Conference decided that the Implementation Review Group should begin promptly to collect, with the support of the secretariat, and discuss relevant information in order to facilitate the assessment of performance in accordance with paragraph 48 of the terms of reference, following the completion of the first review cycle. The Conference also decided that the Group should include in its future sessions an agenda item allowing for the discussion of such information, and that it should, in the collection of that information, take into account future requirements for follow-up in accordance with paragraphs 40 and 41 of the terms of reference.
9. In its resolution 6/1, entitled “Continuation of the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, the Conference launched the second cycle of the Mechanism, pursuant to paragraph 13 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism and in line with Conference resolution 3/1. It decided that one fifth of the States parties were to be reviewed in each of the five years of the second review cycle and that States acceding to the Convention after the sixth session of the Conference should complete the review of implementation of chapters III and IV of the Convention no later than two years after the deposit of their instrument of accession, and should participate in the review of implementation of chapters II and V of the Convention during the final year of the second review cycle.
10. At its eighth session, the Conference adopted resolution 8/2, in which it, *inter alia*, encouraged States parties to keep using the Implementation Review Group as a platform for the voluntary exchange of information on national measures taken during and after the completion of country reviews, including strategies adopted, challenges encountered and best practices identified, as well as, where appropriate, the follow-up to the recommendations made in the country review reports, while taking into account the need for efficient discussions and decision-making processes in the sessions of the Group. In the same resolution, the Conference welcomed the important and useful thematic implementation reports, regional supplementary addenda and

updates on technical assistance needs prepared by the secretariat for the consideration of the Implementation Review Group, and encouraged States parties, the United Nations and other stakeholders to make full use of those documents. Further, the Conference requested the Implementation Review Group to continue to hold regular sessions at least once a year, based on an annotated provisional agenda and programme of work issued as early as possible in order to enable the States parties to plan the composition of the delegations and prepare for focused and efficient discussions on the main topics of the session, and, while taking into consideration the directions of the Conference, being able to adjust topics of discussion to maximize the effectiveness of its discussions and work outcomes. In addition, the Conference encouraged the secretariat to continue to strengthen synergies with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral international organizations in the field of anti-corruption, within their respective mandates, to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the performance of the various review mechanisms.

11. In resolution 7/3, the Conference reiterated the importance of the Group considering, on the basis of the outcome of the review process and consistent with the terms of reference of the Implementation Review Mechanism, priority areas for the provision of technical assistance. In its resolution 8/2, the Conference, *inter alia*, welcomed the important and useful updates on technical assistance needs prepared by the secretariat for the consideration of the Group, and encouraged States parties, the United Nations and other stakeholders to make full use of those documents.

12. In its resolution 9/2, entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthening international cooperation: follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, the Conference directed its subsidiary bodies, within their mandates, to take appropriate measures to follow up on the political declaration. Accordingly, the agenda for the thirteenth session of the Group was the first to include a specific agenda item on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation. The item was also included in the agendas for the second resumed thirteenth, fourteenth and resumed fourteenth sessions. At the second resumed thirteenth session, the secretariat presented an update on the activities undertaken to further the implementation of the political declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption.

13. During 2022 and 2023, the sessions of the Implementation Review Group were organized in accordance with the guidance contained in the workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference, which was approved by the Bureau of the Conference in June 2022, in order to enable consideration of the substantive items of its agenda jointly with the other subsidiary bodies. Moreover, the topics considered by the Group at its sessions held in 2023 under the agenda item entitled “Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation” were approved by the Bureau by means of a silence procedure on 3 April 2023.

14. The present note has been prepared to inform the Conference of the Group’s activities and assist the Conference in its deliberations on the Group’s future activities. It should be considered in conjunction with the note by the Secretariat on the performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the measures required for the completion of the first phase of the Mechanism, as well as considerations regarding the next phase ([CAC/COSP/2023/3](#)).

## II. Activities of the Implementation Review Group

15. Since the ninth session of the Conference, the Group has continued to discharge its functions as mandated by the Conference and to implement the mandates contained in the relevant resolutions adopted by the Conference.

16. To date, the Implementation Review Group has held 14 sessions. The following sessions were held in 2022 and 2023: thirteenth session from 13 to 17 June 2022 (hybrid format); first resumed thirteenth session on 8 and 9 September 2022 (hybrid format); second resumed thirteenth session from 7 to 11 November 2022 (hybrid format); fourteenth session from 12 to 16 June 2023 (hybrid format); and resumed fourteenth session from 4 to 8 September 2023 (hybrid format).

17. The Group considered the thematic and technical assistance items on its agenda jointly with the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption during its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions. In addition, the Group held joint meetings with the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery and the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption during its second resumed thirteenth session and its resumed fourteenth session. The joint meetings were held in line with Conference resolution 6/1, in which the secretariat was requested to structure the provisional agendas of the Implementation Review Group and the other subsidiary bodies established by the Conference in such a way as to avoid the duplication of discussions while respecting their mandates, as well as in accordance with the guidance contained in the workplan for the subsidiary bodies.

18. Information on the proceedings of the Implementation Review Group during the reporting period is contained in the reports on its sessions held in 2022 and 2023.<sup>1</sup>

### A. Performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism

#### *Overview of the review process*

19. The Group considered agenda item 2, entitled “Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”, at all its sessions held during the reporting period.

20. Notes by the Secretariat on the performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption were presented for the consideration of the Group at its sessions held from 13 to 17 June 2022, 7 to 11 November 2022 and 12 to 16 June 2023.<sup>2</sup> In addition, at the resumed sessions of the Group, the secretariat provided oral updates on progress made in the conduct of the reviews in the first and second cycles, with a focus on the responses received to the self-assessment checklist, the direct dialogues conducted, the executive summaries and country review reports that had been finalized and the country review reports that had been made available on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

21. At the sessions held during the reporting period, speakers, inter alia, shared their countries’ experiences as States parties under review and as reviewing States parties, and provided information on measures taken after the completion of the reviews, including to implement the recommendations emanating from them. Several speakers emphasized that the Implementation Review Group was a platform that contributed to the exchange of information on national measures taken during or after the completion of reviews.

<sup>1</sup> [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/6](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/6/Add.1](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/6/Add.2](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/7](#) and [CAC/COSP/2023/7/Add.1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/2](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/9](#) and [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/2](#).

*Drawing of lots*

22. In its resolution 6/1, the Conference requested the Group to proceed, at the beginning of its seventh session, with the selection of reviewed and reviewing States parties for the second review cycle by the drawing of lots in accordance with paragraphs 14 and 19 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism. The Conference also requested the Group to hold intersessional meetings open to all States parties for the purpose of the drawing of lots in accordance with paragraph 19 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism and without prejudice to the right of a State party to request that the drawing of lots be repeated at the subsequent intersessional meeting or regular session of the Group.

23. At its first session, the Group decided that States ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the drawing of lots would be reviewed in the fifth year of the first review cycle. In that regard, at the thirteenth session of the Group, in June 2022, lots were drawn for the review for the first and second review cycles of Suriname, which acceded to the Convention on 18 November 2021.

24. Following the practice by the Group with regard to the procedural issues arising from the drawing of lots, as endorsed by the Conference in its resolution 4/1, at the second resumed thirteenth session, the fourteenth session and the resumed fourteenth session of the Group, several redraws of reviewing States parties were carried out at the request of States parties under review. In addition, provisional redraws were carried out in cases where reviewing States parties could defer acting as reviewers in accordance with the terms of reference of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and could not be reached for immediate confirmation of their readiness to conduct the reviews.

*Next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism*

25. The next review phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism was discussed at all the sessions of the Group held in 2022 and 2023.

26. At the thirteenth session, it was noted that accelerating the completion of the second review cycle and analysing in detail any existing gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Convention would assist States parties in considering the next steps and the Conference in making a decision. Some speakers suggested that a detailed analysis should be prepared by the secretariat for the consideration of the Group at its next session. Accordingly, the secretariat prepared, for the consideration of the Group at its first resumed thirteenth session, which focused solely on agenda item 2 in accordance with the workplan approved by the Bureau of the Conference, a conference room paper on the performance of the Mechanism, the measures required for its completion, as well as initial considerations regarding the next phase of the Mechanism.<sup>3</sup>

27. At its second resumed thirteenth session, the Group considered an updated iteration of the aforementioned conference room paper, which was submitted as an official document for the session.<sup>4</sup> At the same session, several speakers, inter alia, welcomed the preparation of a questionnaire to collect the views of States parties on the review process and noted the importance of conducting a comprehensive analysis of the first and second cycles. Several speakers shared concrete proposals on aspects of the review process to be considered for the second phase, such as simplifying and streamlining the self-assessment checklist and country review reports, considering the use of an online platform with restricted access to gather and submit responses to the self-assessment checklist and continuing to provide opportunities for the training of focal points and governmental experts, including online training.

28. At its fourteenth session, the Group had before it a note by the Secretariat containing an analysis of the views of States parties on the performance of the

<sup>3</sup> CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/CRP.2.

<sup>4</sup> CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/9.

Mechanism, lessons learned and potential areas for improvement.<sup>5</sup> At the same session, speakers recommended that the Conference, at its tenth session, adopt a decision to extend the second cycle of the Mechanism until 31 December 2025. At its resumed fourteenth session, the Group considered a note by the Secretariat on lessons learned from other review mechanisms on their operation and transition to a next phase and the addendum thereto.<sup>6</sup> A panel on the same topic was organized by the secretariat.

*Enhancing synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption*

29. In its resolution 6/1, the Conference called upon the secretariat to continue exploring and, where appropriate, enhancing synergies, in coordination and cooperation with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption. Subsequently, in its resolution 7/4, entitled “Enhancing synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption”, the Conference requested the secretariat to continue its dialogue with States parties and with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms.

30. In its resolution 8/2, the Conference encouraged the secretariat to continue to strengthen synergies with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral organizations in the field of anti-corruption, within their respective mandates, to avoid duplication of effort and enhance the performance of the various review mechanisms, in accordance with its resolutions 6/1 and 7/4, and requested the secretariat to report to the Implementation Review Group on progress made in that regard.

31. Accordingly, at the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Group, the secretariat provided oral updates on activities to enhance synergies between relevant multilateral organizations responsible for review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption.

## **B. Financial and budgetary matters**

32. In its resolution 3/1, the Conference underlined that the Implementation Review Mechanism would require 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 Mechanism was adequately funded.

33. 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 Mechanism.

34. During the period under review, the Group considered financial and budgetary matters under the appropriate agenda item, including documentation prepared by the secretariat containing budgetary information on expenditures incurred to date in relation to the operation of the Mechanism, resources received, both from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions, projected expenditures for the first and second cycles, the effects of cost-saving measures and the shortfall in resources required for the functioning of the Mechanism. The secretariat provided budgetary information to the Group on expenditures incurred for the operation of the first and second cycles of the Mechanism, resources received both from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions, projected expenditures and the current shortfall in resource requirements for the functioning of the Mechanism.<sup>7</sup> The Group was also

<sup>5</sup> CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/3.

<sup>6</sup> CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/8 and CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/8/Add.1.

<sup>7</sup> CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/5 and CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/4.

provided with oral updates on financial and budgetary matters during its thirteenth, second resumed thirteenth and fourteenth sessions.

35. The Group expressed its strong support for the Mechanism and its satisfaction with the transparency and regularity of the secretariat's financial reporting. The Group also underscored that the Mechanism continued to play a critical role in promoting the effective implementation of the Convention and provided a platform to review progress in that regard.

### **C. State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

36. The Group considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled "State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption" at all its sessions held during the reporting period, with the exception of the first resumed thirteenth session.

37. In reference to the outcomes of the second cycle reviews, the Group considered, at its sessions held in 2022 and 2023, trends observed on the basis of reviews of the implementation of chapters II (Preventive measures) and V (Asset recovery), as contained in thematic reports prepared by the secretariat.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, supplements on the implementation at the regional level of chapters II and V, and on the implementation of provisions of a cross-cutting nature in those chapters of the Convention against Corruption were prepared by the secretariat for the consideration of the Group.<sup>9</sup>

38. Under the item, speakers, inter alia, referred to measures taken by their countries to implement the Convention, including amendments to existing legislation or the adoption of new legislation, the enhancement of institutional frameworks and the development of various anti-corruption strategies and policies, with a view to promoting transparency, integrity and accountability. They also reported on their countries' experiences in conducting reviews and on the measures taken in response to the recommendations emanating from the Implementation Review Mechanism, including legislative amendments, institutional reforms, the creation of strategic frameworks and training and capacity-building. In addition, speakers reported on the impact that the Implementation Review Mechanism had had on strengthening preventive measures, law enforcement and frameworks for international cooperation and asset recovery, including informal mechanisms, networks and cooperation agreements.

39. At the thirteenth session of the Group, at meetings not held jointly with the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, panel discussions were held on best practices and challenges in ensuring effective cooperation at the domestic level among anti-corruption and law enforcement authorities and on addressing supply and demand in relation to bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations. During joint meetings with the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, panel discussions were held on the use of information and communications technologies for the implementation of the Convention, on lessons learned in setting up frameworks for the protection of reporting persons and reporting systems and on tools and resources for identifying and mitigating potential corruption risks.

40. At the second resumed thirteenth session of Group, during joint meetings with the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, panel discussions were held on the following topics: (a) the follow-up to Conference resolution 9/1,

<sup>8</sup> [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/3](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/4](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/7](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/5](#) and [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/9](#).

<sup>9</sup> [CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/8](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/5/Add.1](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/9/Add.1](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/10](#) and [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/10/Add.1](#).

entitled “Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery”; (b) beneficial ownership transparency; and (c) the collection of information on restrained and confiscated assets and its importance in facilitating and expediting asset return proceedings.

41. At the fourteenth session of the Group, at a meeting not held jointly with the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, a panel discussion was held on challenges and good practices in the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences. In addition, three panel discussions were held on the following topics during joint meetings with the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption: (a) interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches; (b) strengthening the role of State audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption; and (c) good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies.

42. At the resumed fourteenth session of the Group, during joint meetings with the open-ended intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, panel discussions were held on the following topics: (a) good practices and challenges with respect to the establishment and management of effective financial disclosure systems for appropriate public officials; (b) data collection and the effective use of information and communications technologies; and (c) good practices, new developments and practical challenges relating to international cooperation during times of emergency and crisis response and recovery.

#### **D. Technical assistance**

43. During the period under review, the Group considered the item on technical assistance, including information on technical assistance needs identified in the country reviews conducted under the second review cycle, at all its sessions, with the exception of the first resumed thirteenth session.

44. At its thirteenth session, the secretariat presented the new regional approach of UNODC to its delivery of technical assistance in line with Conference resolution 9/4, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption at regional levels”. At its fourteenth session, the secretariat presented a note by the Secretariat on the analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews and assistance delivered by UNODC in support of the implementation of the Convention against Corruption.<sup>10</sup>

45. Under this item, speakers, *inter alia*, highlighted the importance of the provision of technical assistance in order to address challenges faced in the fight against corruption. Many speakers underscored the need for a demand-driven approach based on national needs identified by recipient countries. In that regard, one speaker referred to the Implementation Review Mechanism as a useful tool for the identification of technical assistance needs. Speakers also provided some examples of potential technical assistance needs, such as the development of a model code of conduct for the private sector, training on data analytics and investigative techniques, and legislative and technical support on topics including public procurement and beneficial ownership transparency.

46. To facilitate the Group’s deliberations on this item, panel discussions on technical assistance were organized during joint meetings on technical assistance held by the Group with other subsidiary bodies of the Conference, in relation to chapter II (Preventive measures), chapter IV (International cooperation) and chapter V (Asset recovery) of the Convention, as well as on general matters related to technical assistance. At the thirteenth session of the Group, panel discussions were held on

<sup>10</sup> CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/6.



lessons learned in setting up frameworks for the protection of reporting persons and reporting systems, and on tools and resources for identifying and mitigating potential corruption risks. At the second resumed thirteenth session, one panel discussion was held in relation to chapter V of the Convention, and one was held in relation to chapter IV of the Convention. At the fourteenth session, a panel discussion was held on technical assistance in connection with article 12 of the Convention and paragraphs 11, 13 and 19 of the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021. At the resumed fourteenth session, a panel discussion was held on specific aspects of technical assistance in relation to chapter IV and chapter V of the Convention and on building the capacity of financial intelligence units through technical assistance.

#### **E. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation**

47. In line with Conference resolution 9/2, as of its thirteenth session, the Group included in its agenda an item entitled “Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, which it considered at all its sessions held in 2022 and 2023, with the exception of the first resumed thirteenth session. Under the item, speakers, *inter alia*, highlighted that the political declaration was a renewal of the international commitment to preventing and countering corruption and a road map for global anti-corruption efforts. The need to implement the declaration effectively was emphasized by all speakers. Speakers also noted that States still faced many challenges in international cooperation and asset recovery, which had a negative impact on progress in combating corruption. In addition, speakers highlighted recent legislative amendments to strengthen international cooperation, asset recovery and anti-money-laundering frameworks, as well as new national anti-corruption strategies and public awareness campaigns that engaged representatives from the private sector and civil society in anti-corruption efforts.

48. Furthermore, with the approval of the Bureau of the Conference, a panel discussion on strengthening business integrity was held at the fourteenth session, and one on measures to prevent money-laundering, with a focus on the role of intermediaries (also referred to as professional enablers or gatekeepers) in the transfer of proceeds of crime, was held at the resumed fourteenth session.

#### **F. Other matters**

49. In its resolution 8/2, the Conference encouraged the Implementation Review Group to continue to conduct briefings on the outcomes of the review process for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the sessions of the Implementation Review Group, in accordance with Conference resolution 4/6. Such briefings were held in June 2022, on the margins of the thirteenth session, and in June 2023, on the margins of the fourteenth session.<sup>11</sup>

### **III. Surveys to assess satisfaction with servicing of the sessions of the Implementation Review Group**

50. UNODC constantly strives to improve its service delivery. In that context, between June 2022 and September 2023, the secretariat administered four surveys to

<sup>11</sup> Summaries of those briefings are available in conference room papers CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/CRP.3 and CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/CRP.6.

assess delegations' satisfaction with the support it provided in relation to the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference. In 2022, a total of 153 responses were received from representatives of 65 States parties, with about 99 per cent of respondents rating the organization and servicing by the secretariat in support of the meetings as "excellent", "very good" or "satisfactory". The quality and timeliness of the documentation prepared by the secretariat were rated as "excellent", "very good" or "satisfactory" by 94 per cent of respondents.

51. In 2023, a total of 104 responses were received from representatives of 53 States parties, with 96 per cent of respondents rating the organization and servicing by the secretariat in support of the meetings as "excellent", "very good" or "satisfactory". The quality and timeliness of the documentation prepared by the secretariat were rated as "excellent", "very good" or "satisfactory" by 97 and 94 per cent of respondents, respectively. Ninety-nine per cent of respondents rated as "excellent", "very good" or "satisfactory" the quality of panel discussions and presentations, and 92 per cent of respondents were satisfied or highly satisfied with their overall experience with the Indico registration system.

52. Comments received from participants point to the need to ensure compliance with the three-minute time limit for each statement, and that statements be made on the topic in focus under the relevant item so as to ensure that all delegations have the opportunity to speak and that the meeting remains on schedule. Respondents also expressed a wish for more interactive exchanges after panel presentations, focusing on questions to the panellists rather than on providing statements on measures taken.

#### **IV. Recommendations**

53. The Conference may wish to consider the activities carried out by the Group at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions and adopt a workplan for the Implementation Review Group for the period 2024–2025.

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