



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

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## Report of the Implementation Review Group on its fourteenth session, held in Vienna from 12 to 16 June 2023

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## I. Introduction

1. The Implementation Review Group was established by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in its resolution 3/1, entitled “Review mechanism”, as an open-ended intergovernmental group of States parties to operate under its authority and report to it. The Group is 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 effective implementation of the Convention.

## II. Organization of the session

### A. Opening of the session

2. The Implementation Review Group held its fourteenth session in Vienna from 12 to 16 June 2023, in an in-person format with a virtual component.

3. The Implementation Review Group held 10 meetings, which were chaired by Amr Adel Hosny (Egypt), President-designate of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Aftab Ahmad Khokher (Pakistan), Vice-President of the Conference, and Pierre Bertels, Rapporteur of the Conference. The Implementation Review Group considered items 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 of the agenda for its fourteenth session. In addition, the Implementation Review Group considered items 4, 5 and 6 of its agenda jointly with the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption.

4. On 12 June, the Implementation Review Group adopted the annotated provisional agenda and organization of work for the session ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/1](#)).

5. In her introductory statement, the Secretary of the Conference provided an overview of the organization of work of the separate and joint proceedings of the Implementation Review Group at its fourteenth session and the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at its fourteenth meeting.

### B. Attendance

6. The following States parties to the Convention were represented at the session: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

7. The European Union, a regional economic integration organization that is a party to the Convention, was represented at the session.

8. In accordance with rule 2 of its resolution 4/5, the Conference decided that intergovernmental organizations, Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system may be invited to participate in the sessions of the Implementation Review Group.

9. The following Secretariat units, international treaty organization, institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented by observers: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme, University for Peace, African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Basel Institute on Governance, College for Criminal Law Science of Beijing Normal University and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences.

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe, International Anti-Corruption Academy, International Criminal Police Organization, International Development Law Organization, Interparliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative.

11. The Sovereign Order of Malta, an entity maintaining a permanent observer office at Headquarters, was also represented.

### **III. Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

#### **A. Drawing of lots**

12. At the request of States parties under review, several redraws of reviewing States were carried out, including provisional redraws in cases where reviewing States had the option to 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.

#### **B. Progress made in the conduct of country reviews**

13. A representative of the secretariat provided an update on the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism. In the first review cycle, 185 States parties had submitted their responses to the self-assessment checklist, 163 country visits and 14 joint meetings had been held, and 175 executive summaries and 164 country reports had been finalized. In the second cycle, 158 States parties had submitted their responses to the self-assessment checklist and 114 direct dialogues (including 107 country visits, which also included visits held in online or hybrid formats and seven joint meetings) had been held, of which approximately 95 per cent had involved other stakeholders. To date, 73 executive summaries and 47 country review reports had been completed. The representative also noted that almost 20 executive summaries were pending approval either by States parties under review or by reviewing States parties.

14. Moreover, the representative of the secretariat noted that the secretariat would advance the finalization of the pending executive summaries, and it was currently

planned that almost all the pending summaries would be finalized by June 2024. That would, in turn, align the overall review process with the target of completing 70 per cent of the executive summaries by December 2025. In that regard, the representative also noted that the Implementation Review Group might wish to recommend that the Conference extend the second cycle by at least 18 months, until December 2025.

15. The representative of the secretariat also briefed the Implementation Review Group on the views shared by States parties on the performance of the Implementation Review Mechanism, the lessons learned from it, and ideas and suggestions for the next phase of the Mechanism, as contained in document [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/3](#). He informed the Group that the vast majority of responding States parties had found the Mechanism to be either “very effective as it is” or “rather effective as it is”, and that States parties had underscored the important role of the Mechanism in generating momentum for anti-corruption efforts and in supporting States parties in their efforts to comply with the Convention. States parties had highlighted as key strengths of the Mechanism its independence and uniform application, comprehensiveness, consistency, and universal, technical, constructive, impartial, non-intrusive and non-adversarial nature. States parties had also shared information on areas they perceived to be weaknesses, with the most commonly reported weakness being the lack of a defined follow-up procedure. The representative also summarized the feedback received from States parties on the scope and thematic sequence of the reviews and their schedule, as well as on the self-assessment checklist, the direct dialogue and the outcome documents of the reviews. Furthermore, he provided information on the views that States parties had shared on the timeline for the launch of the next phase of the Mechanism and informed the Group that an analysis of the lessons that other review mechanisms had learned in their transitions to a new phase would be made available to the Group at its resumed fourteenth session, with a view to informing the deliberations of the Group on the transition of the Implementation Review Group to its next phase.

16. In the ensuing discussion, many speakers underscored the positive impact that the Implementation Review Mechanism had had on accelerating the implementation of the Convention, including through the identification and exchange of information on good practices, challenges and technical assistance needs, and reiterated their Governments’ commitments to the Mechanism. In particular, the Mechanism had promoted national policies and strategies to counter corruption and legislative and institutional reforms, and had contributed to strengthening cooperation among national authorities and a range of non-governmental stakeholders.<sup>1</sup> Several speakers highlighted the importance of the reviews in raising awareness of the Convention and of Governments’ anti-corruption commitments and efforts, and in increasing domestic coordination, including the involvement of different stakeholders in those efforts. Several speakers emphasized that adherence to the guiding principles was a cornerstone of the Mechanism and underpinned the successful conduct of the reviews.

17. Speakers particularly appreciated the opportunity for dialogue during the country visits to better assess the implementation of the Convention, facilitate the exchange of good practices and information, enhance inclusivity and increase awareness and visibility of the review process, and suggested that country visits should be maintained in the next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

18. The reviews contributed to better capacities to respond to corruption, served as benchmarks to assess the progress achieved and identify challenges and ways to address them, and contributed to greater transparency and accountability. Several speakers referred to the important role of the secretariat in facilitating the reviews and strengthening consistency among reviews.

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<sup>1</sup> More information on national measures taken as a follow-up to country reviews can be found under section V of the present report, on the state of implementation of the Convention.

19. Some speakers stated that unilateral coercive measures, including sanctions, were in violation of international law, had a negative impact on their countries' ability to prevent and fight corruption effectively and undermined the objectives and purposes of the Convention.
20. One speaker stated that sanctions were important tools designed to uphold the rule of law and to hold to account those whose corrupt actions pillaged the wealth and resources of their people, undermined economies and generated illicit proceeds of corruption.
21. Several speakers expressed concern at the delays in the second cycle reviews, challenges related to the translation of documents and the workload for experts and the secretariat. The importance of adequate training for focal points and experts, including online training, and the provision of technical assistance were emphasized in that regard. In that respect, one speaker referred to voluntary contributions made by her country to support the organization of in-person training sessions for focal points and experts.
22. Some speakers supported extending the first phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism until December 2025 to allow States parties to finalize their reviews, while other speakers stressed that that extension should be the last one. Some speakers stated that there was no need to finish all the reviews in order to launch the second phase, while one speaker indicated that the phase ended when all countries had been reviewed. Speakers recommended that the Conference, at its tenth session, adopt a decision to extend the second cycle of the Mechanism until 31 December 2025. One speaker recommended that a completion threshold be included in the decision.
23. In relation to the preparations for the next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism, speakers welcomed the efforts by the secretariat to collect and make available views of States parties on the next phase and called for more discussion among States parties on the preparations for the next phase. In that regard, one speaker indicated that an informal process organized by the secretariat would be helpful to assist in those preparations.
24. Several options regarding the scope and themes of the reviews in the next phase were discussed. Many speakers suggested a greater focus on practical implementation and the effectiveness and impact of measures taken. Several speakers noted that the next phase should focus on the implementation of the recommendations and findings emanating from the first phase, without repeating the review, while others indicated that the next phase should cover all provisions of the Convention under review. In that regard, it was noted that some recommendations might have lost relevance since the first phase. Some speakers suggested that, in view of the workload involved in the reviews, the next phase should cover the review of one chapter of the Convention per review cycle, while others suggested reconsidering how the different chapters of the Convention were combined for each review cycle, taking into account the complexities of collecting information, in particular on chapter II of the Convention. One speaker suggested conducting the review of another chapter that had not previously been reviewed. Another speaker suggested that the drawing of lots for the next phase be conducted electronically.
25. Some speakers noted that responding to the self-assessment checklist for the second cycle had been burdensome, in particular in view of the many actors involved, and suggested that the self-assessment checklist be shortened and streamlined. However, one speaker cautioned that that would be difficult given the interconnected nature of the articles.
26. The absence of a dedicated follow-up mechanism was regarded by several speakers as the main weakness of the Implementation Review Mechanism, and several speakers suggested that such a follow-up mechanism be established for the next phase.
27. Several speakers expressed the view that the indicative timelines for the reviews were too ambitious, and those timelines should be extended. In particular, the

indicative timelines for responding to self-assessment checklists and finalizing reviews were considered too short. One speaker noted that the extended timelines should be combined with stricter enforcement of deadlines.

28. Regarding the transparency of the Implementation Review Mechanism, some speakers suggested that executive summaries be presented during the sessions of the Implementation Review Group to increase visibility and sharing of good practices; one speaker disagreed with that suggestion. Some speakers called for more interaction with non-governmental stakeholders in the reviews, while others expressed their appreciation for the intergovernmental nature of the Mechanism. Speakers from States parties that had signed the UNCAC Civil Society Coalition Transparency Pledge encouraged others to do so. With regard to the publication of outcome documents, some speakers expressed their preference for maintaining the current system, while others called for all review documents to be made available online.

29. Speakers expressed appreciation for the support provided by the secretariat and called for that role to be continued in the next phase. One speaker requested the secretariat to continue convening trilateral meetings for individual reviews on the margins of the Implementation Review Group's sessions and to prepare a workplan for those meetings; to send a voluntary data call requesting States parties to report on the status of their reviews, including projected timelines, and to publish a report for each session of the Group describing the status of reviews; and to publish information regarding country visit dates, publication target dates and members of the team for each individual country review.

### **C. Synergies with the secretariats of other relevant multilateral mechanisms**

30. A representative of the secretariat provided an overview of activities to enhance synergies with the secretariats of other anti-corruption peer-review mechanisms. Those activities included regular coordination meetings, attendance of each other's meetings and cooperation on substantive topics. In addition to the established cooperation with OECD and the Organization of American States, the secretariat had supported the review mechanism of the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention, and had been in contact with the African Union, the European Union and the Financial Action Task Force to explore stronger synergies with their respective mechanisms.

31. With a view to assisting States parties in the design of the next phase of the Implementation Review Mechanism, the secretariat had conducted interviews with the secretariats of the Group of States against Corruption of the Council of Europe, the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the universal periodic review and the Financial Action Task Force on their experience in transitioning from initial evaluation to follow-up phases. Preliminary findings included the need for equal and fair treatment of all States; the importance of following up on recommendations; and the value of country visits and engagement with non-governmental stakeholders to fully assess implementation. In response to a question, the Secretary indicated that the secretariat had also previously been in contact with the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption, and was organizing further consultations on strengthening synergies between the two review mechanisms.

32. In the ensuing discussion, several speakers underscored the importance of synergies between different instruments and mechanisms and noted the value of different review mechanisms in enhancing anti-corruption efforts, including by taking into account recommendations issued under different bodies. In that regard, one speaker described a dashboard that her country had set up to consolidate the recommendations of different review mechanisms as a tool for governmental authorities and civil society to monitor policy action, follow up on reviews and prepare for the

next cycle. Several speakers reported on efforts made to build the capacity of national experts to complete the self-assessment checklist of the review mechanism of the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention.

33. The representative of the European Union highlighted the annual Rule of Law Report of the European Commission, which contained recommendations for the States members of the European Union relating to strategic, institutional and legal anti-corruption frameworks. He suggested increasing the synergies between the Rule of Law Report and the Implementation Review Mechanism.

#### **IV. Financial and budgetary matters**

34. A representative of the secretariat provided information on the expenditures incurred for the operation of the first and second cycles of the Implementation Review Mechanism as at 28 February 2023 and on the current funding gap between the extrabudgetary voluntary contributions received and the resource requirements for the functioning of the Mechanism.

35. With regard to regular budget resources, the representative recalled that regular budget funds served to cover staff costs and the costs related to the sessions of the Implementation Review Group.

36. The representative informed the Implementation Review Group that extrabudgetary expenditures had significantly increased in 2022 in comparison with the years 2020 and 2021, when the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis had led to a substantial reduction in cost-generating activities, such as the travel of governmental and UNODC experts for the purpose of conducting country reviews. As a result, and in comparison with the previous financial report ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/5](#)), the total extrabudgetary expenditures incurred in support of operating the Implementation Review Mechanism had grown by \$581,900 since 28 February 2022. As a result, a total of \$9.9 million had been spent in support of the first cycle and a total of \$4.5 million in support of the second cycle as at 28 February 2023.

37. The representative informed the Implementation Review Group that the extrabudgetary contributions provided to the Implementation Review Mechanism had increased by \$20,000 since February 2022 and totalled \$18,443,200 as at 28 February 2023. He explained that the amount covered the total estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the first cycle and the first four years of the second cycle, so that the overall funding gap had been reduced to \$716,500. In closing, he expressed his appreciation for the voluntary and in-kind contributions made by States in support of the Mechanism.

38. Speakers expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the information provided and encouraged States parties and other donors to consider providing additional voluntary funding to the Implementation Review Mechanism, which would, as one speaker pointed out, ensure the functioning of the Mechanism in line with its guiding principles. One speaker announced that her country was continuing its financial support in order to help close the gap. Another speaker pointed out that the Mechanism was made possible through the mixed funding model and highlighted that transparent and regular reporting to States parties on the expenditure and estimated costs of UNODC was essential to ensuring that the funding model continued to work effectively.

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

### **A. Exchange of information, practices and experiences gained in the implementation of the Convention**

39. Two representatives of the secretariat presented an update on the good practices and challenges identified in the thematic report on the implementation of chapter II (Preventive measures) of the Convention against Corruption (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/5) and in the regional supplement thereto (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/5/Add.1), which had, for the first time, been prepared as an additional thematic report. They informed the Implementation Review Group that both reports were based on the 67 executive summaries that had been finalized by 28 February 2023. The representative of the secretariat noted that nine executive summaries had been finalized since the last update and that new trends would continue to emerge from the review process.

40. The representative of the secretariat indicated that the trends identified in the thematic report on the implementation of chapter II were largely consistent with those identified in the previous thematic report (CAC/COSP/IRG/2022/3), submitted to the Implementation Review Group at its thirteenth session. With regard to the number of recommendations issued, the challenges identified as most prevalent related to the public sector (art. 7), followed closely by those related to codes of conduct for public officials (art. 8) and to the private sector (art. 12). The highest number of good practices had been identified in relation to article 13, on the participation of society, and article 5, on preventive anti-corruption policies and practices. Article 11, on measures relating to the judiciary and prosecutorial services, continued to be the article for which the least number of good practices had been identified.

41. Another representative of the secretariat provided an update on regional trends as set out in the regional supplement.

42. In the ensuing discussion, speakers welcomed the preparation of the thematic report on chapter II and the new regional supplement. In that regard, a number of speakers shared their countries' experiences in conducting reviews and reported 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.

43. Several 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. Several speakers referred to reforms and highlighted developments regarding the creation and strengthening of domestic anti-corruption, investigative and prosecution bodies. One speaker highlighted the relevance of inter-institutional cooperation in addressing corruption and provided an update on domestic anti-corruption measures, which included the formation of an anti-corruption commission and the adoption of transparency measures related to public procurement.

44. Examples shared by speakers of good practices included structural reforms and steps to amend legal and institutional frameworks; multisectoral anti-corruption strategies; regulations and Government decisions; codes of conduct and related measures for the protection of reporting persons, victims and cooperating offenders; extended statutes of limitations; and strong domestic cooperation frameworks, including with supreme audit institutions. One speaker emphasized the importance of gender equality measures in fighting corruption and another speaker noted that gender was a component of one of his country's newly created integrity platforms. He noted the establishment of a harassment complaint committee to address grievances and issues related to the protection of reporting persons and the empowerment of victims of corruption.



45. One speaker mentioned the adoption of a new multi-jurisdictional anti-corruption strategy and legislative initiatives aimed at addressing challenges related to privileges and immunities in corruption investigations. The speaker also noted the role of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, the first transnational office with an anti-corruption mandate, and highlighted several priority areas such as efforts to prevent corruption in public procurement.

46. Several speakers reported on preventive measures taken at the national level, including the conduct of corruption risk assessments and the development of indicators to measure corruption, as well as guidelines on corruption risk management; frameworks on the prevention of conflicts of interest, integrity in public procurement and the recruitment of public officials; electronic systems for case assignment and court transparency; special vetting and lifestyle audits for vulnerable sectors and professions; and awareness-raising and capacity-building activities. One speaker highlighted the adoption of new measures on transparency regarding beneficial ownership and incentives to facilitate the reporting of acts of corruption.

47. Some speakers stated that unilateral coercive measures, including sanctions, were in violation of international law, had a negative impact on their countries' ability to prevent and fight corruption effectively and undermined the objectives and purposes of the Convention.

48. One speaker stated that sanctions were important tools designed to uphold the rule of law and to hold to account those whose corrupt actions pillaged the wealth and resources of their people, undermined economies and generated illicit proceeds of corruption.

49. Some speakers noted the important role of technology and digitalization in efforts to prevent and counter corruption, in particular with regard to public procurement, asset declarations and enhanced transparency. One speaker noted that digitalization was a key aspect of her country's newly developed anti-corruption strategy, and another speaker mentioned the creation of a digital data platform designed to improve transparency in the mineral and coal sectors. Other speakers reported on their anti-corruption data-collection systems and the importance of having statistics to assess the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. Several speakers reported that the use of technology had greatly facilitated efforts to prevent corruption and increased transparency and access to information. Examples of such technology included online asset disclosure systems, the automatization of services, e-procurement, data analysis and online reporting mechanisms.

50. Several speakers referred to the important role played by civil society and other non-governmental actors in strengthening national anti-corruption efforts and stressed the importance of involving multiple stakeholders in the work of anti-corruption bodies. Two speakers referred to legislation in their countries that promoted the participation of civil society in the development of domestic anti-corruption frameworks. One speaker noted that one of the most effective means of preventing corruption was to ensure that civil society and the media were involved in the identification of corruption. Another speaker highlighted the creation of an intergovernmental task force designed to promote public participation in domestic anti-corruption efforts. Moreover, several speakers referred to the role of young people in the fight against corruption and noted the importance of education and awareness-raising activities to ensure the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts.

51. Several speakers reported on developments in their countries regarding the criminalization of corruption offences. Some speakers reported the criminalization for the first time of conduct such as self-laundering, the non-disclosure of beneficial ownership information and certain conduct related to sports, while others reported the establishment of stricter penalties for existing offences. One speaker noted that the inclusion of corruption offences in the category of economic offences meant that the former could be tried by a higher tribunal. In addition, while some speakers noted the establishment of specialized criminal tribunals for corruption offences, another speaker highlighted the importance of civil avenues and administrative measures to

address the consequences of corruption. One speaker referred to a study on non-trial solutions to address corporate liability, including settlements, and another speaker noted the potential value of leniency agreements.

52. Several speakers referred to measures taken to enhance anti-money-laundering frameworks, including legal and institutional reforms, as well as the strengthening of frameworks and practices on confiscation, asset recovery and return. In addition, one speaker referred to the development of an asset recovery guide following a recommendation emanating from the review of his country. He also mentioned a draft bill on asset recovery expenses. Another speaker referred to a case management system for mutual legal assistance that had been developed in his country as a follow-up to the review.

53. Several speakers referred to their countries' membership of international and regional organizations and networks such as the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (Globe Network), as well as the use of bilateral cooperation agreements, to strengthen the prevention of and fight against corruption. One speaker also highlighted the relevance of agreements on the use of returned assets. Another speaker mentioned his country's efforts to ratify the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation. One speaker referred to a conference on the International Corruption Hunters Alliance, with a focus on partnerships in crisis, that had been held in Abidjan and organized by the World Bank.

54. Several speakers welcomed the support of UNODC during the review process, as well as the development and implementation of measures following the recommendations emanating from it. One speaker highlighted the establishment of a regional platform to fast-track the implementation of the Convention in Central America.

## **B. Thematic discussion**

### *Panel discussion on challenges and good practices in the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences*

55. To facilitate deliberations on the implementation of chapter III (Criminalization and law enforcement), a panel was convened that focused, in particular, on challenges and good practices in the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences. In her introductory statement, a representative of the secretariat noted that first cycle reviews had identified numerous gaps and challenges with regard to the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences. In addition to gaps in capacity, difficulties faced were the result of the complexity of many cases, transnational financial transactions and layers of secrecy surrounding corruption offences; political interference with investigations; and immunities granted to officials under investigation.

56. The representative presented an analysis of the submissions that States parties had shared on a voluntary basis to demonstrate measures taken to implement 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. Twenty-five of those submissions focused on measures to better detect and subsequently investigate and prosecute acts of corruption. The submissions featured measures such as access for investigators to data sources, including asset declarations, and tax data; regional matrices of high-level corruption cases to identify patterns and cases; and incentives for self-reporting, including improved whistle-blower channels and protection to address a lack of trust among citizens and a resulting fear of reporting. The role of the media and the need for its protection was highlighted, as were institutional improvements such as a fully independent prosecutor's office that, inter alia, had the right to introduce legislative initiatives. The most frequently listed training topics for investigators and prosecutors

were financial investigations and the use of forensic accounting, freezing and confiscation of virtual assets. Technology was named as both a useful tool and a major challenge owing to its constant evolution. At the institutional level, States parties reported on domestic inter-agency task forces and working groups to improve cooperation and information exchange as a precursor to effective international cooperation. Several States parties had also improved their corporate liability regime and had successfully applied a wide range of sanctions, such as debarment from procurement and cessation of government subsidies, as well as the repeated publication of sanctioning decisions in widely circulated media.

57. A panellist from Czechia provided an overview of his country's experience in detecting, investigating and prosecuting high-level corruption offences. Referring to the complexity of detecting and proving the commission of such offences, the panellist highlighted the importance of receiving reliable incriminating information at the initial stage of an investigation and of measures to prevent information on undercover investigations from leaking. In that regard, he stressed that public confidence in law enforcement and its ability and willingness to fight corruption played a crucial role. The effective use of recently introduced instruments, such as the special status granted to cooperating defendants and plea bargaining agreements, made it easier to obtain convictions in high-profile corruption cases. Furthermore, a centralized bank account register, maintained by the Central Bank and accessible to prosecutors, allowed the easier and faster verification of bank accounts. Once the existence of an account was confirmed, full account details were accessible to prosecutors, and banks were obliged to comply with information requests free of charge if the information was necessary to clarify the details of and help uncover a crime, which significantly facilitated financial investigations and prosecutions. The speaker highlighted several challenges to effective prosecutions, such as the leakage of information from case files by defendants, the obstruction of criminal proceedings and indirect political interference. The latter included the offering of incentives not to pursue certain cases in view of the compensation due for wrongful prosecutions, the acquisition of information from case files through misuse of statutory powers, and the delaying of legislative reforms to strengthen the independence of the prosecution and reinforce the capacity of competent law enforcement authorities. The panellist concluded by sharing details of a criminal case that illustrated the above-mentioned practices.

58. A panellist from Panama reported on his country's recent experience in investigating and prosecuting several high-profile corruption cases and reflected on measures that had proved effective. Those measures included the broadest possible cooperation among competent domestic authorities and collaboration with foreign authorities. He emphasized that his Government attached enormous importance to enhancing international cooperation as one of the most crucial elements in detecting and investigating corruption offences. He explained that practical cooperation with foreign authorities allowed successful prosecutions in many corruption cases, including those resulting from the Mossack Fonseca papers. Furthermore, he noted that one such case involving former high-level public officials, including former presidents, ministers and their associates, had been successfully brought to trial, and criminal proceedings were ongoing. The panellist also noted the successful utilization of a strategic approach that was focused on effectively combating money-laundering and conducting effective financial investigations. He stated that measures to that end included establishing inter-agency task forces, carrying out capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for relevant national investigators and prosecutors, and building appropriate legal and institutional frameworks to increase the responsibility of gatekeepers, establish registers of beneficial owners and ensure adequate access to such registers by competent authorities.

59. A panellist from Seychelles provided an overview of the challenges her country faced in combating particularly high-profile cases of corruption. She noted that the Anti-Corruption Commission of Seychelles operated with a limited budget, which had been increased in 2022 after a successful prosecution in a prominent corruption case

but had been decreased in 2023 and would be decreased further in 2024. The panellist shared insights from the aforementioned case, which had involved a total of \$97 million in assets. She emphasized the complexity of the case, which had required the investigation of evidence from 600 seized digital devices and efforts to trace proceeds spanning 26 jurisdictions, which presented challenges at both the domestic and international levels. The collaboration required had involved national and international partners, including financial intelligence units, the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre of the National Crime Agency of the United Kingdom, and law enforcement agencies from Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. The panellist noted the assistance received from international partners, including in establishing a digital forensic laboratory. She mentioned that the use of informal networks for law enforcement cooperation had been crucial in pursuing the case, whereas obtaining mutual legal assistance from certain jurisdictions had been challenging. In conclusion, the panellist called for the increased digitization of mutual legal assistance processes in order to streamline them.

60. A panellist from OECD highlighted the role of the media and investigative journalism by affiliated or independent journalists or non-governmental organizations as being one of the most important in detecting corruption offences. She referred to a study on detection carried out by OECD, which covered the role of investigative journalists as an important source for the detection of corruption, noting that at least half of the members of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions had detected at least one case of corruption through media reports. New tools such as encrypted communications and open data now allowed journalists to access vast amounts of information, and transnational consortiums of journalists facilitated investigations unimaginable 10 years ago, such as the investigation of the Mossack Fonseca papers. She noted the need to have in place legal frameworks to ensure safe reporting, to protect journalists from unjustified retaliation and to protect sources and reporting persons – as whistle-blowers often turned to media outlets first and were a primary source for journalists. To make further use of media reports as a resource, the OECD Working Group on Bribery had recommended that countries request their overseas missions to monitor local media and report allegations to authorities, and that law enforcement authorities routinely assess credible allegations reported in the media. OECD also kept a matrix of allegations of bribery on the basis of media reports, which was used to detect and trace cases.

61. In the ensuing discussion, speakers expressed appreciation for the information shared by the panellists regarding practical challenges faced in and experiences of investigating and prosecuting particularly high-profile cases of corruption and associated offences.

62. Panellists and speakers acknowledged the crucial role of international cooperation in the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption, in particular in cases that had transnational implications, such as cross-border money-laundering. The panellist from Panama highlighted his country's active collaboration with other States in the Mossack Fonseca case, including the United States, Canada and Switzerland. It was noted that several mutual legal assistance treaties had been signed, enabling cooperation between general prosecutors and the sharing of intelligence, where appropriate, through established mechanisms, including international and regional networks, for that purpose. The value of informal cooperation was also highlighted, as it fostered trust and facilitated efficient mutual legal assistance, leading to better preservation of evidence. In that regard, reference was made to the use by Panama of several informal networks to facilitate asset tracing and recovery. Moreover, the importance of national coordination in supporting successful international cooperation was emphasized. The panellist from Panama shared his country's experience in establishing a joint task force involving various government agencies and banks. That collaborative effort had reinforced the national response to corruption and money-laundering, resulting in the successful prosecution of high-profile cases, in particular those with transnational elements.

63. With regard to statutes of limitations, panellists explained that their legal systems provided for long statutes that allowed for prosecutions even after 10 to 15 years had elapsed. In Panama, that was achieved by strategically combining the limitation period for corruption offences with other offences such as money-laundering, which had a longer limitation period. In contrast, in Czechia, a limitation period of 15 years provided sufficient time for the prosecution of corruption offences. One speaker noted the importance of clarifying when the statute of limitations began running and explained that his country had opted for the moment of discovery of the offence to mark the beginning of the limitation period.

64. With regard to immunities, the panellist from Czechia explained that a change in legislation in his country had allowed for prosecutions of members of the Parliament once their term of office had ended. In Panama, where members of the Parliament, ministers and vice-ministers enjoyed immunity, the Attorney General and the Supreme Court of Justice were competent to investigate with a view to prosecution.

65. Other criminal procedure issues raised by speakers included delay tactics used by defence attorneys and budgetary constraints of prosecutors. In that regard, the panellists noted that substantive due process rights and other constitutional protections were guaranteed in all criminal cases. The panellist from Panama noted that, subject to those due process protections, special investigative techniques such as surveillance, wiretaps or undercover operations under court supervision could be employed in appropriate cases. In Czechia, in order to incentivize an accused person to cooperate, immunity from prosecution or punishment could be granted in cases where that person substantially assisted in the investigation of offences.

66. Noting the role of gatekeepers in facilitating corruption and related money-laundering offences, several speakers asked questions about the experiences and challenges encountered in investigating and prosecuting offences involving gatekeepers, such as lawyers, accountants and tax advisors. The panellists referred to specific case examples and challenges resulting from various safeguards established for such professionals, in particular attorney-client privilege and special procedures for obtaining documents and evidence where that privilege was concerned. Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code were being considered in Czechia in order to address those issues, as access to information proved impossible in practice owing to attorney-client privilege.

67. One speaker suggested that the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention could be an opportunity to further examine, through a commission composed of special legal advisers, gaps in the articles of the Convention related to international cooperation and asset recovery and return, and suggested ways to strengthen the relevant provisions of the Convention.

68. Three panel discussions were organized during joint meetings with the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption on interlinkages between preventive and law enforcement approaches, strengthening the role of State audit institutions in the prevention of and fight against corruption, and good practices, lessons learned and challenges in periodically evaluating the efficiency and effectivity of anti-corruption measures and policies. A detailed report on those panel discussions can be found in the report on the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption ([CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/5](#)).

69. Several States parties made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

## **VI. Technical assistance**

70. A representative of the secretariat provided an oral update on the implementation of Conference resolutions 9/3 and 9/6, focusing on corruption prevention, and provided an overview of the activities undertaken by the secretariat

in the period from March 2022 to May 2023.<sup>2</sup> Subsequently, a representative of 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 (CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/6) and provided a brief overview and regional analysis of the technical assistance needs relating to chapter II of the Convention. Capacity-building continued to be the most prevalent category of needs identified under chapter II, as seen in 38 of the 67 States that completed their executive summaries and identified needs under that chapter. The representative highlighted that 92 per cent of all needs identified under chapter II were those of African States and Asia-Pacific States. She concluded by noting that the progress in the second cycle reviews would enable a more complete overview of the regional trends in technical assistance needs, which would also be valuable in supporting the expanding work of the regional platforms and hubs.

71. In the ensuing debate, speakers 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.

72. Speakers thanked UNODC for the technical assistance provided. Some speakers also shared their experience as providers of technical assistance and as contributors to the work of UNODC. One speaker referred to the importance of the regional platforms initiative developed by UNODC to fast-track effective implementation of the Convention and drew attention to the regional platform for West Africa and the Sahel, which was supported by contributions from her country. Another speaker referred to the renewed partnership between her country and UNODC on technical assistance and encouraged States parties to continue contributing resources to UNODC for that purpose. One expert referred to a new programme focused on strengthening accountability, to be delivered in partnership with Transparency International.

*Panel discussion on technical assistance in connection with article 12 of the Convention and paragraphs 11, 13 and 19 of the political declaration*

73. A representative of the secretariat briefed the Implementation Review Group on the importance of anti-corruption measures in the private sector and of technical assistance to strengthen business integrity and to provide a space for collective action to prevent and counter corruption. He further noted the findings of the Implementation Review Mechanism regarding article 12 of the Convention, on the private sector, and noted paragraphs 11, 13 and 19 of the political declaration and Conference resolution 9/2 of the Conference on the process of follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly. He also provided an update on the work of the secretariat on corruption and the private sector. Lastly, the representative briefly introduced the panellists and encouraged the Group to have further discussions on the topic.

74. A panellist from Brazil presented her country's experience in providing technical assistance to another State with the implementation of a project to promote integrity and compliance in the private sector. In particular, the panellist mentioned the Empresa Pró-Ética project, which was first developed in Brazil and which rewarded private sector entities that adopted measures to prevent, detect and remediate corruption. She noted the statistics on the companies to which the award

<sup>2</sup> More information on the topic can be found in the report on the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption (CAC/COSP/WG.4/2023/5).

had been granted. Lastly, the panellist noted that Brazil, with the help of funding from Germany, was providing technical assistance and expertise to Paraguay in the development of a similar reward programme called “Sello Integridad”.

75. A panellist from Ethiopia presented the work of the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, which was responsible for promoting prevention, education and law enforcement activities related to corruption and business integrity. He mentioned key areas of work in relation to the private sector, including several training courses on ethics and the prevention of corruption in the private sector; and the organization, in cooperation with UNODC, of a private sector dialogue and a public-private sector dialogue. Key technical assistance areas of interest included training on the investigation and prosecution of corruption in the private sector, money-laundering and terrorist financing.

76. A panellist from Uzbekistan provided an overview of her country’s efforts to fight corruption in the private sector. She referred to a systematic approach to counter corruption aimed at, inter alia, engaging the private sector in the fight against corruption. She further noted the establishment of a beneficial ownership registry and highlighted that all inspections by regulatory authorities must be registered in a unified State oversight information system. The Anti-Corruption Agency, the Business Ombudsman and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry had adopted an anti-corruption charter and a code of business ethics to promote business integrity. The panellist highlighted, as a means of enhancing cooperation, the importance of an annual business integrity forum organized with the support of UNODC.

77. In the ensuing discussion, some speakers noted the usefulness of public-private cooperation and partnerships, including for the purposes of awareness-raising and capacity-building in the area of business integrity. Some speakers elaborated on the importance of including a gender perspective in promoting integrity measures in the private sector, as well as the inclusion of civil society organizations and other stakeholders such as academia in the development of relevant policies.

78. Several speakers noted the importance of developing anti-corruption policies in the private sector. One speaker noted that codes of conduct constituted a cornerstone of the prevention of corruption in the private sector. In support of the examples shared by the panellists, another speaker noted the key role that transparency played in the detection of corruption in the private sector.

79. Some speakers noted the importance of sanctions and incentives to promote anti-corruption measures in the private sector. Speakers highlighted the importance of integrity awards to incentivize the voluntary adoption of anti-corruption measures in the private sector and expressed interest in the criteria used for the assessment of private sector anti-corruption efforts. In response to a question, the panellist from Brazil noted that incentives for business integrity were complemented by sanctioning frameworks.

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

80. Agenda item 6, entitled “Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, was discussed together with item 4, with the same title, of the agenda for the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption at the joint meeting of the two groups, held on 16 June 2023.

81. To facilitate the joint deliberations, a panel discussion on “strengthening business integrity” was organized.

*Panel discussion on strengthening business integrity*

82. In his introductory statement, a representative of the secretariat highlighted the importance of creating a clean business environment that encouraged preventive efforts and corporate self-reporting. He noted how the liability of legal persons contributed to ensuring accountability and served as an incentive for legal entities to adopt and enforce measures such as adequate internal control systems. In addition, the representative underscored the commitment that Member States had made in paragraph 13 of the political declaration to adopt measures to prevent corruption involving the private sector, and to encourage ethical behaviour, anti-corruption and anti-bribery compliance efforts, as well as integrity, accountability and transparency measures in all enterprises. Furthermore, he informed the Implementation Review Group that the *United Nations Convention against Corruption: A Resource Guide on State Measures for Strengthening Corporate Integrity*, published in 2013, was being updated in cooperation with the United Nations Global Compact Office and OECD.

83. A panellist from the United Nations Global Compact Office provided an overview of the mandate of her entity and of the Ten Principles of the Global Compact, which committed companies to meeting minimum standards in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption efforts. She informed the Group that the initiative supported companies worldwide in implementing principle 10, the anti-corruption principle, underpinned by the Convention, which required companies to address corruption internally, externally and through collective action. The panellist also noted the increased adoption of environmental, social and governance directives, which raised the bar for companies to be more accountable, ethical, inclusive and transparent, and to contribute to strengthening public institutions, laws and systems. She further emphasized that the Implementation Review Mechanism provided an opportunity for Governments to improve their understanding of the challenges faced by the business community, thus enabling Governments to tailor measures to enhance business integrity and level the playing field. She also highlighted the opportunity to strengthen public-private sector partnerships and adopt a multisectoral approach to the adoption of practical solutions, such as incentives that promoted business integrity.

84. A panellist from Mexico shared information on measures her country had taken to involve companies in promoting business integrity. She noted that Mexico had established the administrative liability of legal persons for serious administrative offences committed by individuals representing them and acting in their name and for their benefit, and that having a corporate compliance programme that was in accordance with specific requirements was a mitigating circumstance in the determination of their liability. Furthermore, the panellist informed the Group that the Ministry of Public Administration had established Padrón, a register of companies wanting to showcase that they had established a corporate compliance programme, complied with their tax and labour obligations and were not disqualified from public procurement. The Business Integrity Badge would be awarded to companies registered in the Padrón register that had demonstrated, through an evaluation, that their corporate compliance programme was in accordance with all elements set forth in the law.

85. A panellist from the private sector shared his experiences in relation to corporate compliance programmes. He noted the need for those programmes to be clear, consistent, predictable and realistic with respect to the outcomes they could achieve. The panellist underscored that evaluations of corporate compliance programmes were challenging not only for companies wanting to implement robust compliance initiatives but also for prosecutors or courts required to assess the effectiveness of such programmes as part of corporate liability proceedings. In that regard, he noted that corporate compliance programmes should be risk-based, adequate and reflect good practices. The panellist indicated that, in 2022, the private sector had invested between \$30 billion and \$40 billion in corporate governance measures and there were estimates that, by 2030, that amount would rise to between \$120 billion and \$140 billion per year. In that regard, he highlighted the need to work with the public sector to measure the impact and effectiveness of compliance measures in advancing



meaningful prevention and detection efforts. He stressed the need to involve small and medium-sized companies, which often did not have the means to implement compliance programmes; larger companies could encourage smaller companies along their supply chain to put in place adequate compliance programmes. In concluding, he noted that although no compliance programme could prevent all misconduct, such programmes could influence employee behaviour and create positive social norms.

86. In the ensuing discussion, speakers provided information on a wide variety of measures taken by their countries to enhance business integrity, such as increased dialogue between the public and private sectors to better understand the challenges in the relationship between those sectors and in business-to-business relations. Speakers also shared information on surveys, research projects, awareness-raising events and educational programmes carried out in their countries, and informed the Group of plans to strengthen measures for the protection of whistle-blowers. Furthermore, speakers underscored the importance of holding perpetrators accountable through the enforcement of money-laundering legislation and the establishment of the criminal liability of legal persons. One speaker also shared information on measures her country had taken to encourage cooperation, such as a reduction in criminal fines for companies that voluntarily reported wrongdoing and cooperated in investigations, or declining prosecution for cooperating companies that complied with certain requirements. Underscoring the importance of increasing transparency and oversight in public-private interactions, one speaker shared information on the social oversight and control function established in her country, and another speaker explained how her country had amended its law on public procurement to require the publication of procurement information. Further emphasizing the need for integrity in public procurement, another speaker highlighted that his country was considering the introduction of a blacklist for offenders convicted of bribery offences.

87. In responding to questions, panellists highlighted how the corruption risks faced by small and medium-sized enterprises on the one hand and large companies on the other hand differed, and noted that different steps were required to support efforts to enhance private sector integrity. Furthermore, panellists reiterated the importance of strengthening both the intrinsic and extrinsic motivation of individuals in relation to integrity and described the need to ensure a safe company culture to encourage employees to act ethically and with integrity. Panellists also underscored the need to require companies to act with enhanced integrity if they wished to be eligible to tender for public procurement, and shared information on requirements that had been established in that regard. While outlining how incentives could be used to reinforce private sector integrity, one panellist cautioned that incentives could also be counterproductive and required close monitoring. In addition, panellists provided information on measures taken to monitor restrictions on the employment of public officials in certain private sector companies for a specific period of time after leaving the public sector to avoid conflicts of interest, and underscored the need to have a strong framework on gifts and hospitality in place.

## **VIII. Other matters**

88. The Chair informed the Implementation Review Group that a civil society briefing was to be held on 13 June 2023, on the margins of the current session, in accordance with Conference resolution 4/6, and that, after the conclusion of the session, a summary of the briefing would be made available as a conference room paper on the web page for the session.

89. The representative of the United States informed the Implementation Review Group of his Government's preparations for the tenth session of the Conference, to be held in Atlanta from 11 to 15 December 2023, which his Government was honoured to host. He noted that December 2023 would mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention. Since its adoption, the Convention had served as a common framework that guided States parties in their efforts to prevent and combat corruption, and it had been directly responsible for the progress made by the

international community in the shared fight against corruption. He informed the Implementation Review Group that the first Coordinator on Global Anti-corruption of the United States, Richard Nephew, had been nominated for the presidency of the tenth session of the Conference. He also outlined the priorities of his Government for the Conference, including strengthening the Convention's role in the multilateral anti-corruption architecture; championing the role of civil society; promoting stronger law enforcement cooperation on asset recovery; global action to promote financial transparency and integrity; and pressing for stronger measures to promote accountability. He also presented the website developed by the United States for the Conference ([www.cosp10.us](http://www.cosp10.us)) and informed the Implementation Review Group about the events that were to be held prior to the Conference, noting that the events were open to all non-governmental organizations, irrespective of their admittance to the Conference. In addition, he encouraged all participants to apply for visas as soon as possible, regardless of the information provided on the websites of embassies or consulates. In that regard, he noted that no Conference-specific visas would be issued to participants. He indicated that diplomats, employees of international organizations and foreign governmental bodies could apply for the appropriate visa categories and submit their applications, using either a letter of invitation to the Conference or the note verbale circulated on 18 April 2023, issued by UNODC.

90. One speaker highlighted the importance of ensuring the representation of all States at the event and, in that regard, drew attention to the need for the timely and unhindered settlement of visa issues for all delegations that were planning to participate, in accordance with the commitments undertaken by the host country pursuant to Conference decision 9/2. She also drew attention to the need for the early submission of draft resolutions and decisions of the tenth session in order to ensure their due consideration. In that connection, she urged all countries planning to propose draft resolutions to submit them no later than one month in advance of the session, in accordance with Conference decision 9/1.

91. Another speaker referred to Conference decision 9/2, in which the Conference acknowledged the firm commitment of the United States to ensuring an inclusive session of the Conference in the spirit of equality and non-discrimination and to facilitating the participation of representatives of States parties.

92. Those speakers also stated that the request for applying for visas as early as six months prior to the date of the opening of the Conference would prevent the participation of States parties effectively in the Conference and was not in compliance with decision 9/2.

93. In response to a question from one speaker, a representative of the secretariat referred to the note verbale issued by UNODC dated 18 April 2023, which contained information on the tenth session of the Conference. He also referred to the additional clarification provided by the host Government regarding the visa application procedure, which had been circulated through the extended Bureau on 7 June 2023. In that clarification, it was indicated that delegates requiring a visa to enter the United States were encouraged to start the visa application process as soon as possible. Applying as early as six months prior to the date of the opening of the Conference was recommended.

## **IX. Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group**

94. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 June 2023, the Implementation Review Group adopted the provisional agenda for its fifteenth session (see annex).

## **X. Adoption of the report of the Implementation Review Group on its fourteenth session**

95. On 16 June 2023, the Implementation Review Group adopted the report on its fourteenth session ([CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/L.1](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/L.1/Add.1](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/L.1/Add.2](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/L.1/Add.3](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/L.1/Add.4](#), [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/L.1/Add.5](#) and [CAC/COSP/IRG/2023/L.1/Add.6](#)), as orally amended.

## **Annex**

### **Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Implementation Review Group**

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