

14 October 2011

English only

Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**Fourth session**

Marrakech, Morocco, 24-28 October 2011

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Proposal for a possible multi-year workplan for the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Prevention for the period up to 2015**Note prepared by the Secretariat**

1. In its resolution 3/2, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (“UNCAC”) decided to establish an interim Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group, in accordance with article 63, paragraph 7, of the UNCAC, and rule 2, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the States Parties, to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption.
2. Also in the same resolution, the Conference decided that the Working Group should perform the following functions:
 - (a) Assist the Conference in developing and accumulating knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption;
 - (b) Facilitate the exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices;
 - (c) Facilitate the collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices in the prevention of corruption;
 - (d) Assist the Conference in encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption.
3. In the same resolution, the Conference further decided that the Working Group should meet during the sessions of the Conference and, as appropriate, should hold at least two intersessional meetings prior to the fourth session of the Conference in order to perform its mandated task, within existing resources. The Conference also decided that the Working Group should submit reports on its activities to it.

V.11-86423 (E)

Please recycle 

4. At its first session, held from 13-15 December 2010, the Working Group structured its discussions along the following four themes: (i) the development and accumulation of knowledge in the area of prevention of corruption; (ii) exchange of information and experience among States on preventive measures and practices; (iii) collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices in the prevention of corruption; and (iv) cooperation among all stakeholders and sectors of society in order to prevent corruption. A variety of issues were discussed, including (i) good practices in the prevention of corruption and regulation models in the public sector; (ii) good practices in the prevention of corruption in public procurement, (iii) methodologies, including evidence-based approaches, for assessing areas of special vulnerability to corruption in the public and private sector, (iv) alignment of rules and regulations of the members of the United Nations system Chief Executive Board to the principles of the Convention; and (v) best practices for promoting responsible and professional reporting on corruption for journalists.

5. At its second session, held from 22-24 August 2011 in Vienna, the Working Group discussed good practices and initiatives in the prevention of corruption, specifically: (i) awareness-raising policies and practices, with special reference to articles 5, 7, 12 and 13 of the UNCAC; and (ii) the public sector and the prevention of corruption, including codes of conduct (article 8) and public reporting (article 13).

6. Also at its second session, the Working Group recommended that it continue to focus on a manageable number of specific substantive topics relevant to the implementation of the articles in Chapter II of the Convention at its future sessions, and reiterated that the availability of adequate expertise on the topics of attention would benefit the discussions. Topics of focused attention at future meetings were suggested as follows: (i) implementation of article 12 of the Convention, including the use of public-private partnerships; and (ii) conflicts of interest, reporting acts of corruption and asset declarations, particularly in the context of articles 7 to 9 of the Convention.

7. Also at its second session, the Working Group considered that future meetings follow a multi-year workplan for the period up to 2015 when the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism begins, and recommended to the Conference to discuss this matter at its fourth session. In advance of each meeting of the Working Group, it was recommended that States parties be invited to share their experiences of implementing the provisions under consideration, preferably by using the self-assessment checklist, including, where possible, successes, challenges, technical assistance needs and lessons learned in implementation. Also in advance of each meeting, it was recommended that the Secretariat prepare background papers for topics under discussion, based on the inputs from States parties, specifically as they relate to initiatives and good practices. These background papers should synthesize the approaches taken by States parties in their different contexts, presenting the broad options and typologies of approach that have been used, and drawing attention to any common issues arising or lessons identified by States parties. Panel discussions were recommended to be held during the Working Group meetings, involving experts from countries that had provided written responses on the priority themes in question.

8. Further to the recommendation that the Working Group develop and follow a multi-year workplan for the period up to 2015, and to initiate discussion at the

fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties, the Secretariat proposes the following structured approach to future sessions of the Working Group as a basis for further consideration:

2012:

- Public-Private Partnerships (article 12)
- Conflicts of interest, codes of conduct/statements of integrity, public reporting and declarations of assets (articles 7 to 9)

2013:

- Integrity in the judiciary, judicial administration and prosecution services (article 11)
- Public education, engagement of children and young people, and the role of mass media and the Internet (article 13)

2014:

- Mandates, jurisdiction and investigation capacity of anti-corruption agencies and other bodies (articles 6 and 36)
- Public sector legislative and administrative measures, including measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and, where applicable, the funding of political parties (articles 5 and 7)

2015:

- Measures to prevent money-laundering (article 14)
 - Integrity in public procurement processes, public reporting and transparency and accountability in the management of public finances (article 9 and 10)
-