



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

Distr.: General
4 April 2023

Original: English

Implementation Review Group

Fourteenth session

Vienna, 12–16 June 2023

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the session;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
3. Financial and budgetary matters.
4. State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption:
 - (a) Exchange of information, practices and experiences gained in the implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) Thematic discussion.
5. Technical assistance.
6. Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.
7. Other matters.
8. Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group.
9. Adoption of the report of the Implementation Review Group on its fourteenth session.

Annotations

1. **Organizational matters**
 - (a) **Opening of the session**

The fourteenth session of the Implementation Review Group will be opened on Monday, 12 June 2023, at 10 a.m., at the Vienna International Centre, M-Building, Boardroom B/M1. Subject to developments relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it is currently planned that the session will be held in person.



Although participants will be able to observe the proceedings online, there will be only very limited opportunities to deliver statements remotely through the online platform. In order to facilitate the work of the interpreters, only 30 minutes of each three-hour meeting will be allotted to statements delivered remotely by online participants. Delegations are therefore encouraged to ensure, to the extent possible, that statements are delivered by the representatives present in the meeting room.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

In its resolution 8/2, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption 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, subject to the availability of existing resources.

The provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Implementation Review Group was adopted by the Group at its thirteenth session, held from 13 to 17 June 2022.

The proposed organization of work for the fourteenth session (see annex) was prepared in line with the guidance contained in the workplan for the subsidiary bodies of the Conference, which was approved by the Bureau of the Conference, in order to enable consideration of agenda items 4, 5 and 6 jointly with the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption. The thematic focus of the fourteenth session will be on chapter II (Preventive measures) and chapter III (Criminalization and law enforcement) of the Convention.

2. Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Drawing of lots

On the first day of the fourteenth session, lots may be drawn to select the reviewing States parties for the first and second cycle reviews of any States parties that have become parties to the Convention since the previous drawing of lots. Lots may also be drawn for the purpose of carrying out redraws to select reviewing States parties, as required.

Progress made in the conduct of country reviews

In its decision 5/1, the Conference of the States Parties decided that the Implementation Review Group should include in its future sessions an agenda item allowing for discussion of relevant information collected, with the support of the Secretariat, in order to facilitate the assessment of the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, in accordance with paragraph 48 of the terms of reference, following the completion of the first review cycle.

In its resolution 8/2, the Conference, inter alia, requested the Implementation Review Group to continue to collect, with the support of the secretariat, relevant information, including the views of States parties, pertaining to the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, with a view to continuing, at the appropriate time, its assessment of the performance of the Mechanism, as provided for in paragraph 48 of its terms of reference and Conference decision 5/1. The Conference also requested the secretariat to continue to provide to the Implementation Review Group analyses of the time frames associated with the crucial stages of the review process, including statistics on the number of States parties that are behind schedule, with the aim of facilitating a more efficient process.

In response to the significant delays incurred during the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism, in its decision 8/1, the Conference extended the duration of the second cycle until June 2024 to allow for the completion of country reviews and called upon States parties to accelerate the completion of the second cycle.

The Secretariat has compiled and analysed information relating to the overall performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism during the first and second review cycles, including but not limited to the responses received to the self-assessment checklist, the direct dialogues conducted, the executive summaries and country review reports that have been finalized and the country review reports that have been made available on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Accordingly, the Implementation Review Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, containing recommendations on the measures required for the completion of the second cycle ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/2](#)).

Moreover, the Secretariat requested, through a note verbale dated 1 February 2023, States parties to share their views on the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism. An analysis of the responses provided by States parties is contained in a note by the Secretariat on lessons learned and views on potential areas for improvement of the Implementation Review Mechanism ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/3](#)).

Under the present item, delegations will be encouraged to deliver statements on the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, as well as on its next phase. Delegations are further encouraged to report on substantive matters in connection with the implementation of the Convention against Corruption, including on national measures taken as a follow-up to the reviews carried out under item 4 of the agenda.

Synergies with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms

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 of 6 November 2015 and 7/4 of 10 November 2017, and requested the secretariat to report to the Implementation Review Group on progress made in that regard. In the same resolution, the Conference encouraged States parties that were members of different multilateral review mechanisms in the field of anti-corruption to support, within their respective organizations and within the governing bodies of those organizations, efficient and effective cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of those review mechanisms and the secretariat of the Conference, while respecting the mandates of all review mechanisms. The secretariat will provide an oral update on efforts to enhance synergies.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/2](#))

Note by the Secretariat on lessons learned and views on potential areas for improvement of the Implementation Review Mechanism ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/3](#))

3. Financial and budgetary matters

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.

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 Implementation Review Mechanism.

At its fourteenth session, the Implementation Review Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing budgetary information on expenditures incurred so far for the operation of the first and second cycles of the Implementation Review Mechanism, resources received at the time of writing, both from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions, projected expenditures and the current shortfall in resource requirements for the functioning of the Mechanism ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/4](#)).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on resources and expenditures for the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/4](#))

4. State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

(a) Exchange of information, practices and experiences gained in the implementation of the Convention

In its resolution 8/2, the Conference 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. The Conference also 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 Group, and encouraged States parties, the United Nations and other stakeholders to make full use of those documents.

Accordingly, the Implementation Review Group will have before it a thematic report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the United Nations Convention against Convention ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/5](#)).

Furthermore, a report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (regional supplement) ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/5/Add.1](#)) will be made available to the Implementation Review Group for its consideration. The report contains supplementary information, organized by geographical region, to the thematic report on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures).

(b) Thematic discussion

The country reviews carried out under the first cycle identified gaps, challenges and good practices in relation to the effective enforcement of anti-corruption legislation. More than 300 gaps were identified with regard to prosecution, adjudication and sanctions, in addition to challenges relating to the domestic institutional set-up, such as the absence of specialized law enforcement authorities, inter-agency coordination in investigations, or cooperation with offenders and private sector entities. In the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption in June 2021, Member States and parties to the Convention, inter alia, committed to strengthening efforts to build the capacity of law enforcement and judicial authorities for the successful investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption and corruption-related offences, including through training, and to

allocating sufficient resources for specialized anti-corruption authorities and criminal justice institutions to more effectively investigate and prosecute these crimes.

Accordingly, a panel discussion will be held to explore challenges and good practices in the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences.

Moreover, States parties will be encouraged to provide, under agenda item 4, further information on successes, good practices, challenges and measures taken after the completion of the country reviews under the first and second review cycles, with a focus on chapter II (Preventive measures) and chapter III (Criminalization and law enforcement) of the Convention.

Agenda item 4 will be discussed together with item 2 of the agenda for the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at the joint meetings of the Implementation Review Group and that Working Group, and two additional joint panel discussions will be organized.

Documentation

Thematic report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/5](#))

Report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (regional supplement) ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/5/Add.1](#))

Executive summaries of country review reports
([CAC/COSP/IRG/I/4/1/Add.71](#); [CAC/COSP/IRG/II/2/1/Add.30](#);
[CAC/COSP/IRG/II/2/1/Add.31](#); [CAC/COSP/IRG/II/2/1/Add.32](#);
[CAC/COSP/IRG/II/3/1/Add.8](#); [CAC/COSP/IRG/II/3/1/Add.9](#);
[CAC/COSP/IRG/II/4/1/Add.1](#); [CAC/COSP/IRG/II/4/1/Add.2](#);
[CAC/COSP/IRG/II/4/1/Add.3](#); [CAC/COSP/IRG/II/4/1/Add.4](#))

5. Technical assistance

In its resolution 8/8, the Conference encouraged States parties to, inter alia, address the needs identified during their country reviews and to promote national anti-corruption strategies and/or action plans as a tool for country-led and country-based, integrated and coordinated technical assistance programming and delivery. Moreover, in its resolution 9/4, the Conference called upon States parties to acknowledge the importance of promoting, facilitating and supporting timely, sustainable, adequate and effective technical assistance for strengthening national capacities to prevent and fight corruption and called for accelerated action at all levels and by all technical assistance providers in addressing such needs, upon request, including those identified through the Implementation Review Mechanism, by mobilizing sufficient financial assistance, technical support and other resources, as stated in paragraph 53 of the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption held in 2021.

The Implementation Review Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews and assistance delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/6](#)).

Under the present item, delegations will be encouraged to discuss specific aspects of technical assistance in connection with chapter II (Preventive measures) and chapter III (Criminalization and law enforcement) of the Convention.

Two panel discussions will be organized in order to enable States parties to exchange views on specific aspects of technical assistance, including a panel discussion on the implementation of article 12 of the Convention and paragraphs 11, 13 and 19 of the political declaration and its chapter on technical assistance and information exchange.

Agenda item 5 will be discussed together with item 2 of the agenda for the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at the joint meetings of the Implementation Review Group and that Working Group.

Documentation

Analysis of technical assistance needs emerging from the country reviews and assistance delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/6](#))

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

At its special session held from 2 to 4 June 2021, the General Assembly adopted the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”. Member States, inter alia, committed to implementing that political declaration and invited the Conference, as the treaty body with prime responsibility for promoting and reviewing the implementation of the Convention, to follow up and build on the declaration.

Furthermore, in its resolution 9/2, the Conference directed its subsidiary bodies, within their mandates, to take appropriate measures to follow up on the political declaration.

Accordingly, under the present item, the Implementation Review Group and the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption are expected to discuss appropriate measures to follow up on the political declaration.

Moreover, in view of a request made during the second resumed thirteenth session of the Implementation Review Group, held in November 2022, and as approved by the extended Bureau by means of a silence procedure on 3 April 2023, the topic of strengthening business integrity, including through the use of sanctions and incentives, will be discussed under the present item. In the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its special session against corruption in June 2021, Member States and parties to the Convention committed to encouraging ethical behaviour and anti-corruption efforts in all enterprises and to enforcing proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for wrongdoing. By using incentives and sanctions and by introducing innovative legislative reforms, Governments can prompt businesses to develop and implement anti-corruption, ethics and compliance programmes. Some good practices in that respect have been identified within the framework of the Implementation Review Mechanism, but challenges and knowledge gaps remain. It is proposed that a panel discussion be held to explore what measures can be effective, how they can be implemented in practice and how they can support Member States and States parties in their efforts to strengthen integrity in public procurement. It is proposed that the discussion draw on paragraphs 11, 13 and 19 of the political declaration.

Agenda item 6 will be discussed together with item 3 of the agenda for the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at the joint meetings of the Implementation Review Group and that Working Group.

7. Other matters

In its resolution 4/6, the Conference decided that briefings on the Implementation Review Mechanism would be convened for non-governmental organizations on the margins of the sessions of the Implementation Review Group and be conducted by the Secretariat in cooperation with a member of the Bureau.

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 Group, in accordance with resolution 4/6.

A summary of the briefing, to be held on Tuesday, 13 June 2023, on the margins of the fourteenth session, will be made available on the web page for the fourteenth session of the Implementation Review Group after the conclusion of the session.

Moreover, under agenda item 7, the Implementation Review Group may wish to discuss any other matters.

8. Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group

The Implementation Review Group is to consider and approve, at its fourteenth session, a provisional agenda for its fifteenth session, which will be drafted by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair.

9. Adoption of the report of the Implementation Review Group on its fourteenth session

The Implementation Review Group is to adopt a report on its fourteenth session.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Monday, 12 June 2023		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the session
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption
3–6 p.m.	3	Financial and budgetary matters
	7	Other matters
	8	Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group
Tuesday, 13 June 2023		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	4	State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption ^a
	4 (a)	Exchange of information, practices and experiences gained in the implementation of the Convention
3–6 p.m.	4 (b)	Thematic discussion
Wednesday, 14 June 2023		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	4	State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (<i>continued</i>)
3–6 p.m.	4	State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 15 June 2023		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	5	Technical assistance ^a
3–6 p.m.	5	Technical assistance (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 16 June 2023		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	6	Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption ^a
3–6 p.m.	9	Adoption of the report of the Implementation Review Group on its fourteenth session

^a Agenda items 4 and 5 and item 6 will be discussed together with items 2 and 3, respectively, of the agenda for the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at the joint meetings of the Implementation Review Group and that Working Group.